**[00:00:01.450] - Bernita Reed**

This is Bernita Reed. I'm here in Sewanee, Tennessee, with Sandra Turner. It is March 26, 2019, and we're at the Sewanee Inn. I would like to start with her introducing herself.

**[00:00:21.110] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My name is Sandra Turner Davis, born and raised here in Sewanee. We were sheltered living here in Sewanee because it was all nationality and we could roam the streets like we wanted to unsupervised. Our parents didn't have to worry about us getting in no trouble because we was taught to mind everybody, even the old lady next door. [laughs] But anyway, she kept us straight. If we got out of line, she made sure she tell my mom and dad and we would get a spanking and we wasn't ready for off the mountain.

**[00:01:15.730] - Sandra Turner Davis**

We had everything we needed. We didn't lack for anything. My mother was a go getter. My Daddy, he was a handyman. He could do anything: fix cars, build houses, he could fix a lawnmower. He could just do anything, so when they say my Daddy can do whatever he wanted to. My momma was a go getter. She worked for the University and worked for the University for over 50, 60 years. She also had plenty of time to join CCJP. She was with the Cumberland Justice of Peace. That's what that CCJP stands for. She was an Otey Parish member. We all went to Otey. We all went to St. Mark's Church at the beginning and I got a picture of that, it's over there somewhere.

**[00:02:27.860] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. We'll go back to that.

**[00:02:30.610] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Anyway, the neighborhood wasn't that big, but we had quite a few Blacks lived here, and the older we get a lot of us moved, especially the young people. So once the young people got up to age, they just moved. Went to College, got good jobs, never came back. My daughter, for one thing, she likes Sewanee, but she don't want to live here. I love it because I lived in Atlanta for 32 years, worked at Northside Hospital, and that was my only job. I started out in housekeeping. I moved from housekeeping to surgery, working in the instrument room, putting all those little sterile trays together. And then I got interested in the operating room being a scrub tech, went to school for that. Come back, got my job at Northside Hospital and worked there for 20 years. So I did a little bit of everything. I have two sisters that lives in Atlanta. My oldest sister Flora Mae. My sister next to her was Rita Bean and her husband. And they still in Atlanta. So that gives me an opportunity to go back to Atlanta to visit.

**[00:04:05.330] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I get tired of Sewanee, I go visit the babies. So I just love going back and forth to Atlanta and the traffic is getting horrendous. Thanksgiving, it took me 5 hours to get there because the traffic was so bad. But when I went back on Christmas, I decided I'll leave a little earlier, like 08:00 in the morning and it took me 3 hours. So that was better traveling.

**[00:04:41.650] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Now I'm talking about my Mama, my Mama, who was a warrior. She did all kinds of peace marches. She was dedicated to NAACP. And a lot of the people here in Sewanee did not want to do the segregation thing, but my Mama wanted better education for us. My Mama, Sarah Staten, Georgia Mae, Emma Hill- she lives off the mountain, but she was very dedicated to the NAACP. We got threats, we got phone calls, but we didn't get no cross in the yard! [laughs]

**[00:05:33.770] - Sandra Turner Davis**

But anyway, it was a small town, and my Mama fought hard. She was still working at 76 for the University of the South. And with her home going, they did a celebration like New Orleans. We walked from All Saints to the Cemetery. And you're talking about everybody just laughing and giggling. My mother had a good going away party, so, can't say anything bad about her. And she was a strict mother, too. So that's my story.

**[00:06:20.490] - Bernita Reed**

We're going to go back. That was a wonderful summary too. Tell me who the old lady was next door.

**[00:06:30.890] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Her name was Ms. Bird Conrad Wynton. And her sister live next door. Her name was Ms. Patty Kennerly. And like I said, we were sheltered and we did all. I just stayed as a child played and I didn't get nosy. I knew some of the people, but I didn't know their people. That's, like some of my classmates, I knew them, but I didn't know their mom and dad. And as I got older, when I came back to Sewanee, that's when I start finding out their mothers, their cousins, their family. And some of 'em, I don't know 'em when I see them, but I can tell.

**[00:07:28.090] - Bernita Reed**

But she was strict?

**[00:07:29.800] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Very strict. She even swept outside, kept the yard clean. I thought that was weird.

**[00:07:40.870] - Bernita Reed**

Where were you living at that time?

**[00:07:43.350] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I'm in my mother's house now. I'm over here off of Palmetto Road and Kennerly.

**[00:07:51.670] - Bernita Reed**

What's the address?

**[00:07:56.510] - Sandra Turner Davis**

57 Palmetto Road. P-A-L-M-E-T-T-O Avenue.

**[00:08:01.790] - Bernita Reed**

When were you born?

**[00:08:03.420] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I was born October 31, Halloween night.

**[00:08:08.690] - Bernita Reed**

What year?

**[00:08:09.880] - Sandra Turner Davis**

1951.

**[00:08:12.510] - Bernita Reed**

Same year.

**[00:08:13.560] - Sandra Turner Davis**

[both laugh]

**[00:08:15.330] - Bernita Reed**

And where were you born?

**[00:08:18.970] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Here in Sewanee, at the Sewanee Hospital. There's a hospital right across from Sewanee Inn, but that wasn't it. That's the new hospital. The old hospital is out by the theater up on the hill, and they're using it as a dorm, now.

**[00:08:40.590] - Bernita Reed**

Was it integrated?

**[00:08:42.570] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes.

**[00:08:44.550] - Bernita Reed**

And do you know which doctor delivered you?

**[00:08:49.230] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No, I don't remember. I can look on my birth certificate.

**[00:08:55.230] - Bernita Reed**

And tell me, your parents names?

**[00:09:02.780] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My mother's name was Dora Turner. My Daddy's name was Willy Turner, but he had a nickname: everybody knew him as Inky.

**[00:09:12.010] - Bernita Reed**

And your mother's maiden name?

**[00:09:14.830] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Dora Gray. And I was trying to look up on. . .

**[00:09:19.483] - Bernita Reed**

Ancestry?

**[00:09:20.590] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The ancestors. And I couldn't pull it up, but my cousin called, and all I have to do is go to the...

**[00:09:29.400] - Bernita Reed**

Search area?

**[00:09:29.900] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes.

**[00:09:29.990] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah, we'll find it. Yeah. Do you know when they were born?

**[00:09:37.310] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No.

**[00:09:38.510] - Bernita Reed**

And how far back can you go with your ancestry?

**[00:09:43.670] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Just them and the brother, that's it.

**[00:09:48.890] - Bernita Reed**

Whose brother is that?

**[00:09:50.480] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My grandfather's brother. Now, my Daddy, I can only go like grandmother. And maybe some of her people. Never tried to do the research.

**[00:10:08.450] - Bernita Reed**

What are the names that you know of those individuals?

**[00:10:13.770] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Cousin Pearl, she's from Elyria, Ohio.

**[00:10:18.270] - Bernita Reed**

And that's your...

**[00:10:20.820] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Grandfather's side. My mother's Daddy.

**[00:10:24.930] - Bernita Reed**

How is she related?

**[00:10:26.910] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Cousin.

**[00:10:28.710] - Bernita Reed**

And who's her father? Do you- That's okay. She's a cousin.

**[00:10:34.530] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Cousin.

**[00:10:35.470] - Bernita Reed**

And, that's on your father's side?

**[00:10:41.550] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My grandfather.

**[00:10:42.390] - Bernita Reed**

Your grandfather, for your mother or your father?

**[00:10:46.040] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My father's brother, uncle Charlie and some of his kids.

**[00:10:58.280] - Bernita Reed**

Okay, so that's Charlie Turner?

**[00:11:02.300] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:11:02.750] - Bernita Reed**

Okay, good. Are there any stories that have been passed down in your family?

**[00:11:11.310] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. They were pretty quiet. We found a birth certificate one time in Mama's fine cabinet, and it was a little boy she had had. And we tried to ask Mama about it, and she said, "I'll tell you later," and she never would tell me.

**[00:11:28.960] - Bernita Reed**

Do you remember the name?

**[00:11:30.800] - Sandra Turner Davis**

His name was... Oh, what was his name? I think it was Dylan. Dylan, I think.

**[00:11:41.610] - Bernita Reed**

Would it be Dylan Gray?

**[00:11:44.680] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Turner.

**[00:11:45.000] - Bernita Reed**

It was Turner?

**[00:11:46.290] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Uh huh. And when I was born, I was premature, only weighed 3 pounds. Mama had a hard time with me.

**[00:11:56.010] - Bernita Reed**

How many siblings do you have?

**[00:11:58.330] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It's five of us.

**[00:11:59.820] - Bernita Reed**

What are their names?

**[00:12:01.680] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Flora, Rita, Me, June and Gail.

**[00:12:09.630] - Bernita Reed**

All girls, you said?

**[00:12:11.280] - Sandra Turner Davis**

All girls, and one boy.

**[00:12:13.110] - Bernita Reed**

One boy, I missed that.

**[00:12:14.990] - Sandra Turner Davis**

So my baby sister, Gail, has passed. She passed two years ago, and my brother passed six years ago. He had a brain tumor. And they removed it, and it came right back with 'vengers'.

**[00:12:36.270] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah. I'm sorry about that.

**[00:12:40.510] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:12:40.870] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about your earliest memories of this area.

**[00:12:47.230] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Being able to go from house to house and sittin' down, talkin' to some of the elders. When they integrated, it was a little rough. You talkin 'bout scared. But Mama fought so hard for this desegregation, we had to go. It's like we had to go to Church. Mama made us go to Church. And now I understand why she made us go to Church. Because if you don't have God in your heart, and Jesus, you're not gon' make it. You're not gon' make it.

