

Buxton Project: 424-2104
 Narrator's Name: Lola Reeves
 Tape Number: 3-A
 Date of Interview: 6-21-80
 Place of Interview:
 Interviewer's Names: Elmer Schwieder and Joseph Hrabá

- A. (Can't understand) When we'd have our programs at school, except for graduation, I do remember going to _____ graduation.
- Q. Do you remember Victoria Brown?
- A. No.
 In Waterloo? Marjorie.
- Q. Marjorie, that's right. Marjorie Brown from Waterloo.
- A. Marjorie Lee she used to be.
- Q. Marjorie Lee.
- A. Oh is that who that is, Marjorie Lee. **Remember,** played piano at the movies.
Can you remember those two.
- Q. *Ms. Reeves when was this picture taken that Elmer is looking at, I just looked at, 19 what?
- A. I imagine it was about 21.
- Q. *I noticed that in a way that most of the children are black children. Was that always the case in the schools, was there more black children.
- A. _____ as I can remember, I _____ they had more black than they had white.
 _____ they lived. I don't know whether the white kids lived in Swedetown.
 #Now my first grade teacher, the school had more whites, this one had. My brother and I _____.
- Q. *But depending upon the neighborhood, maybe in some of the schools most of the children were white children huh? Is that possible?
- A. Well it could be.
- Q. *It could be? But you're not sure?
- A. I'm not sure.
- Q. Did Swedetown have a school?
- A. Yeah, they had their own school.
- Q. *Was there a public school or a church related school in Swedetown?
- A. I don't know, but I think it was a school _____ go to church.
 #I have a picture of one of the teachers in Swedetown and it was mixed you know,

- A. #I guess the colored and that lived further out.
When they ruled segregation out, everything was mixed.
- Q. *Racial separation in Buxton.
- A. No.
- Q. *Blacks and whites lived side by side, interspersed, mixed.
- A. Uh huh.
- Q. *What about the lodges. We've talked about this before but what lodges do you remember Ms. Reeves in town, for both men and women?
- A. Well the Eastern Stars I remember that.
- Q. *Did you belong to any of these lodges?
- A. Yeah, (Can't understand) And he took my application and also Mrs. Miles. There were three of us. I can't remember who the other person was. But anyway I was accepted _____ was blackballed, I can't remember who that was but I was accepted and I didn't care _____. It just really wasn't very important to me. So anyway, my husband, he was a lodge man. He was a mason and he was _____ going to the grand lodges and _____ and they had officers. But I had never had no _____. I was _____. So the only thing they'd do if they wanted my presence. So in order to make me come to the lodge they took my dues as tax _____. I figured I was paying the dues I wasn't paying them for taxes. That was just _____.
- Q. *Were you married, did you get married in Buxton or was it after you left there?
- A. I married in Buxton.
- Q. *What year?
- A. In 1921.
- Q. *What did your husband do?
- A. He was a miner.
- Q. *He was a miner there? Okay and moved in 1922. Where'd you move to?
- A. Where'd I move to?
- Q. *Uh huh.
- A. I moved to Haydah.
- Q. *How long did you live there?
- A. I can't, Haydah didn't last too long. We didn't live there longer than 4 years.
- Q. *About 4 years and then to Des Moines?

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- A. Then we moved to a little place called Rex 5 _____ coal mine _____, Another mine was going to open _____ up and Rex 5 was the _____ was 9 years old when we first _____ 6 years old, so we moved up here to Des Moines. _____
- Q. What did your husband do when you moved here?
- A. Well for a while he worked for Sholer.
- Q. That's out in _____ and along in there?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. But the Sholer mine was?
- A. And the first _____ he worked in there _____ and he finally went, when the Rock Island Railroad came through here, he worked at _____ stations out at 20th and Grand and he died _____.
- Q. *Did you work any after you left Buxton?
- A. (Can't understand). In the meantime my teaching certificate run out _____.
- Q. Where was your husband born?
- A. Virginia.
- Q. Did he come directly to Buxton from Virginia?
- A. When they came from Virginia, they came to Mutchakinok. That was a big mine.
- Q. That was a big mine. And from Mutchakinok to Buxton? Do you know if he came in when they had a strike or labor trouble? We've heard that the company went down to Virginia and brought an awfully lot of blacks in when they had strikes. Do you know if they went and got him or if he had relatives in Mutchakinok and he came to be with them?
- A. Well I think he was quite a youngster. His mother died. I don't know when she died, if she died before they left Virginia or if she died in Mutchakinok. His father raised him. _____ They did have people from all walks of life that they went to Mutchakinok and Buxton. _____ lawyers and doctors and teachers and _____, occupation that you could find came through at Buxton. Attorneys that they had came from Oskaloosa. He was one of the best _____.
- Q. *Did you know these people well, did you associate with them? These people you're talking about, the lawyers, did you associate with these people?
- A. Yes.
- Q. *They were your friends?
- A. (Can't understand response).
- Q. *Who were your close friends there in Buxton?
- A. Well my closest friends were teachers?