**[00:13:32.670] - Bernita Reed**

And you say that integration was hard?

**[00:13:37.520] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes.

**[00:13:38.360] - Bernita Reed**

What happened?

**[00:13:40.930] - Sandra Turner Davis**

After the segregation, it was only five families. Kids could go. It's not the neighborhood, Sewanee. It was the people that lived off, like, Sherwood, Midway, Tracy City. They was mean to us, throwing rocks, spit on us. So we tried to stay together in a group.

**[00:14:12.490] - Bernita Reed**

Was this in-

**[00:14:13.909] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Sewanee.

**[00:14:14.530] - Bernita Reed**

-traveling to and from school? Or during classes?

**[00:14:18.790] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Well as had to walk, we walked to class. We walk to school. We didn't need buses.

**[00:14:24.550] - Bernita Reed**

And you were just, you were coming down from the St. Marks area?

**[00:14:30.970] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:14:31.510] - Bernita Reed**

Across the road-

**[00:14:32.480] - Sandra Turner Davis**

-to the elementary school.

**[00:14:37.550] - Bernita Reed**

And, is there any particular incident that stands out that you want to tell more details about?

**[00:14:49.250] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Other than they were mean? And this day they act like it never happened. I've run into some of my classmates. And it's like, "how are you doing? Good to see you."

**[00:15:08.850] - Bernita Reed**

In the classroom also, they were being-

**[00:15:12.210] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The teachers was very good. The teachers was not mean. They didn't say anything out'd way. It was just once we got on the playground, they wanted to fight, push us around.

**[00:15:30.910] - Bernita Reed**

Were all the teachers white?

**[00:15:33.040] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes.

**[00:15:34.750] - Bernita Reed**

What happened to your African American teacher from St. Mark's?

**[00:15:39.410] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Well, once we integrated, they went elsewhere. But they had all the teachers they needed at Sewanee. So they had to go somewhere else.

**[00:15:56.210] - Bernita Reed**

You didn't go to the school at St. Mark's, you went to the little schoolhouse?

**[00:16:02.510] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right here in Sewanee, the Sewanee Public School.

**[00:16:05.810] - Bernita Reed**

I mean, before.

**[00:16:07.700] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes, I did. I did. I did go to Sewanee Kennerly School.

**[00:16:11.550] - Bernita Reed**

Kennerly School. And who was your teacher there?

**[00:16:19.610] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Miss Peggy. What was her married-? Her maiden name was Kennerly. So the Kennerlys, was a big name here in Sewanee, too, because her Daddy was like one of the athletic Department. . .

**[00:16:36.410] - Bernita Reed**

Trainers?

**[00:16:37.910] - Sandra Turner Davis**

trainers. Peggy Kennerly, and Miss Sophia Miller was one of my other teachers. We went from kindergarten to fifth grade.

**[00:16:56.370] - Bernita Reed**

What is your memory of that school?

**[00:16:59.490] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It was nice. I loved it. We had fun.

**[00:17:03.210] - Bernita Reed**

How did they arrange the classes? One through eight. How do you do that? In one room?

**[00:17:10.710] - Bernita Reed**

Two- kindergarten to three, I think, was in one-half. And then the other half was Miss Sophia's up into eight.

**[00:17:24.790] - Bernita Reed**

And was that in the front, in the back of the room, or, how did you do that?

**[00:17:30.310] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. Because we even had a kitchen, two bathrooms. And we didn't do anything down in the basement.

**[00:17:39.970] - Bernita Reed**

So it had inside plumbing.

**[00:17:43.570] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. Inside plumbing.

**[00:17:45.970] - Bernita Reed**

Describe that building to me.

**[00:17:48.750] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It's a big building. Hmm... With two rooms.

**[00:18:07.250] - Bernita Reed**

It was square?

**[00:18:07.427] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It was square. Long, and square. Like that. Big ol' porch.

**[00:18:07.580] - Bernita Reed**

In the front?

**[00:18:09.890] - Sandra Turner Davis**

In the front, mhm. And a porch over there.

**[00:18:12.170] - Bernita Reed**

With a railing?

**[00:18:15.150] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:18:15.880] - Bernita Reed**

And the steps going up?

**[00:18:17.490] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. Yes.

**[00:18:18.750] - Bernita Reed**

How many steps did it have?

**[00:18:22.290] - Sandra Turner Davis**

About five.

**[00:18:23.520] - Bernita Reed**

Going up the center?

**[00:18:25.020] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:18:27.030] - Bernita Reed**

Did it have a single door or double door?

**[00:18:31.350] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It was a single door.

**[00:18:33.150] - Bernita Reed**

A big door?

**[00:18:34.548] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:18:35.430] - Bernita Reed**

Was there a hallway at all?

**[00:18:39.000] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes, it was a hallway. And then the bathroom was on the right-hand side. The kitchen was in front of us. And then a big room on this side and a big room on the left hand side.

**[00:18:54.620] - Bernita Reed**

So it had-

**[00:18:57.610] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And it has windows, plenty of windows so you can see out.

**[00:19:02.220] - Bernita Reed**

So it had a center hallway that went all the way back to the kitchen. On the left was your big classroom.

**[00:19:11.070] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right, on the left. And on the right was another room. A bigger room.

**[00:19:16.950] - Bernita Reed**

A big room also?

**[00:19:18.850] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And they had cabinets for all their supplies in both rooms.

**[00:19:24.130] - Bernita Reed**

So there were two classrooms?

**[00:19:26.130] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Two classrooms.

**[00:19:27.190] - Bernita Reed**

Oh, okay. So that's how the classes were separated?

**[00:19:31.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. And then later on in years, there was another building called the Clubhouse. They ended up using that for the younger kids because we were getting to be bigger kids. And then they split the classes up again.

**[00:19:50.350] - Bernita Reed**

At the Club House?

**[00:19:51.820] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. But we kept the same Sewanee Public Kennerly School. But the class was getting bigger, so they needed a extra room to teach. And they took the little kids over to the cabin. And the rest of the kids was in the big school.

**[00:20:15.010] - Bernita Reed**

And that was about what years that they had the clubhouse used as- for the young kids?

**[00:20:27.040] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I'm not sure...

**[00:20:28.750] - Bernita Reed**

You think in the 50s?

**[00:20:30.710] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yeah. Most of it was in the 50s.

**[00:20:33.310] - Bernita Reed**

And as far as the way they taught were your books...?

**[00:20:45.010] - Sandra Turner Davis**

We were behind in books, 'cause the bigger schools, as we say, the white school, had the best books. And then when they got through with them, they gave to us. And we was a little slow once we moved into the Sewanee public because we had those old books. We were still reading Dick James! "See the Dog run!" [laughs]

**[00:21:14.040] - Bernita Reed**

"Run, Jane, run?"

**[00:21:14.750] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yeah! "Run, Jane, run!" [laughs]

**[00:21:16.170] - Bernita Reed**

[laughs] Oh my goodness. And I wanted to see what else I could find out about the teachers. Is there anything that stands out in your mind that they told you some sort of thing? They told all the students?

**[00:21:42.190] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No, I don't remember.

**[00:21:43.940] - Bernita Reed**

That's fine. For the clubhouse, when the students went there, the younger students, this was during the week, and then it was a clubhouse on the weekend?

**[00:21:56.620] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No.

**[00:21:59.810] - Bernita Reed**

It was just for students?

**[00:22:01.590] - Sandra Turner Davis**

For the students. Once they transferred the kids over there, no more clubs.

**[00:22:10.290] - Bernita Reed**

So this isn't the community center. There's also-

**[00:22:16.530] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right, there's St. Mark's Community Center. And it's on Alabama Road.

**[00:22:21.650] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. So the clubhouse was used as what before?

**[00:22:28.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

A club. It's that Jane Brown down there and several other well known.

**[00:22:39.290] - Bernita Reed**

Who else do you remember being down there?

**[00:22:50.790] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I think Jane Brown came.

**[00:22:53.310] - Bernita Reed**

That's interesting.

**[00:22:55.830] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Some of the locals, you know, 'cause a lot of them was coming out of Nashville.

**[00:23:04.030] - Bernita Reed**

And was that they would have dances at the clubhouse?

**[00:23:08.120] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm, yes. And soul fish, barbecue sandwiches.

**[00:23:14.770] - Bernita Reed**

And then later this was transferred to the community center, the functions. And the community center is bigger?

**[00:23:23.230] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right. A lot bigger.

**[00:23:27.050] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me what else you remember about the neighborhood. Anything that happened? A story of what happened down there that stands out today.

**[00:23:41.380] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Not really. Other than a house got caught on fire. And I think one person lost their life.

**[00:23:50.153] - Bernita Reed**

Do you know whose house-?

**[00:23:50.990] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And these were old houses, old houses. And I remember in the neighborhood there was an old man and his wife and he was blind. They would walk the street and they could make it to the grocery store and where the book store is now used to be a grocery store. So we had a grocery store. We had a laundromat, we had restaurants. We had the community pool, Lake Chester, all the nature scene, the heights and stuff, we did it.

**[00:24:40.010] - Bernita Reed**

Were all of those businesses African American businesses?

**[00:24:44.640] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No.

**[00:24:45.320] - Bernita Reed**

These were white businesses.

**[00:24:47.930] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. My mother and the rest of the neighborhood worked for the University.

**[00:24:54.530] - Bernita Reed**

It sounds like there weren't very many African American businesses.