Q. *Were the teachers both black and white?

A. #Well at our school they were all black.

Q. *They were all black ones?

A. #I don't know. I think, I wasn't there when Buxton first opened up.

Q. *But at the time you were there they were all black in the schools?

A. #They were all black. They were black at both schools.

Q. *At both schools they were?

A. #5th Street and 11th Street School. But out in Swedetown they were white teachers.

Q. *So your closest friends tended to be your coworkers?

A. Doctors and lawyers. Dr. Robinson, he was a doctor over there in Coopertown and that was a section of Buxton too, Coopertown. Robinson had his office, doctor's office over there. And then there was Dr. Carter, He was a local boy. Buxton _____ with this religious group and he had his office downtown, Eddie Carter and then there was a dentist, then Dr. Willis. He was a Buxton boy too, took dentistry up here in Iowa City. Then he came back and he practiced dentistry in Buxton. Then they had a barber there named Mr. Hicks. We had a Justice of the Peace _____

#There was a Roman.

What was his first name?

#Tom Roman, he was a constable.

And John Baker. I think he was a constable too and there was a post office. Berk _____ used to work in the post office.

Side 2.

Q. When we were first talking with her, she told us she came to Buxton when she was 2 years old, in 1906 when she was 2.

A. #She must be close to _____

Q. *You're 86, when were?

A. Last year, I'll be 87 the 19th of November.

Q. Were you born in Buxton?

A. No, I was born in Davenport, Iowa.

Q. You were born in Davenport, So you're a native Iowan?

A. Yeah, uh huh.

Q. Now where did your parents come from?

A. I don't really know. I heard my mother say, I know she said that she was born,

- A. just the time when the war was over and they were mining in the south and seem like she was born . Her mother died and her uncle, her mother's brother took her, he and his wife and raised her,
- Q. *Where was this?
- A. I don't know, I don't remember her telling me what from the south after the slaves were,
- Q. After the Civil War?
- A. Well I know the rest of my kin. My mother and father separated when I was a baby and she went back to her husband's and there is where I was raised . See my complete education through high school, I graduated from high school.
- Q. But you were living with an uncle?
- A. No that was my mother's uncle. I lived in and he lived in and his wife died before I could remember. I do remember him. He was the man that, you know a long time ago when they the dust on the streets in town and they'd have a horse and a tank where a wagon what they call a sprinkler and he had a sprinkler and he used to sprinkle the streets .
- Q. Keep the dust down?
- A. Yeah to keep the dust down.
- Q. *After you graduated from high school, did you move then to Buxton to teach?
- A. I moved to Buxton . I took Corney examination and passed the test. I grade school . But Kate Morris was the county superintendent and she was anxious for me to take the teaching test. And I took the test and passed and she .
- Q. *What year was it that you moved?
- A. 1914.
- Q. *1914, how long did you live in Buxton.
- A. I lived there, the camp was beginning to grow out when I lived there. and we moved to Haydah.
- Q. By 1914 then the camp was declining already?
- A. At that time,
- Q. At that time? So then it must have had most of his people earlier than 1914 but it hadn't died out by 1922. It was still there.
- A. camp. We moved to, my last year teaching in Buxton was in 1922 and the camp was moved to Haydah. You were already up there?
#Yeah, we left in 16.
You left before.
- Q. Where's Haydah? Is that near Buxton?

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- A. Yeah. Most of all of Buxton houses were moved from Buxton to Haydah and I had a book here of the coal mining in Iowa and I just let my minister have it, 2 or 3 weeks ago. He's writing a book, the story of the black churches in the state of Iowa.
- Q. In other words, Haydah still is Consolidated Coal Company then. Was it the same?
- A. _____ They didn't last near as long as Buxton.
- Q. Buxton did. But it was the same company that moved?
- A. I think so. I don't know
#Wasn't one of them 18 Mrs. Reeves?
- The mines around there.
#Haydah and Buckneal.
I didn't go to Buckneal.
I mean those were little towns.
A lot of them towns _____ Then there was Rex 5.
#But I mean these were the new towns they were making from Buxton, Haydah.
- Q. Do you remember who moved the houses? Did the company move the houses?
- A. I don't know. I don't know. I guess so. They were Buxton houses.
- Q. We've heard they came in and sawed them in half and put them on a flat bed and moved them and then nailed them back together when they got them moved. But I've never heard that moved to Haydah.
- A. They moved to Haydah because Paul Wilson's father bought several houses and made a hotel when they moved the houses from Buxton to Haydah but he had a hotel made from them houses. Well he could tell you more about it.
- Q. Does Haydah still exist or is it gone too?
- A. Haydah, oh yeah it's gone.
- Q. It's gone too.
- A. Mt. Zion Baptist Church, it was right next door to the school where I taught. I taught at 5th Street School and that church moved to Haydah and the pastor was, in Buxton the pastor was Rev. Woodard. Do you remember Rev. Woodard? I remember Buxton broke up in 22. Rev. Woodard took his family and they went to Cedar Rapids. So then we had a new pastor when Mt. Zion Church moved to Haydah. Now one of the ministers' name was Karr. They tell me they had more than one minister there. I knew that _____, I tell you who could tell you a lot more about that. You know _____ Walker's daughter.
#Geraldine?
- Geraldine, _____ Yes, cause she was the one that told me who the ministers were in Mt. Zion Baptist Church after they moved.
- Q. *Her name is Geraldine Walker?

A. Geraldine Harris now.

Q. *Harris? Where did you live in Buxton?

A. Where did I live?

Q. *Uh huh.

A. I lived right across the street from the school where I taught, a family named Williams.

Q. *Williams. Was this one

A. _____ and his wife was named Bertha. We all called her Bertha. And I stayed with them until _____ moved to Clinton _____ and they moved to Clinton and then I stayed with a family by the name of Tate, Joe Tate and his wife.

Q. *Was this a company house? Were these company houses?

A. They were all, all the houses belong to the company.

Q. *Can you describe the houses you lived in for us? How many rooms?

A. The big house had 5 rooms. They had a main part of the house like this house and then the kitchen was added on to the _____. The small houses had 4 rooms.

Q. *So there was a living room?

A. A kitchen.

Q. *Kitchen.

A. 2 bedrooms.

Q. *2 bedrooms. Were there dining rooms?

A. The dining room _____ according to the size of your family. I wish I had that book here. I would _____ the kitchen.

Q. When you lived with these people, did you have a room of your own?

A. I had a room of my own. _____ 3 bedrooms, cause they had a daughter and this was upstairs. Seem like _____ downstairs.

Q. *But there were two-stories. This was two-story?

A. A story and a half.

Q. *A story and a half, okay. Good size.

A. Yeah, they were good size. Everybody had a nice size lot. Most of them had gardens. And then there was another church out to _____ called Tabernacle Baptist Church. That was _____. We called that area Sharpe End and Rev. Lee Garrett pastored that. When Buxton went out, worked out he moved to West Des Moines and he pastored the Mt. _____ Baptist Church in West Des Moines.