**[00:24:59.870] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It wasn't that many 'cause a lot of 'em came from Alabama to work up in the Simley drown that's in Monteagle. And they had this place called "Tubbies." They sold beer, they did hamburgers and French fries, fried fish and stuff like that. We weren't allowed to come in the front. We had to go to the back. So there were some places off the mountain that you couldn't go in the front. You have to go in the back.

**[00:25:32.990] - Bernita Reed**

Could you go in the front in all places, in-?

**[00:25:36.710] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Here in Sewanee, yes. But like I said, it was- in Monteagle, on the other side of Monteagle was Tracy. We was told not to go to Tracy. We was told not to go to Sherwood. And Sherwood is not where I thought it was. I thought it was on the mountain. You have to go off the mountain and you in Sherwood, but you on Sherwood Road. And Black people lived in Sherwood. When the mining, some kind of mining. And then off the mountain was the cement mining.

**[00:26:27.010] - Bernita Reed**

So were you able to go to any restaurants and sit down?

**[00:26:33.430] - Sandra Turner Davis**

We believe in cooking. We didn't go to too many restaurants.

**[00:26:41.450] - Bernita Reed**

If you went into- Is there a drugstore?

**[00:26:43.190] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. There was two drugstore, one in Monteagle, one in Sewanee.

**[00:26:49.070] - Bernita Reed**

Could you eat- Was there a lunch counter?

**[00:26:50.490] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No, not in that one. But there was one in Winchester. We could go into it. There was a grill that's 14 miles away. Winchester is the main 'lil city 'round here, just like Jasper, South Pittsburgh.

**[00:27:10.970] - Bernita Reed**

Now, could you sit down at the counter in Winchester?

**[00:27:14.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. I remember leaving the school in the afternoon and going over to the grill and gettin' a malt.

**[00:27:31.290] - Bernita Reed**

I think it was Jimmy was saying that there was some restaurant in Sewanee where, when they integrated, his mother took them to sit down in the restaurant. Do you remember?

**[00:27:50.120] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And I think that was Tucker.

**[00:27:52.300] - Bernita Reed**

Okay.

**[00:27:53.010] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I'm not sure. 'Cause they had two restaurants up here, and I was a little girl, so I just don't remember. I remember the names.

**[00:28:04.270] - Bernita Reed**

I probably have it confused. Let's go back again to the community and just see what you remember of different individuals. Or do you have anything to share of the early-? You have a picture of the early school?

**[00:28:32.080] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No.

**[00:28:32.810] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. Not at that school. So we'll get to these. Tell me about what you remember. Well, tell me you gave an overview after you finished elementary school here. What year was that?

**[00:28:57.190] - Sandra Turner Davis**

In '65, I think. They had a Black school in Winchester called Townsend High School. I didn't make it to Townsend. They integrated, and they ended up at the white school. Franklin County High School.

**[00:29:15.430] - Bernita Reed**

And what is your memory of that?

**[00:29:19.570] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Everything was scary to me. I was a scary little girl. [laughs] Quiet, little mousy.

**[00:29:29.690] - Bernita Reed**

And when did you graduate from there?

**[00:29:36.090] - Sandra Turner Davis**

'70. 1970.

**[00:29:36.450] - Bernita Reed**

Do any of the teachers stand out for you today? Do you remember anyone that had an influence on you or anything special?

**[00:29:48.570] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Not really. I wanted to just get out of school! [laughs] I can remember some of 'em. My home-ec teacher was... What was her name? Ms. Bryant. Little short, dunky little woman, and everything- she knit something the whole time while we were in class, and I couldn't figure out, "how did she do that"?

**[00:30:17.730] - Bernita Reed**

It's amazing.

**[00:30:19.770] - Sandra Turner Davis**

She didn't even have to look at the knitting needles. She just knit, knit, knit, knit. Make all kinda stuff.

**[00:30:29.650] - Bernita Reed**

What do you feel about the role that the University had in those early years on your family?

**[00:30:38.470] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Well, they didn't really treat the Blacks all that well. And they ended up working for a little bit of nothing. My mother never complained, though. I never heard anybody complain. And I do remember Mr. Kennerly got fired for taking home a cup of sugar, so they used him as an example. "Do not take nothing home."

**[00:31:10.250] - Bernita Reed**

What was he doing at the time? Where was he working?

**[00:31:14.130] - Sandra Turner Davis**

He was working for Sewanee, at the Gaylor, where we were. That was the cafeteria part at Gaylor. I had a picture of my mother that worked at Gaylor. I don't know what happened to it, I don't know if I let somebody borrow it or what. I can't find it.

**[00:31:38.850] - Bernita Reed**

Let's go back, and, what did your father do?

**[00:31:44.610] - Sandra Turner Davis**

He did janitorial work. He worked at St. Andrew's, the last work before he retired. He said he worked in a circus, cleaning the monkey cage. He said he-

**[00:31:59.670] - Bernita Reed**

Where was that?

**[00:32:00.860] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That was 'round in the neighborhood off the mountain. The biggest thing that happened was the Carnivals would come in and have all these amusement park rides and games. That was the biggest thing for Sewanee. They have somewhere to go besides Chattanooga.

**[00:32:22.130] - Bernita Reed**

So he would help with that when they came in, just as a temporary type thing? And, did your father talk much about his work, how he was treated?

**[00:32:38.710] - Sandra Turner Davis**

He talked about when he was a little boy and he was in camp for boys and some Minister that preached up here at Otey Parish. He the one got that group together, and I meant to bring that picture. He talked about the circuis. He talked about ridin' his motorcycle. He even had a real bad accident on it. And good thing we gave him all this leather stuff for Christmas. The boots, the pants, the jacket, the helmet. Good thing he had all that on because he would have really been hurt bad.

**[00:33:27.270] - Bernita Reed**

Where would he ride to?

**[00:33:29.440] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Just the places like Tallahoma, Shelbyville, Bedville, Manchester, him and a bunch of guys.

**[00:33:43.990] - Bernita Reed**

Did he talk about any racial incidents?

**[00:33:48.460] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. Because he could go anywhere, he went to Tracy City. He would go to Sherwood. Know, he saved a man's life one time up in Monteagle.

**[00:34:02.090] - Bernita Reed**

What did he say about that?

**[00:34:04.220] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Other than there was a big write up in the paper about Willie Turner saving this man and the people that- his family wrote a little thank you note in the paper for him.

**[00:34:19.380] - Bernita Reed**

What did he do to save him?

**[00:34:22.430] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Was able to get him out of the car and onto the road and flag down somebody for help to get him to the hospital. And I think back then, we've never heard of nine-one-one. [giggles] No ambulance coming.

**[00:34:41.810] - Bernita Reed**

I don't think they had nine-one-one back then.

**[00:34:47.570] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mm-mmh. [giggles]

**[00:34:47.930] - Bernita Reed**

Did your family have a phone?

**[00:34:50.150] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes, we did have a phone. And my aunt, Lacey Bell, she still have the same phone number from when they first got they phone.

**[00:35:08.110] - Bernita Reed**

Now tell me about your mother. What did she do when she first...?

**[00:35:14.180] - Sandra Turner Davis**

She was a chef and she would cook. And as the years go on, she was like, over the catering and they would decorate. Oh they would decorate! And that was the picture I really wanted to show you. They dressed out in all they white. I mean, they were professional.

**[00:35:47.630] - Bernita Reed**

There were some serious cooks around here.

**[00:35:51.530] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. And the guys wore white caps.

**[00:35:56.150] - Bernita Reed**

Were they the tall white caps?

**[00:36:01.710] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. I got to ask Brett, did I give him that picture? Because he's over at McClurg now, he's the supervisor.

**[00:36:09.690] - Bernita Reed**

Were both of your parents born in Sewanee?

**[00:36:12.880] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. My mother was born in Belvidere, Tennessee. My Daddy was born in Asia, Tennessee. Little small communities around.

**[00:36:24.450] - Bernita Reed**

So many people that I've talked to were born in Belvidere. What do you know about Belvidere?

**[00:36:32.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It's the country, that's all I can say. Farmland. My uncle, Will Burnett had a farm, and the son had a smoke house. They raised pigs. We was lacking for nothing 'cause we had plenty of food. And the man that lived right down the street from my house, his name was Mr. James Nightingale, and he would have a garden. Fresh watermelon, cantelope. He had apple trees, peach trees in his yard. They're not there anymore.

**[00:37:20.530] - Bernita Reed**

Did your family own a lot of land in Belvidere?

**[00:37:25.910] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. And they sold the last lot... 'bout 15 years ago because somebody was trying to claim it and we had the deed.

**[00:37:45.290] - Bernita Reed**

I've wondered if that's the Freedman community where ex-slaves settled. Have you heard anything about that?

**[00:37:52.750] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. I heard about one'a Jimmy Staten's aunt. She was a house person and they abused her. And when she finally got old enough to leave, she said she just didn't want to remember none of that. And I don't know if I'm supposed to say something about it.

**[00:38:15.760] - Bernita Reed**

No, that's fine. We need those stories. Do you know her name?

**[00:38:22.370] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Peg Staten. And I don't know if her name was Pamela Staten or just Peg or Peggy.

**[00:38:31.610] - Bernita Reed**

Or Margaret.

**[00:38:33.050] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:38:39.150] - Bernita Reed**

Any other stories worries about Belvidere that you can think of?

**[00:38:44.910] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Church.

**[00:38:46.530] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about that.

**[00:38:48.220] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Little bitty Church.

**[00:38:50.190] - Bernita Reed**

What was it called?

**[00:38:51.340] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It was burning Bush.

**[00:38:53.670] - Bernita Reed**

Burning Bush?