Q. *Do you recall, how many churches were there in Buxton when you were there?

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- A. Oh, I can't remember. Now there was a methodist church a St. John Methodist Church there. And then there was another area of town called Swedetown where most of the white people live and they had a church over there. They had _____ They had 4 churches.
- Q. *Was that a Lutheran Church that they had?
- A. I don't remember.
- Q. *You don't remember? You say that was where most of the white people lived. Was there a section of town where most of
- A. Area where there were more Swedes lived over there. The white and the black lived over in Buxton too, the main part of Buxton. But they called it Swedetown so I think it was more Swedes.
- Q. *So the Swedes were sort of sat off to themselves huh?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay, we've heard about an east and west Swedetown in Buxton. Do you recall?
- A. I never _____ Swedetown,
- Q. *You never have gone
- A. _____
- Q. *How much rent did you pay?
Rent and Board.
- A. I can't remember.
- Q. You remember what they paid you to teach school?
- A. It seems like I was getting, seems like I was getting around a hundred dollars _____ I remember I used to save my money, _____ which _____ was cheap at that time.
- Q. That would be a hundred dollar for how long?
- A. A month.
- Q. A \$100 a month. You mentioned that you taught at 5th Street School. Was there more than one grade school in Buxton then?
- A. Yeah, there was a school out at the other end of town called 11th Street School. That was out in the area they called they talk about Sharpe End. That was the north of Buxton. It was called Sharpe End.
- Q. So you had two grade schools and then the one big high school.
- A. The high school when I was there, the high school had burned down. So I don't know anything about that.
- Q. *Was it replaced by the time you got there?

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- A. Beg your pardon?
- Q. Where did the high school students meet? Did they go to a high school there in Buxton after the building had burnt down or did they go elsewhere?
- A. They had to go out of town.
- Q. *They had to go out of town.
- A. To Albia. _____.
- Q. *You didn't understand that?
You remember the YM?
- A. Yes. It was down at Sharpe End across the street from the company store.
- Q. What was the name of the company store, do you remember?
- A. It was owned by Buxton, Buxton Company Store. They just called it the company store.
- Q. We've heard of the Morton Consolidated, isn't that it?
- A. Monroe.
- Q. Monroe Merchantile and I'm trying to out if they called that, if that's the same store. Most people are like you. They remember it just called the company store.
- A. Yeah, that's all I heard.
- Q. Do you remember any of the prices, did the company store seem

*Joseph Hraba

#2nd Respondent

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A. (Can't understand)

Q. But you know some things about the school because you've talked that others don't know too that makes a big difference.

A. (Can't understand).

#Yeah I remember. We had quite a few of them living _____ and a bunch of Swede kids

(Can't understand).

Q. Well we have taken almost 2 hours of your time.

A. Already, has it been that long?

Q. It's been nearly that long. It just doesn't seem it goes that fast but maybe we can shut this.

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Q. *Even when you were still a single woman there, what did you do for entertainment? What was your social life like? Did you go on picnics, did you go to dances or just what?

A. Picnics. They'd have, well I guess the lodges had quite a few things there too, which I couldn't afford but they had. They had their _____ and their dances.

Q. *How about you, what did you do?

A. I couldn't dance, _____. But I went with the group. We'd play cards and take partners _____.

Q. *You went to church on Sundays, right?

A. I went to church. I used to play for the people choir at St. John's. _____ all the time I was in Buxton. I didn't join the baptist church until after I moved to Haydah,

#Was a baptist and they used to sing in the methodist choir. (Can't understand). But I was very active _____.

Our social activity was rather limited. Of course I say the lodge, there were a lot of _____ and they had a wonderful ball team. The Buxton Wonders they used to have. That was probably the _____ ball club. This Buxton team, I think they used to travel.

Q. You mentioned that you lived across from 5th Street School, which would be kind of downtown, is that right?

A. 5th Street School is up on the hill,

Q. What I was wondering is if you could tell us a little bit about the town after it was dark. Was it quit, _____ or were there any roudies running around. I gather there was not a tarven downtown.

A. I don't know. You never heard of no trouble _____ course I didn't go out much at night. If there were trouble, it'd be around Sharpe End which was considered as a dangerous neighborhood. But that was around 11th Street. I believe it was a church up in there. And our social functions at nights and we never had any problems.

Q. Do you remember any violence because of strikes at all or did they?

A. Yeah.

Q. The men just went, they didn't call it a strike, what did they call it. What did they call it? What did they get, he gave us a term, a release.

*A suspension.

1000

- Q. A suspension. But even if the men were out on a suspension, you don't remember any great parades or any great labor trouble?
- A. They were always hopeful of going back to work. See the contract ran out _____ a new contract and they would go back to work. But there was never, well who would they parade for?
- Q. I guess that's true.
- A. Yeah. The company had their officers there.
- Q. Parade in front of each other.
- *That's a very good point.
- Yeah, it sure is.
- A. And you know they weren't gonna break up the store or anything because that's where they got their food and all their supplies, from the store and _____ and a strike like that the coal miners always ended up in debt to the company because they would let the miners have food and the company would own the houses and therefore they would be in debt for house rent. Well the company supplied everything and the time the men went back to work, they were working a long period of time to get out of debt.
- Q. Just to pay off?
- A. Yeah, just to pay off. Once they paid off and got to the place where they could save something then they would have to, be time for another new contract see. One thing about it, the men made good money and when they were working, I guess they thought Buxton was gonna last forever. They were very extravagant. And so _____ and I used to see too, the men would have their watch _____ of course they had _____. They didn't have too many watches charms. Vest pocket watches with charms. They'd have a \$50 gold piece or something _____ very extravagant and clothes. The women would dress nice. It was at a time when the women were wearing these hats that you see in the movies with these great big ostrich plumes on them and pay big prices for them and they had their lodges that they would attend, the grand lodges and always go to these conventions. They made money, good money but they spent it too.
- Q. That fits in. Marjorie Brown told us that when we were up there that her mother paid \$25 for two plumes, ostrich plumes, just for a hat.
- A. Yeah. _____ She had 3 on her's and they were \$25 a piece.
- Q. That's a lot of digging in the coal mine to buy a feather it sounds like.
- A. They made good money but they didn't save it. Some bought the farms and their homes _____. After the mines went out, I don't know what happened to the coal _____. But I know the Washington lived out there at the time and also this family that you were talking about, Chaplan, they lived out there at the time _____. He and his first wife acquired a lovely home. But after the mine moved there was nothing to stay there for.
- Q. *What about the school. Can you tell us a little bit about the school? Did you feel it was about as adequate as schools in the state at the time? Did kids get a good education there in Buxton?

1601

- A. Well, I think so. It's according to, well according to the child and the parent. If your parents, I guess just like it is today. If you had parents _____ with the school and the children would _____ with the school, the child could acquire a very nice education. We had some intelligent and very smart children and then in a class, in some classes now, we'd have all size children. When I was teaching 2nd and 3rd grade, some of the 3rd graders were old as _____. Well you see, it's just up to the child and the parent. If you try to teach a child, and as I say, the child was very cooperative _____ in charge of those classes but you had some children and some parents, every time the child would go home and tell something went wrong and the parents were up there _____.
- Q. *What are some of the things that you were teaching the children then?
- A. Beg your pardon,
- Q. *What were you teaching the children? You taught 7th?
- A. Reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling _____. I think a lot of children left that school and went right into high school out of the grade school.
- Q. *You made mentioned of the Swedes living there. Were there other kinds of white people there, especially immigrant white people? We've heard that there were some Polish in Buxton too,
- A. _____
- Q. *Imagine so. Do you remember any other nationalities there?
- A. When we moved to Buxton, when we moved _____, these people had come from a little coal camp _____. There was a family in there, Polish I think, named _____. And we had a _____ a lawyer down here, me and his parents _____ came from a coal camp in Iowa. _____ his folks. But I thought they were from Missouri, he was _____ and his parents.
- Q. *Do you know where his parents lived in Buxton?
- A. They lived in Rex 5. I don't know whether they lived in Buxton or not. But all those people around Rex 5 came from those different coal camps when _____ moved from Buxton to Rex 5.
- Q. *Well how did these different groups get along in Buxton? Was there any
- A. Fine, they got along fine, that I know of.
- Q. *You can't remember any trouble whatsoever?
- A. I can't remember any trouble _____. Like I say they used to talk about a lot of trouble out at Sharpe End, but I didn't know.
- Q. *What trouble happened in Sharpe End?
- A. I guess just like trouble happen around here in the rough places.
- Q. Why Sharpe End, why was that _____?
- A. Well Sharpe End was an area of town like any town has a bad area.