**[00:38:54.600] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Burning Bush.

**[00:38:56.070] - Bernita Reed**

Baptist?

**[00:38:56.920] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Baptist. And like I said, small Church. But now they got about 30, 35 people- members. We got a new Church, and the pastor is awesome. And he's from the community. His name is Lee Branon, the third.

**[00:39:19.660] - Bernita Reed**

Branon?

**[00:39:19.750] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Branon. He is also a counselor at the high school.

**[00:39:28.870] - Bernita Reed**

So there's a high school in Belvidere?

**[00:39:32.120] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. In Winchester.

**[00:39:33.040] - Bernita Reed**

In Winchester. Were we talking about the Church in-?

**[00:39:39.310] - Sandra Turner Davis**

He works at the high school in Winchester. But-

**[00:39:43.420] - Bernita Reed**

But the Church-

**[00:39:44.420] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The Church is in Belvidere.

**[00:39:48.530] - Bernita Reed**

Yep. What do you remember about that Church? Was it the singing? Was it the preaching?

**[00:39:54.430] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The singing and the preaching and watching the members get happy.

**[00:40:00.590] - Bernita Reed**

Was there a lot of call and response?

**[00:40:05.090] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm, yes.

**[00:40:10.050] - Bernita Reed**

Are there any people that had really great singing voices that you remember?

**[00:40:16.300] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. The one we have now, this girl is awesome. Her name is Kim Brooks.

**[00:40:24.730] - Bernita Reed**

Is there a family Cemetery in Belvidere?

**[00:40:29.120] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They call it The Holler and it's in the bushes now because they haven't burned anybody down there- long, long, long time.

**[00:40:42.250] - Bernita Reed**

So it's overgrown.

**[00:40:44.180] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It's overgrown. Mhm.

**[00:40:45.080] - Bernita Reed**

The Cemetery. So that needs attention.

**[00:40:50.930] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes, but most of my family is buried right here in Sewanee.

**[00:40:57.850] - Bernita Reed**

Where is your family Cemetery?

**[00:41:00.570] - Sandra Turner Davis**

University of the South.

**[00:41:04.150] - Bernita Reed**

At the bottom edge- bottom part of at Cemetery?

**[00:41:08.260] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And it used to be a fence, but they knocked that fence down years ago.

**[00:41:08.260] - Bernita Reed**

A stone wall?

**[00:41:15.610] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm, a stone wall. And I remember the gates going into the Cemetery as a little girl. We used to swing on that gate. And that gate was so big now that I look at it now it's just a little bitty gate! [laughs] And see, my mother's house is right next to the Cemetery

**[00:41:35.770] - Bernita Reed**

Oh, the one that you- Is that the one you were telling me the address?

**[00:41:49.950] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm, 57 Palmetto.

**[00:41:50.420] - Bernita Reed**

Both parents were working at the University. Did they say how they met?

**[00:42:00.250] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Somewhere in Belvidere... I don't know how.

**[00:42:05.250] - Bernita Reed**

So your father had come to Belvidere for something. Did they have any- Where did they go to school? Did they say where they attended school?

**[00:42:22.160] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My mother never finished high school, but she did get her GED. My Daddy never finished high school.

**[00:42:31.190] - Bernita Reed**

Where did they attend schools?

**[00:42:33.770] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I assume Townsend.

**[00:42:38.490] - Bernita Reed**

And I'm thinking also with all the people that were such great cooks, what were celebrations like among the African Americans?

**[00:42:52.090] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Oh, great! We loved Mama Lacy's potato salad. My Mama made the best Turnip Greens. Who made the best fried chicken? I don't remember, but we always wanted to know who cooked what, especially at Church stuff- gathering. But we always had it good. My Aunt Jewel. Like I said, one time they said the sows had 30 babies. That's a lot of pigs, little piglets. A lot of them. So they smoked the hams and they did the sausage right there. You know, they had the machine to fix the sausage. We always had plenty to eat- bacon, sausage, ham, chickens.

**[00:43:51.250] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I had- one time my grandmother sent me to the barn to fetch the eggs. I never fetched the eggs. That was my first time. They say, don't reach under the chicken to get the egg. If the hen is off the eggs, you get them. But I reached under the hen and got the eggs and made it out of the barn. Walking through the yard and I walked in front of a mother hen with the babies. And that mother hen jumped in my chest.

**[00:44:23.830] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I screamed, bloody murder. "Ahh! Ahh!" My grandmother comes to the door and she said, "Shoo!" That mother hen took off! I think I saved two eggs. [laughs] She never sent me to the barn to get the eggs no more. She made me churn the butter! And the most exciting thing, we made fresh ice cream. And she made those little tea cakes every Saturday. Nobody got the recipe. Nobody. I said, why they were the best. And she would make those bread box, remember bread box? She'd make that bread box full of tea cakes on Saturday and fresh lemonade, in an aluminum pitcher. And it was a big pitcher. And she had an ice box in her house, and a old wooden stove to cook on. And when she left Belvidere, she brought it to Winchester.

**[00:45:30.730] - Bernita Reed**

This was who?

**[00:45:32.070] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My mother's mother.

**[00:45:33.270] - Bernita Reed**

What's her name?

**[00:45:35.350] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Jenny Gray. And she also told me, she said, "Come here, Sandra." And I was a little thing. I might have been four or five. She said, "you are a child and you're going to stay in a child's place. If you got something to say to me or any of the other adults, if we're talking, you stand there till you be acknowledged. And then you talk." And I remember my baby sister got sick that night at- down at Grandma's. And I had to go downstairs and tell Mama. And they was listening to Joe Foreman on the radio. Boxing. Back in that time, we didn't have a TV, just had a radio. That was their entertainment. I know I stood there for the longest and Mama said, "Baby, why are you up?" "Gail is sick." I was so scared to tell Mama. "Gail is sick. Can you please come up and help us?" And Grandma Jenny jumped up and she ran upstairs and she was the first woman to jump up. And I was so proud of myself, I didn't get fussed at.

**[00:47:05.970] - Bernita Reed**

And Gail ended up being okay?

**[00:47:11.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. Yes. I think it's something that she ate. And I don't remember being sick a lot back in them days. I catch a cold like this now.

**[00:47:27.630] - Bernita Reed**

All those fresh vegetables, and fresh- bring outside.

**[00:47:31.770] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And I remember Grandma going out in that yard, picking one of those hens out, rang its neck, throw it in that big ol' black kettle and pluckin the feathers off, cut it up and fry it, or bake it.

**[00:47:52.630] - Bernita Reed**

They hade some good food back them.

**[00:47:53.180] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Maybe the best ol' biscuits. And, you know, we had fresh milk, too. We had a cow and she would go out there and milk that cow and have fresh milk. And she didn't cook one meal or two meals a day; she cooked three meals a day. Grandpa needed to eat and everybody else.

**[00:48:16.090] - Bernita Reed**

What was Grandpa's name?

**[00:48:17.820] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Lisa Gray.

**[00:48:20.170] - Bernita Reed**

That's right. The, maybe, unusual spelling for Lisa.

**[00:48:27.250] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I'm going to have to go back and look at stuff, going to the courthouse and get that.

**[00:48:37.250] - Bernita Reed**

Mhm. So, when you had gatherings, was- now, your grandparents lived in Winchester?

**[00:48:45.740] - Sandra Turner Davis**

In Belvidere.

**[00:48:45.910] - Bernita Reed**

In Belvidere. So you were traveling to Belvidere.

**[00:48:48.230] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And then when Grandpa got sick, and died, they moved Grandma up closer because everybody lived away from Belvidere. That was our main gathering.

**[00:49:03.510] - Bernita Reed**

But gatherings here with all the cooks. Did you have cookouts?

**[00:49:09.670] - Sandra Turner Davis**

We had cookouts every Monday. My mother would fix dinner for her and her sisters and their husbands. And the kids came along. Mama Lacey would cook in her house at times. Aunt Mary Lou can't cook so, we didn't let her cook. [laughs] Aunt Ruby, she would come her and her kids. But she never cooked at home. Between the two sisters, they did the cooking.

**[00:49:46.390] - Bernita Reed**

Why on Monday?

**[00:49:48.550] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I don't know. She's not as busy, I guess. Every Monday they would eat at my mom's house.

**[00:49:55.220] - Bernita Reed**

Did they have to work on Sunday?

**[00:49:59.500] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Sometimes.

**[00:50:01.690] - Bernita Reed**

Were they required to work for the University on Sundays?

**[00:50:05.800] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I think they had enough employees so they could switch.

**[00:50:11.710] - Bernita Reed**

I was wondering if that's why the family gatherings were on Monday.

**[00:50:17.230] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And, you know, Church.

**[00:50:24.770] - Bernita Reed**

So how did you celebrate holidays?

**[00:50:31.050] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Well, if I wasn't at school, Thanksgiving and Christmas was all. And East- Mother's Day was always special.

**[00:50:41.490] - Bernita Reed**

What did your neighbors do? What did families do in Sewanee for those holidays?

**[00:50:48.550] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Other than those holidays. We had a swimming pool in the neighborhood and the baseball field. And they would gather down there sometimes. 'Special Fourth of July. We played softball. The field was big enough to play softball.

**[00:51:08.910] - Bernita Reed**

Did you bring food as a picnic?

**[00:51:11.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes, we would.

**[00:51:16.530] - Bernita Reed**

Did you cook out? Did you have a grill?

**[00:51:20.550] - Sandra Turner Davis**

We would do fried fish and barbecue ribs. And the kids love hot dogs. So they always did plenty of hot dogs for us.