Q. *Okay. That was a bad area of Buxton?

A. Right.

Q. A salone or something there probably.

A. Probably.

Q. *Were there families living out there?

A. Yeah, there were families, children. They had a school out there. _____
Tabernacle Baptist Church was out there. And I think, I know 11th Street School
was at Sharpe End.

Q. *We heard there were some holly rollers in Buxton, do you remember those people?

A. No.

Q. *No.

Out on the edge or something.

A. Buxton was a big place.

Q. That's what we're finding out. There's lots of parts of Buxton. Somebody named
one part and somebody. Now you left in 1922 and you felt it had been going down
or decreasing from about 1916 on. By 1922.

A. It was going down when I went there in 1914.

Q. But by 1922 when you left, would you say the number of people were about half
that were there when you came in 1914? Had it gone down that much, half of the
population?

A. Oh yeah. It had gone down to the place where, the Buxton coal mines were going
out. People had to move.

Q. They had to move?

A. They had to move.

Q. And usually when they get ready to move, when something closes up they'll move
wholesale, a whole lot of them.

A. Houses and all. So when Buxton houses were moving, I don't know whether, now
Armstrong's Meat Market had moved. William's Drugstore had moved and the churches
moved. So there wasn't anything left in Buxton.

Q. One of the things that we've learned about Buxton was that there were some news-
papers. Do you remember anything about the names of the various news?

1603

Side Two

Q. When it rained, it was mud. Is that it?

A. Mud. You had to tie your boots or your shoes on. If you walked out then you'd fall.

Q. Walked out of your boots and they're gone.

A. They never did pave the streets. They used to have a road down they called Cinder Road. I don't know whether it was any better than the rest of them or not. But we lived up the hill from the store and I'm telling you, it was something else when it rained.

Q. Were there a lot of activities for young people, for youth? With family size, there should have been a lot of teenagers and older youngsters or fairly active type or young people in an active community. I keep hearing the kids here say, nothing goes on in Ames. It's dead. But I got the feeling that it was a pretty active and a lot of things that young people were doing. Had quite a number of them in Buxton.

A. Well I guess there were. I don't know cause I was interested in the school work. If the parents could be very cooperative, we had their picnics and things. And I can remember _____.

Q. Didn't need any Little League or some of those things to keep them busy? They kept pretty busy.

A. Well they did have this famous ball team. I don't know, they might have. I think the parents and children were more closely related than they are at the present time. I don't think there was, discipline was as bad as it is right now. In fact _____ my children getting into any real trouble.

Q. Did kids have a lot of chores like coal, bringing in the coal? You had some things to keep them busy?

A. Oh yeah. Everybody had a little chore to do. Chore _____ . They come to Sunday School and they go to church. They would go to different schools. One thing about it, so many times the boys would want to go in the mines with their fathers at an early age and I think they did. _____ family, as I say they made such good money that the boys went to work early and they didn't strive for higher education and then they _____.

Q. When you say they went in the mine early, what do you mean by early? Are you talking about 15 or 12 or how soon they mined?

A. Yeah. I would _____ to say they would falsify their age _____ go to work _____.

Q. The legal age was 16 but apparently they could go down and they couldn't. Now I'm telling you what we've heard and then you can tell us whether that's true or not. They couldn't get a car. They couldn't join the union and they couldn't officially work. But they could go down with dad and then they helped him and he got more cars out that day. So we've heard as young as 12, having sons. But generally it seems about 14 to 15 that they often started to go down in the mine and then by the time they're 16, they already know how to mine and they could get their union card and go right to work. So that they did their apprentice

- Q. before they were legally able to go underground.
- A. I know they went in there but what they did down there I don't know. Maybe to help their family. Once they started making that good money, it was awful hard a coal miner to get him out of anything but a coal miner.
- Q. To get him back to school or anything.
- A. A coal miner at that time was making more money than a businessman it they _____. And I don't want to leave out our band, A famous band _____ Buxton's regular band _____ come up here to Des Moines.
- Q. Is that right?
- *How big a band was this?
- A. It was _____
- Q. Do you remember how many people are in the band?
- A. I don't know how nice they are but they have these band outfits on.
- Q. One of the stories we've picked up is from Marjorie Brown, who was not born in Buxton or was not a part of Buxton but when the band traveled out somewhere, she saw this trombone player and she said that's the man I'm gonna marry. He didn't know it at the time but she knew it and she eventually ended up with him and then got back to Buxton _____. At least that's _____ the story she told it. It was very interesting. She made great point about the band. The band, it was apparently more than just a marching band. They played many, many things.
- A. #It had another one they called the cornet band.
- Q. A bugle type thing. Well can you think of anything else that would help us know, what was your happiest memory in Buxton that you had. Think back on the time when you were most pleased to be there.
- A. You know Buxton, to me was a new experience and I really enjoyed it. I lived in _____, I wasn't raised in _____. It was just down the railroad track from the _____ (Can't Understand). I meant to say that there were only three colored families in _____. And I was the youngest child of all the families. Therefore, my last 5 years in school, I was the only colored child in the town that I went to school. Consequently, I had been raised in a white surrounding. Going to Buxton with all the people of my own race was a great experience for me. I learned a lot and I acted shy and timid first. But after I got there, I could exercise my feelings, my potentials, my talent and my _____ and I think Buxton brought a whole lot of joy to me, just to be able to live and, a colored girl, in a colored area and feeling like I was one of them and I was happy.
- Q. Feeling more the majority?
- A. Yes I did.
- Q. Which makes a big difference.
- A. Yes it would. _____ I was sorry that it moved.

Q. *Would it be fair to say that it was the happiest time of your life?

A. Well I wouldn't say it was the happiest time of my life but it was, as I grew up it was happy, socially. My mother was a widow. We were busy all the time. We had a big place, 4 or 5 lots. We had _____ chickens, pigs and everything and we all were busy all the time trying to help make ends meet. I could remember _____ sometimes my mother worked. She'd do day work. Sometimes we didn't have money to buy _____ meat and things like that. We lived about 2 blocks from the river and she'd take me and we'd get a fishing pole and we'd go down to the river and catch us a bunch of fish. I enjoyed doing this. This was helping out with the family. I enjoyed helping my mother. I appreciated _____, But socially, after I moved to Buxton it was a different social life, I had a lot of hardships _____ didn't change. Being a religious person, I can't remember when I didn't go to church, even when I was _____, We went to church, Congregational Church. I learned about God and the Bible, and Jesus Christ the Savior _____ and life was _____.

Q. *How many children would did you have?

A. I have 3 daughters, 2 died.

Q. *What did your daughters do?

A. My daughters?

Q. *Uh huh.

A. My oldest daughter, she doesn't work at all now _____.

Q. *Post office?

A. Uh huh.

Q. *What about the other daughters.

A. ~~The other daughter~~ she works at Montgomery Wards. She _____ department _____. And my youngest daughter is _____.

Q. *What does she do?

A. She's married and has three children. She works a store down _____ for the waterworks department.

#Can I ask Ms. Reeves a question?

Q. Sure.

A. #Ms. Reeves do you remember the movie women? Ned and Kally, The women that ran the movie show in Buxton. Ned and Kally _____, Ned used to ride a buck wagon, have a big wagon going and that skirt.

No.

#Who was running the movies when you were there, do you remember?

I never went to movies.

#We did all the time, Ned and Kally. She played the piano sometimes and Ned ran the movie just like a man you know. They would act roudy in the movie, she'd go there and put them out. I can remember Ned and Kally. She'd drive the buck board down the streets standing up.

Q. Is that right?

A. #I don't know what nationality they were, they Germans or what. They didn't speak any kind of language.

See Dorothy was there a long time before I was there. And she left before we left.

#Yeah we moved in 16 right after March.

Q. But the thing that's important is that we're getting a picture and that's why I pushed you at the early stage. By 1914 it was beginning to go downhill already, which _____ about 1925. That's about 9 years. But it was steadily declining and you know just like any little small town, one store closes up and then the next store closes up and the mine hangs on and they don't work full days, they work part weeks and then pretty soon it's just every other week and finally it just clashes altogether.