**[00:51:31.170] - Bernita Reed**

How about for Thanksgiving?

**[00:51:35.830] - Sandra Turner Davis**

After a while, we all start moving away. And Rita would have us down for Thanksgiving. Always Thanksgiving. And now that the parents are gone, we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas at Rita's house. Rita said this year she's not doing Thanksgiving or Christmas. She's going to Las Vegas. I said, "Well, you're not going by yourself because we're going to follow you!" We are all goin' to Las Vegas!

**[00:52:12.310] - Bernita Reed**

Good... family be together. [laughs] And how about for Christmas? What did families do back then? For Christmas?

**[00:52:23.610] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mama'd cook a big dinner and we eat breakfast. And then later on, we'd open our presents. I got a bike, one year. And I got a typewriter- I wanted a typewriter! It wasn'd the best typewriter, but I got a typewriter.

**[00:52:49.170] - Bernita Reed**

How did you learn to type?

**[00:52:53.070] - Sandra Turner Davis**

"fick, fick, fick", with one finger! [laughs] And then I tried to use all my fingers. I didn't start typing until I got in high school.

**[00:53:01.830] - Bernita Reed**

And then you were trained, to do-

**[00:53:04.350] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Uh huh, yes.

**[00:53:07.570] - Bernita Reed**

Why did you want to typewriter?

**[00:53:10.270] - Sandra Turner Davis**

You see it on TV.

**[00:53:14.690] - Bernita Reed**

Did most of the kids have bicycles then?

**[00:53:18.560] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm yes.

**[00:53:19.460] - Bernita Reed**

Where would you ride your bicycle?

**[00:53:21.250] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Out to the Cross, out to Greensview, out to Lake Chestom, in the neighborhood downtown. But that's where the ice cream was!

**[00:53:32.870] - Bernita Reed**

So African Americans were free to ride-

**[00:53:38.060] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Anywhere. Mhm.

**[00:53:38.550] - Bernita Reed**

The children just were free to roam?

**[00:53:41.870] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. Yes. And once we go off the mountain, it was totally different. They look at you funny. They thought people in Sewanee had money. They thought we was rich. "You live on the mountain?" No, I'm not rich. I got a little money, that's 'cause I babysit. I wash dishes, I mop floors, I make up beds, I help the older- elderly. I'm not rich.

**[00:54:22.110] - Bernita Reed**

It's interesting to me this whole concept of the mountain, being up on the mountain.

**[00:54:31.230] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And, you know, back in the day, there was a gate. That's why those two stones are there, that was a gate. It was private up here. You couldn't get in unless you work or you lived here.

**[00:54:45.960] - Bernita Reed**

Was there someone guarding the gate?

**[00:54:48.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:54:52.390] - Bernita Reed**

And was that the only road in?

**[00:54:56.950] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Uh huh.

**[00:54:57.350] - Bernita Reed**

'Cause I came through those gates, I noticed that.

**[00:55:00.070] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And every time we go through those gates, we throw our hands up like, "God bless you. God bless you."

**[00:55:08.290] - Bernita Reed**

Is that what you do now?

**[00:55:10.630] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I still do that now, when I go through those gates.

**[00:55:14.710] - Bernita Reed**

Did you do that as a child?

**[00:55:18.490] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[00:55:18.820] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about that.

**[00:55:19.720] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I'm not sure why we did it as a child, but it was kind of like, sacred. But everybody'd do it.

**[00:55:29.590] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me that again?

**[00:55:32.110] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The gates going out of Monteagle, the gates coming up the mountain into Sewanee. And people say, just do a wave, like, "thank you, Jesus." And my idea is, "I made it back home. Thank you, Jesus, I go through those gates."

**[00:55:57.650] - Bernita Reed**

Do you think just African Americans do that?

**[00:56:02.750] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. But I'm not sure if the white people do it or not 'cause I never seen 'em. And I was wondering, we was going to this place called Lake Juneluzka with the Church, and it's like a Holy land. And my pastor got his calling when he went up there and he went up there with another Minister. And he said, "I want to take you out to this place where I got my calling. And it's called Lake Junaluska, North Carolina." And it is heaven. The trees are so pretty. Just the landscaping is pretty. And these kids was on this bus and we went through those gates and they all did the wave! And I said, "how they know 'bout all of this?" It just amazed me.

**[00:57:04.370] - Bernita Reed**

So this is considered very sacred.

**[00:57:11.310] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. And you know they had the military school for boys, and it was called SMA. My mother worked out there, too, for years.

**[00:57:23.550] - Bernita Reed**

What did she do there?

**[00:57:28.150] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Cook. My aunt worked in the dorms, cleaning the rooms. It was always plenty of jobs up here, but they weren't paying that much. But it was a job.

**[00:57:39.370] - Bernita Reed**

What's your aunt's name again?

**[00:57:41.020] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Lacy Bell, Childress. And it was eleven in my mother's family.

**[00:57:51.870] - Bernita Reed**

Why did people leave the mountain?

**[00:57:56.130] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Young people, there's nothing to do. We had that one little theater, movie theater. They don't have no bowlin' in the area. They got the gym for exercise and stuff, swimming pool. But a lot of the young people wanted to move into the Valley.

**[00:58:25.090] - Bernita Reed**

And was that an integrated theater?

**[00:58:30.490] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. Then when I first started going to movies as a little girl, we had to set up in the balcony. They got rid of all'a that. And it's just a theater, anybody sit wherever they want to.

**[00:58:44.000] - Bernita Reed**

Does it still have the balcony?

**[00:58:45.910] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. They got rid of it.

**[00:58:47.600] - Bernita Reed**

They tore it down?

**[00:58:48.640] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They tore it down.

**[00:58:53.270] - Bernita Reed**

Interesting. Was there a separate entrance also for the African American?

**[00:58:57.380] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. We went through the same door.

**[00:58:59.940] - Bernita Reed**

Just had to go upstairs... Did people- While they were in the theater, did they throw things down to the bottom?

**[00:59:11.120] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No, we didn't do that.

**[00:59:13.610] - Bernita Reed**

Some people say they did that in those theaters. What was the name of that theater?

**[00:59:23.670] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The Sewanee Union Theater. And it used to be... You know, where All Saint is? Right across the street from All Saint is a building. You used to go through those front doors, and the concession stand was on the right hand side, and I think on the left hand side was some doors, and I think it was an office building. You walk down the steps into the theater. Now the theater is still there, but it's all downstairs with the concession stand. And they use that part where the upstairs was to make the concession stand.

**[01:00:15.410] - Bernita Reed**

Let's go back and talk some more in detail about your mother. Tell me, what was she like as a mother?

**[01:00:28.430] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Very sweet, gung-ho. Very petite. She used to smoke, but she quit smoking. She got bronchitis. Just always a go getter. And she would tell my Daddy what to do. [laughs] And he did it! And she would get us ready in the morning for school, fix breakfast, go to work. And she never would go to the bathroom at the job, she would come home to use bathroom and then she'd run back out.

**[01:01:16.650] - Bernita Reed**

Did you think that because they were segregated, sort of bathrooms at work?

**[01:01:25.050] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I'm not sure.

**[01:01:29.110] - Sandra Turner Davis**

But she would run home.

**[01:01:31.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. And then, 'cause we lived in the back of McClurgh and Gailor. And she could walk to work if she really wanted to.

**[01:01:44.750] - Bernita Reed**

How did she get to work then?

**[01:01:48.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Later years, she just start driving. But in her young days, she would walk up the hill, and she was at work.

**[01:02:03.150] - Bernita Reed**

Do you know when she was born?

**[01:02:08.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

December 3rd, 1928.

**[01:02:10.380] - Bernita Reed**

And when was your father born?

**[01:02:14.590] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My mother was 2000- I mean, 1928. My Daddy was 1929.

**[01:02:26.930] - Bernita Reed**

Say their birth dates.

**[01:02:29.730] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My Daddy is May 3rd, 1928- '29!

**[01:02:32.820] - Bernita Reed**

'29.

**[01:02:33.530] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And my Mama's is 1928, December the 3rd.

**[01:02:40.000] - Bernita Reed**

Okay, well, you told me about them getting just through part of high school. How did your mother learn to cook?

**[01:02:56.730] - Sandra Turner Davis**

For my grandmother. She was a great cook. 'Cause everybody would help, not just one person. Everybody would help in the kitchen.

**[01:03:07.290] - Bernita Reed**

And that was in Belvidere.

**[01:03:08.790] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That was in Belvidere.

**[01:03:10.260] - Bernita Reed**

Did she say how she got to Sewanee?

**[01:03:14.370] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They heard that they were hiring. Aunt Ruby, Mama Lacey, Aunt Mary Lou, and my Mama all moved to Sewanee to work. Aunt Mary Lou came up to babysit, while they work. She kept us. And then as their kids got older, Aunt Mary Lou worked in homes, cleaning houses. Mama Lacey worked for the University. Aunt Ruby worked at the hospital, I think, janitory. And then my mom worked for the University.

**[01:03:59.750] - Bernita Reed**

How did they get housing here?

**[01:04:05.310] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Through the University. And you know, when you in these houses, you own the house, but you don't own the land. So you pay taxes and lease. And I never heard them complain about either.

**[01:04:25.850] - Bernita Reed**

I wonder what the process was for actually getting the house or applying for it.

**[01:04:36.470] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Some of these houses were not fit to live in. So as years went by, Dixon Myers over-something housing, what they call it? Section eight houses. They start building section eight houses. And my mother had one. Mama Lacey had one, aunt Ruby at one, and Aunt Mary Lou had one. But Aunt Mary Lou's house is so old, she really need a new one. [laugh] But she's 85 years old and she loves her house. She's one of those, "I got to get home, I got to get home!" She loves her house.

**[01:05:24.880] - Bernita Reed**

Get attatched after all those years.

**[01:05:27.150] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Uh huh. 'Cause we asked- they asked her, would she move off the mountain? Because the weather up here is pretty bad, especially the fog here. That fog is so thick, you can't see. And it could be like that for five days or more. You go off the mountain, it's not foggy anymore.

**[01:05:50.670] - Bernita Reed**

Who wanted to see if she wanted to move?

**[01:05:53.840] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Her family.

**[01:05:55.350] - Bernita Reed**

Not the University?

**[01:05:57.690] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. "What am I going to do with all my stuff?" It's materialistic, love. 'Cause when you gone, you know what your daughter gon' do, or your son gon' do? Gon' get rid'a all of it!

**[01:06:12.210] - Bernita Reed**

Well, consider some papers and photos for the archive. Do you know of anyone that was put out of their house by the University?

**[01:06:27.570] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. 'Cause they kids was bad.

**[01:06:30.850] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about that.

**[01:06:33.370] - Sandra Turner Davis**

There was this family of Mr. John Shedd was here first. He married my grandmother, Maddie Shedd, and his sister house wasn't fit to live in, 'cause they had so many kids. Loretta had four kids. Alice had four. Bobby had five. And Ms. Bobby's kids were more destructive and wanting to steal. And they would go up in the University and take things. So they asked them to leave.

**[01:07:27.470] - Bernita Reed**

What were the parents doing for the University?

**[01:07:31.690] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Some of 'em work for the University, some worked in homes. I know miss Loretta worked in a home, and Ms. Bobby worked in a home. But Miss Alice Faye worked for the University.

**[01:07:54.150] - Bernita Reed**

Was that pretty traumatic for them at the time? Did you hear?

**[01:07:58.930] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No, 'cause when I got out of high school, I left. So what went on here just went on. But I would come back.

**[01:08:09.870] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about that, about your wanting to leave. Or, did you want to leave?

**[01:08:16.190] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes, I wanted to leave. I had just had my daughter. My mother was taking over, and I'm saying to myself, this is my baby. I want to do it myself. I'm grown. I'm 21 years old. I'm grown. So I moved to my sister's house in Atlanta, and within a month, I had a job and apartment. All that time working babysitting, washing dishes, cleaning house. I saved my money and I was able to put my first month rent down and kept my apartment. And I never called home to borrow money or anything. I did it all by myself. So when Mama and Daddy start getting sick, I'd start coming home a lot. I'd catch the Greyhound, and then all of a sudden, they had the groom, and it was easy for me to come home to take care of them. So when my mother got sick, I came home. I quit my job and came home to take care of my mom. But she never made it out of the hospital. She was 76.

**[01:09:31.550] - Bernita Reed**

And you ended up staying.

**[01:09:34.870] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Ended up staying 'cause my brother got sick. And I'm still here.

**[01:09:41.870] - Bernita Reed**

Are you happy to be here?

**[01:09:43.400] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. I like the quietness. I like the easy going stuff. I miss Atlanta, but I can always visit.

**[01:09:54.050] - Bernita Reed**

What are you doing now?

**[01:09:55.820] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Nothing. This is my first year retiring. Retired in October.

**[01:10:04.230] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about having your child. Did you meet someone special?

**[01:10:10.830] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No, that's embarrassing! I got pregnant, my first time.

**[01:10:17.190] - Bernita Reed**

Mhm. That's okay. Did you want to say the father of the baby's name or not? You don't have to- that's fine. What is your daughter's name?

**[01:10:29.750] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mona, Mona Turner. And then I have a granddaughter, Janelle. This year in October, she'll be 21. She'll be grown.

**[01:10:41.710] - Bernita Reed**

When was your daughter born?

**[01:10:58.490] - Sandra Turner Davis**

March 10th, 1971. No- '73. It's '72 or '73, I forget! [laughs]

**[01:10:58.850] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about your mother and her being an activist in this community. How did she get started being an activist?

**[01:11:11.270] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Well, I think it was more the NAACP and they was always go-getters.

**[01:11:19.130] - Bernita Reed**

How did she get involved with that?

**[01:11:23.030] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Several women in the neighborhood. And there was a lot of white people that was in the NAACP also that would help them. And they would go to marches.

**[01:11:35.690] - Bernita Reed**

Where did they go?

**[01:11:36.790] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They went to Birmingham. They would go. What's that, Selma? They walked across the bridge.

**[01:11:50.910] - Bernita Reed**

They were in that march?

**[01:11:51.660] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. Yes. And as a little child, didn't understand. "Why are you going, Mama? You might get hurt," 'cause we see this on TV, that they water hosed them. They were throwing bricks and rocks and things at 'em. "You might get hurt, Mama, stay home, stay home!" And then we heard about that, two whites and two Blacks in a car. They got killed in Alabama. Yes.

**[01:12:27.010] - Bernita Reed**

So your mother was in Selma and got water hosed, or?

**[01:12:32.350] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They did not that day, but they was doin' it earlier in that time.

**[01:12:43.850] - Bernita Reed**

What was she doing here in the neighborhood? Were they doing-

**[01:12:48.880] - Sandra Turner Davis**

She would go to different homes and talk to 'em, joining the NAACP. "Let's get our kids better education." A lot of 'em did not want to do it. And a lot of them was afraid because they didn't know no better. They weren't well educated.

**[01:13:11.490] - Bernita Reed**

What was voting like here?

**[01:13:16.050] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They get among themselves and do all the Democrat way because they wasn't Republicans. And they would tell you, go to each homes and tell you who to vote for. And we couldn't hardly get them to go. They couldn't hardly get them to go. To vote. Your right, is to vote.

**[01:13:43.130] - Bernita Reed**

And what did you have over here that you wanted to tell about your mother? This is the picture-

**[01:13:54.220] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That's the picture right there.

**[01:13:55.920] - Bernita Reed**

Hold that up for a second. A little higher. There we go.

**[01:14:00.710] - Sandra Turner Davis**

This is my mother, Dora Turner, the fighter.

**[01:14:05.910] - Bernita Reed**

What is it about the leis here? I know that the Memorial Day weekend. What is it about wearing the Luau and having leis? How did that get started?

**[01:14:25.490] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My cousin Carl got this together, and he wanted everybody to do a Luau. And I don't know what his meaning of it, but everybody joined in. And then we had fried fish.

**[01:14:42.430] - Bernita Reed**

Do you actually cook a pig or something in the ground?

**[01:14:47.930] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. We do a grill, do ribs and hot dogs and hamburgers, pulled pork, barbecue sandwiches. And another girl would come with her fryer and they would fry fish. So we have all the fixins', make desserts...

**[01:15:11.390] - Bernita Reed**

Now, when do you think that picture was of your mother?

**[01:15:22.290] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Back in 19... Well, that's a farewell to my mother. This is an article of my mother. There is a fighter. And this is her farewell obituary for her. And it tells you, um- I can't see this, I don't have my glasses.

**[01:15:50.230] - Bernita Reed**

It's telling when she was born, she moved to Sewanee in 1949. Two years before you were born. So this would be good to have an add to the record, that information. What else is over here that you would like to share?

**[01:16:16.120] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The peace march. Those peace marches. This is one of 'em at Oak Ridge.

**[01:16:30.350] - Bernita Reed**

Wonderful. Tell me about that. And what you know about the peace march?

**[01:16:36.410] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I really don't know that much about it, but this is my mother right here. The only Black, my mother.

**[01:16:52.450] - Bernita Reed**

And this was in when? This was for- during the Vietnam War, or, when was that? They look. Could that have been...

**[01:17:07.310] - Sandra Turner Davis**

"Robert R. M- Moore? Never again. Memorial..."

**[01:17:15.480] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah, that probably is in the 60s, I would think. No, that's probably the 60s. That's probably the Vietnam War. So, yeah, "Memorial walk. Never again." Do you know who Robert P. Moore is?

**[01:17:42.870] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No.

**[01:17:47.330] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. So that's someone we have to look up. [laughs]

**[01:17:50.510] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Uh huh. My sister might know. I'm not sure.

**[01:17:54.100] - Bernita Reed**

Maybe he was killed in Vietnam or something.

**[01:17:57.500] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Maybe.

**[01:17:58.670] - Bernita Reed**

What else do you have here? Who is this?

**[01:18:03.510] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mr. Woody told me who this man is. He's famous. And for graduation, they always have somebody famous to come up here. What her name is- Bryce? [Condoleeza Rice was the commencement speaker in 2018]

**[01:18:17.454] - Bernita Reed**

Uh huh.

**[01:18:18.390] - Sandra Turner Davis**

She was here last year for graduation, but she always seemed to get a picture with somebody. Yeah. Mr. Woody told me who that was.

**[01:18:30.520] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah, I recognize them, but it's not coming to mind right now. See what we have here?

**[01:18:38.710] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That's part of that peace walk.

**[01:18:40.880] - Bernita Reed**

Okay.

**[01:18:41.790] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And this is another picture about that peace walk.

**[01:18:54.650] - Bernita Reed**

"No to use these weapons. March on nuclear weapons in Oak Ridge, Tennessee." And then the banner, the ribbon is from Women's Day program at Mount Oliver.

**[01:19:15.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That's one of the neighborhood churches.

**[01:19:18.410] - Bernita Reed**

And that was in 1991. What do we have here?

**[01:19:26.940] - Sandra Turner Davis**

These are photos at my Mama's job. And these are some of the people that she- you can't hardly see because it's a Polaroid.

**[01:19:45.430] - Bernita Reed**

If you wanna pull those up. This was-

**[01:19:49.010] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Getting the food prepared at the cafeteria.

**[01:19:55.320] - Bernita Reed**

And who's in this picture? Is that your mom?

**[01:20:01.870] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. That's my mom.

**[01:20:03.080] - Bernita Reed**

That's your mother. Okay. And this is more of the kitchen.

**[01:20:11.390] - Sandra Turner Davis**

More the kitchen.

**[01:20:16.290] - Bernita Reed**

They had to use big equipment, didn't they?

**[01:20:19.905] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[01:20:20.310] - Bernita Reed**

And this looks like serving at the cafeteria.

**[01:20:23.450] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right.

**[01:20:29.650] - Bernita Reed**

Are these- Did students help with serving?

**[01:20:32.390] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No, they do now. But back then, they didn't.

**[01:20:38.240] - Bernita Reed**

It looks like someone white behind the counter with your mom.

**[01:20:42.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They being served.

**[01:20:44.050] - Bernita Reed**

Okay.

**[01:20:45.130] - Sandra Turner Davis**

'Cause this is a worker. And that's over on the other side.

**[01:20:48.410] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. And this is your mother also, behind the counter-

**[01:21:01.420] - Sandra Turner Davis**

In the kitchen.

**[01:21:02.620] - Bernita Reed**

-in the kitchen working. Let's see what else we have here... Let's see who this handsome man is.

**[01:21:14.850] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That's Alton. [laugh]

**[01:21:17.250] - Bernita Reed**

Who is that?

**[01:21:18.870] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Alton Green. He was one of the neighborhood- men in the neighborhood.

**[01:21:35.410] - Bernita Reed**

In Sewanee?

**[01:21:36.400] - Sandra Turner Davis**

In Sewanee.

**[01:21:36.490] - Bernita Reed**

So this is his obituary.

**[01:21:39.550] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. And that was my grandmother's husband on my Daddy's side. John Shedd.

**[01:21:52.210] - Bernita Reed**

John Shedd.

**[01:21:53.210] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[01:21:58.110] - Bernita Reed**

These are wonderful pictures they have.

**[01:22:01.200] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And don't forget my grandfather.

**[01:22:03.330] - Bernita Reed**

Where is--

**[01:22:08.110] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right here.

**[01:22:08.308] - Bernita Reed**

Oh. This one.

**[01:22:08.470] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yeah, that's my grandfather. That's Lisa Gray.

**[01:22:12.820]**

Lisa. Lisa Gray.

**[01:22:16.510] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That's my Mama's Daddy.

**[01:22:18.070] - Bernita Reed**

What year would you think that's in, like, the 50s early 50s?

**[01:22:23.960] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Gotta be in the 50's. Yeah.

**[01:22:24.350] - Bernita Reed**

That looks like that type picture. And this is him again?

**[01:22:28.520] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And this is him with one of the Church members.

**[01:22:32.070] - Bernita Reed**

He's on the left with the hat.

**[01:22:34.060] - Sandra Turner Davis**

This is my grandfather.

**[01:22:35.430] - Bernita Reed**

Oh, on the right, without the hat. I might as well put it closer. Okay, that's great to have those. He looks tall.

**[01:22:53.470] - Sandra Turner Davis**

He was tall.

**[01:22:54.590] - Bernita Reed**

How tall was he?

**[01:22:55.820] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I think he was 6ft. And that's my grandfather's brother. I don't remember his name, but that's my grandfather's brother. With his family.

**[01:23:06.110] - Bernita Reed**

And his family? What a wonderful shot. That's one of those classic pictures. I wonder what year this was. The women had long dresses.

**[01:23:28.270] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Have no idea.

**[01:23:29.550] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah.

**[01:23:38.930] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And this is one of those Fourth of July pictures.

**[01:23:43.310] - Bernita Reed**

Who is in this picture?

**[01:23:46.250] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That's my niece, Tanesia. That's my baby sister's daughter. And I don't remember the gentleman that has my niece, but this is Duval Cravens. He's one of the outstanding people here in Sewanee. Duval Cravens. There's a lot of readings on the Cravens family-

**[01:24:11.190] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. Wonderful.

**[01:24:13.490] - Sandra Turner Davis**

-here in Sewanee. And that's the desegregation.

**[01:24:24.030] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about that.

**[01:24:30.970] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Well like I said, my mother and Miss Sarah Staten, Ms. Emma Hill, Mr. Camp, Mr., um... What was his name? It was five of them that helped get this desegregation. They all went to court to get this route so we can go to the white school. And this is a program, Franklin County Public School System. Desegregation. That's my sister Rita.

**[01:25:15.070] - Bernita Reed**

Where is she?

**[01:25:16.180] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right there. That's my sister Rita.

**[01:25:18.910] - Bernita Reed**

Right here?

**[01:25:19.650] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right here.

**[01:25:20.330] - Bernita Reed**

Right there. This is the sister Rita, right here in the front.

**[01:25:33.690] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And this was back in January 19, 2014, where it was honored. And there's a plaque up at Sewanee elementary school for people to read about the desegregation. That's the same thing. That obituary of my mother that was typed up.

**[01:25:53.930] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. Just trying to back up enough that it shows all the page. They'll get this later.

**[01:26:14.610] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And I was proud of my Mama 'cause she was a dedicated worker and she did so much. And I wanted it to be known. My sister always said, you have to go to all'a these things to dedicate my mom. Like she's not my mom, but she's my mom too.

**[01:26:34.830] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about the apple tree.

**[01:26:38.370] - Sandra Turner Davis**

She used to go out there and pick apples to make apple pie for the University.

**[01:26:49.150] - Bernita Reed**

So, that tree... When do you remember her picking apples from that tree?

**[01:26:52.940] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I don't remember her picking apples, but that's why Boo Cravens did it. She said "she always out there picking them apples, making apple pie for us."

**[01:27:03.850] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And Duval Cravens is Boo Cravens- her name was Marianne Moore Cravens and her and my mother was best of friends. And she said, "I'm gon' buy this plaque, put it up there at Swannie Inn at the Apple tree-" Dora Turner's Apple tree.

**[01:27:24.010] - Bernita Reed**

What was here on this property before they built the Inn?

**[01:27:28.270] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The old Sewanee inn.

**[01:27:30.310] - Bernita Reed**

They tore it down?

**[01:27:31.370] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They tore it down and rebuilt.

**[01:27:34.390] - Bernita Reed**

So she would walk up to the Inn to pick the apples.

**[01:27:39.730] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm And she wasn't taking them or stealing them. She was working for the University, so she was taking the apples to make apple pies.

**[01:27:52.250] - Bernita Reed**

What was her apple pie like?

**[01:27:54.370] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Oh, they divine. They are delicious.

**[01:27:58.250] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me how she made it. Do you know how to make it?

**[01:28:01.940] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. I made Apple pie, but they're not like my mom's. I can't do the crust right. So now I buy the crust.

**[01:28:14.510] - Bernita Reed**

And did she do a lattice type crust on top?

**[01:28:20.900] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And she would do it different every time. Sometimes she folded over, put thumbprints around. She have used a fork around the end of the crust to make her pile look good. It's just she just had that- those fingers.

**[01:28:39.770] - Bernita Reed**

And would she tend to lay a sheet over the cake of the pastry rather than the lattice rather than the strips of-

**[01:28:50.870] - Sandra Turner Davis**

She did it different every time. Sometimes she just put the crust on top, or crust at the bottom. Just however she felt, that's the way she made it.

**[01:29:01.150] - Bernita Reed**

Did she use butter?

**[01:29:03.710] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. Lots of butter.

**[01:29:05.230] - Bernita Reed**

Did you have to churn butter for these?

**[01:29:08.670] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I churned butter for my grandmother.

**[01:29:12.050] - Bernita Reed**

But not on the mountain.

**[01:29:13.980] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. We made homemade ice cream here on the mountain, but it was better than at Grandma's.

**[01:29:23.610] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me how you made homemade ice cream, was there-

**[01:29:28.010] - Sandra Turner Davis**

They put ice at the bottom of the churn. They put this dry ice in there and some kind of way she mixed that stuff up, put it in there, and the more you churn, then it freezes.

**[01:29:46.650] - Bernita Reed**

Was it dry ice or salt? They put the rock salt in the- on the ice.

**[01:29:58.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yeah. How they knew to do that, I don't know.

**[01:30:03.190] - Bernita Reed**

We used to make ice cream that way, and you had to use the crank type.

**[01:30:09.350] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The crank type, all the grandkids got to crank the ice cream machine or churn the butter. She made her homemade soap, too, grandma Jenny did. So there was a lot of stuff that she did, we didn't have to buy.

**[01:30:27.250] - Bernita Reed**

Did you ever help with making the soap?

**[01:30:29.810] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I've never made the soap with her, but I did the butter and the ice cream.

**[01:30:35.230] - Bernita Reed**

Did she make a custard type ice cream?

**[01:30:38.310] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Oh, she used to make rice pudding. Oh, divine. Sometimes you put raisin in it, and sometimes you didn't. Bread pudding.

**[01:30:48.680] - Bernita Reed**

So that was baked.

**[01:30:51.730] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[01:30:52.310] - Bernita Reed**

But for the ice cream, was that a custard type where they may put egg in the ice cream?

**[01:31:02.230] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I don't know. She made that and we just churned.

**[01:31:06.490] - Bernita Reed**

Do you have family recipes that have been passed on?

**[01:31:10.380] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Some. But them tea cakes is the main one we wanted, but nobody got the recipe. And my aunt was so young, she don't remember half the stuff. But she's 85 now. And my Mama's older sister lived to be 86.

**[01:31:37.470] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about the dedication of the plaque for the NAACP. Isn't there a plaque or something?

**[01:31:45.980] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Other than that desegregation plaque.

**[01:31:51.030] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about that. Did you go to a program for that?

**[01:31:54.910] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. And we got on stage. Ms. Sarah's daughter, Pamela talked. Miss Emma Hill's daughter talked. I talked for my mother. Doug Cameron talked for his mom and dad. Who else? That's all I remember. But it's on that dedication- no, it's not.

**[01:32:32.230] - Bernita Reed**

So at the 50th anniversary of that, that's when they have-

**[01:32:36.780] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And that's the-

**[01:32:38.830] - Bernita Reed**

The plaque, okay.

**[01:32:39.550] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Outside of the elementary school.

**[01:32:41.230] - Bernita Reed**

I haven't seen it yet, but I've been hearing about it.

**[01:32:50.030] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm. And it turned out really good.

**[01:32:51.910] - Bernita Reed**

And you must have been so proud.

**[01:32:54.350] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I was! Everybody had their little paper talking. Well, I'm going to do mine natural, I didn't want to write a paper. I said, I haves mementos that I looked at when I was here, like Man Craven, Mr. Camp. He was the organ player at Otey Parish and his wife. They were so sweet when I was coming up. I talked about all the NAACP stuff, the day that we integrated, the coming 'bout of my mother's job. But this was my word that I wanted to say because I'm so proud of my mother. And I hope she's proud of me.

**[01:33:54.590] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me this, did she know Martin Luther King?

**[01:33:58.340] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes, yes.

**[01:33:59.870] - Bernita Reed**

Tell me about that.

**[01:34:01.200] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I don't really know that much, but she did meet him. She didn't get a picture when she was down there in Alabama.

**[01:34:08.350] - Bernita Reed**

In Selma?

**[01:34:10.430] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm, yes.

**[01:34:11.990] - Bernita Reed**

What did she say about that?

**[01:34:14.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That he was a wonderful man and he's very soft spoken, and that he was just a great man, a great Minister, a great husband, his wife. I got an article at the house about Coretta Scott King. And she just was in love with Dr. Martin Luther King. And she said, not like a boyfriend. I just love him like I love God and Jesus.

**[01:34:50.030] - Bernita Reed**

Were there other leaders that she met and talked about?

**[01:34:53.320] - Sandra Turner Davis**

She met Bishop Tutu. He came up here one year for graduation. She got to meet him. Was that Mandela? I think Mandela was up here.

**[01:35:10.870] - Bernita Reed**

Nelson Mandela?

**[01:35:11.060] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And we was telling Mama, I said, "Mama, why you didn't tell us that he was there? We could have came home so we could see him!"

**[01:35:17.670] - Bernita Reed**

Really?

**[01:35:18.000] - Sandra Turner Davis**

So there was a lot of stuff that was going on here in Sewanee that we didn't even know, living out of town, living in Atlanta.

**[01:35:26.550] - Bernita Reed**

So he was brought here after he was released from prison?

**[01:35:31.360] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm, yes. And I got to see Mandela out in California, when I was out there. I didn't get to see him physically. He was in a car, mobile car, they stopped the traffic for them to come through. And I was in California.

**[01:35:48.570] - Bernita Reed**

Did she mention other leaders that she met?

**[01:35:52.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes, but I don't remember.

**[01:35:59.890] - Bernita Reed**

What was your father's involvement with the NAACP? Was he not-?

**[01:36:04.950] - Sandra Turner Davis**

So he was a member, but he wasn't active. He was doing other things.

**[01:36:13.670] - Bernita Reed**

What haven't we covered that we should talk about? Any special memories, any stories of what's happened on this mountain?

**[01:36:25.010] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That's it. That's all that I remember, 'cause when I got out of high school, I left.

**[01:36:35.310] - Bernita Reed**

And how did you migrate to the medical field?

**[01:36:42.690] - Sandra Turner Davis**

My oldest sister was a nurse, and we both went to Atlanta. We stopped at North Side Hospital. We got hired just like that. They wanted me to start work that morning. And I said, "But I got to get my daughter in a daycare." And I went to work the next day.

**[01:37:07.460] - Bernita Reed**

This was like in '73?

**[01:37:09.350] - Sandra Turner Davis**

'73, '74.

**[01:37:17.350] - Bernita Reed**

So you've worked there for a long time.

**[01:37:21.850] - Sandra Turner Davis**

32 years.

**[01:37:24.490] - Bernita Reed**

How did you get along with the doctors being a scrub nurse?

**[01:37:30.130] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Like I said, I was kind of mild-mannered. Just easy going. Yeah, easy going with the doctors. There was some mean doctors. I never said a word, though. And when they say, "Slap that instrument in my hand," I slapped it in. Never said a word. I remember this one orthopedic doctor. I handed him the drill. He changed his mind and it fell, it hit the floor. He hollered at me, he said, "Sandra!" I said, "You asked for it. You just didn't take it. And we can get you another one." And he was fine.

**[01:38:19.470] - Bernita Reed**

I can see.

**[01:38:20.680] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And I was scared to death! [laughs] "Oh, he's gonna kill me!" But he asked for the drill, I handed the drill. I was getting something else fixed up for him, and he changed his mind. And when I released it, it hit the floor.

**[01:38:39.690] - Bernita Reed**

I know exactly what you're talking about, because I've done some scrub nursing. Let's see what else we have over here for the next few minutes. Was there anything in this wonderful-

**[01:39:00.850] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I noticed this map in here. The territory.

**[01:39:07.400] - Bernita Reed**

Oh, that's wonderful! Now what is this is a map of?

**[01:39:13.320] - Sandra Turner Davis**

This is a map of Sewanee.

**[01:39:15.090] - Bernita Reed**

Let me back up just a little bit and down. Just this little bit. Oh, that is wonderful! Who did this map?

**[01:39:27.130] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I don't know. It was in the scrapbook, and my mother was doing articles on everybody in Franklin County.

**[01:39:36.930] - Bernita Reed**

Is there an area here that is where the African Americans lived?

**[01:39:42.900] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Mhm.

**[01:39:44.100] - Bernita Reed**

Wiggins-

**[01:39:48.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

That's Wiggins, that's out by the football field. We're in here somewhere. That look like All Saint's. Is that the Cemetery?

**[01:39:59.810] - Bernita Reed**

We both can't see.

**[01:40:03.170] - Sandra Turner Davis**

I need my magnifying glass.

**[01:40:05.120] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah. This is-

**[01:40:06.060] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Here's some of the names. Homes of both "Telefare".

**[01:40:13.070] - Bernita Reed**

Oh, this is wonderful.

**[01:40:15.950] - Sandra Turner Davis**

It tells you right here.

**[01:40:20.910] - Bernita Reed**

Uh huh.

**[01:40:21.318] - Sandra Turner Davis**

1 through-

**[01:40:21.660] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah.

**[01:40:22.530] - Sandra Turner Davis**

24.

**[01:40:24.150] - Bernita Reed**

This is the Eastern Star Cemetery.

**[01:40:26.930] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. And see, our house should be over here.

**[01:40:30.190] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. I think all of the houses probably- "Eastern Star"...

**[01:40:36.510] - Sandra Turner Davis**

The University Cemetery got to be back over here somewhere. That's Eastern Star, that's down Kennerly Road. Is that it? Right there?

**[01:40:55.740] - Bernita Reed**

That's Lake "Finner"?

**[01:40:58.270] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Okay.

**[01:41:01.370] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Finney. And that's the duPont Library.

**[01:41:07.580] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yes. We're in the back of the library here.

**[01:41:11.690] - Bernita Reed**

Oh here, here's Cemetery.

**[01:41:12.710] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yeah, I'm right here somewhere.

**[01:41:15.080] - Bernita Reed**

Okay. All right.

**[01:41:19.550] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And why is she stuck in that? I don't know.

**[01:41:22.290] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah, that's wonderful. A hand drawn map. Is there anything else in here you wanted to-?

**[01:41:32.930] - Sandra Turner Davis**

No. A lot of articles.

**[01:41:34.400] - Bernita Reed**

Yeah.

**[01:41:35.870] - Sandra Turner Davis**

And this is one of her friends right here. Marley.

**[01:41:41.970] - Bernita Reed**

Up here?

**[01:41:42.790] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Right here.

**[01:41:43.460] - Bernita Reed**

Right here. That she worked with?

**[01:41:44.140] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Yeah, that's part of the Cafeteria. Mhm.

**[01:41:45.560] - Bernita Reed**

I'll just put it up there, it's talking about this lady more. Okay. Well, it is now ten minutes to one.

**[01:42:03.430] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Golly!

**[01:42:03.970] - Bernita Reed**

So I guess we should call it quits. I'm sure there are going to be questions for you later, but we covered a lot.

**[01:42:12.590] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Okay.

**[01:42:13.180] - Bernita Reed**

Thank you so much. This is so special!

**[01:42:15.850] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Thank you! Lettin' me say my piece!

**[01:42:16.930] - Bernita Reed**

Yes. The beginning piece. [both laugh] Okay, I'mma turn it off.

**[01:42:22.180] - Sandra Turner Davis**

Okay.