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**An Oral History of Elizabeth D. Randall
Conducted by Leroy Graham**

Title: An Oral History of Elizabeth D. Randall
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Abstract: Elizabeth Dorothy Davidson Randall Washington (1918-2011) was a secretary for the Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) (1962-1968), and worked directly with activist Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson. In this oral history interview, she provides insight into the personal and emotional aspects of Jackson's career with the organization, as well as the impact of other local civil rights activists on their efforts. She discusses the NAACP's focus on Baltimore churches and ministers, many of whom Lillie Mae Jackson would directly involve in the organization's local efforts.

Note on Oral History: Oral history is a methodology of gathering, preserving, and sharing the voices and memories of individuals and communities. As primary material, it documents personal reflections, commentary, and recollections, and is not intended to present a verified or "complete" history of events.

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An Oral History of Elizabeth D. Randall
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Elizabeth D. Randall was interviewed on July 9, 1976, by Leroy Graham at 2700 W. Rosedale Street in Baltimore City. This interview was done for a class in Oral History held at the Maryland Historical Society (now Maryland Center for History and Culture) in January of 1976.

Graham [00:00:07] Mrs. Randall, can you tell me something about your family? Family background, history?

Randall [00:00:11] Well, I was born in Baltimore, Mr. Graham, and I've lived in the city most of my life. At this time, I have five children.

Graham [00:00:22] Mhm. Are your parents native Baltimoreans?

Randall [00:00:26] My mother was born in Chestertown, Maryland, and my father was born in Kingston, Jamaica.

Graham [00:00:30] Oh, Kingston, Jamaica.

Randall [00:00:32] Mhm.

Graham [00:00:32] And, uh—What church do you attend?

Randall [00:00:44] I'm Methodist and right now I attend the Mount Zion United Methodist Church.

Graham [00:00:48] Did you ever attend Sharp Street, where Mrs. Jackson went to church?

Randall [00:00:51] (speaking at the same time) Not as a member. I have been there. I have relatives who are members there.

Graham [00:00:55] Mhm. Well, when did you first meet Mrs. Jackson?

Randall [00:00:58] I first met Mrs. Jackson in 1962, when she hired me to be office secretary for the Baltimore Branch NAACP.

Graham [00:01:09] Mhm. Well, how did you come by knowing about the job?

Randall [00:01:13] Well, at that time I was looking for a position, and someone referred me to Mrs. Mitchell because they had heard that the NAACP office needed a secretary. And I talked with Mrs. Mitchell and she interviewed me and made arrangements for me to be employed there.

Graham [00:01:29] Well, what were they looking for in a secretary? Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jackson. What kind of people were they to work for me? What kind of problems they ask you to have?

Randall [00:01:38] Well, the skills necessary to do a commendable job of typing, dictation, regular office procedures—answering the telephone, and that type of thing.

Graham [00:01:52] Right, because I understand Mrs. Jackson was a stickler for being prepared and being—well, properly qualified to do work—

Randall [00:01:59] Well, that's right, well— (laughs; speaking at the same time)

Graham [00:02:00] She didn't tolerate—

Randall [00:02:02] I have often remarked in my experience since leaving there, that that anyone who could work for and satisfy Dr. Jackson, could work for anybody. (laughs)

Graham [00:02:12] Right, I've heard that. I heard that she dismissed quite a few people and made enemies that way, I think.

Randall [00:02:18] Well, a possibility.

Graham [00:02:20] Mhm. Well, what kind of activities did you involve in that you can enlighten us on, which would give us another view of what was happening in the NAACP during the time you were secretary, which may not come out in, say, the newspaper accounts or in letters and that type of thing.

Randall [00:02:37] Mhm. Well, we had several membership campaigns, and that was one of the major activities of the year. And Dr. Jackson was the type of person to keep an eye on the ministers and the churches of Baltimore and encourage them to inspire as many people as possible to take out their memberships in the NAACP. And I think she was successful in having—well, let's say, in raising memberships of about 7,000; that's about the highest memberships there in one time, I do believe.

Graham [00:03:16] Mhm.

Randall [00:03:16] During the height of the time when people were really pushing for civil rights.

Graham [00:03:23] Mhm. Well, what kinds of other activities were you involved in besides just, uh—Were you a confidant of Mrs. Jackson on matters? Did she ask your opinion on certain things?

Randall [00:03:35] Well, Dr. Jackson was the type of person who was open in her endeavors, and she conversed with the office staff on her plans and things that she planned to do. So, we were—

Graham [00:03:47] Could you give us some examples, and—

Randall [00:03:48] Um, of course, she had a board, you know, where decisions were actually made.

Graham [00:03:55] Right.

Randall [00:03:55] In the board. But in the office, she would probably go into detail in what she planned to do and how she planned to do it. No, I cannot at this moment go through an exact example.

Graham [00:04:11] Mhm.

Randall [00:04:11] Um, I know that when there were problems and things that she was trying to accomplish—

Graham [00:04:23] Mhm.

Randall [00:04:23] —and goals that she was trying to attain, naturally, she'd talk them over and we knew exactly how she felt. And then she detailed what would be her strategy for maneuvering and making the goals she'd support.

Graham [00:04:39] Well, can you recall any—What was her strategy session like? I mean, how did her mind think as far as detailing a strategy for, say, maybe getting something done during the McKeldin administration as a mayor? I think he was elected mayor in 1963. Was any particular bill, maybe the local civil rights bill, I think—

Randall [00:05:00] Well, as I said, I really don't recall anything particular except when we went to Fort Smallwood, it was. And we had the fight there trying to get equal privileges for our young people to swim as well as the other young people.

Graham [00:05:21] Mhm.

Randall [00:05:21] She talked to an interested several young people, especially, to go down there and walk in on the grounds. And, anyway, they talked over their maneuver—exactly what they were going to do. But she was a very firm person. You know, she would have made a good captain in any army, because when she made her plan, then she tried to implement that plan: to the best of her ability, to push those who were under her and responsible for actually carrying out the plans. And she stuck by it and saw to it that everybody else stuck by it until the goal was achieved.

Graham [00:06:09] Yeah, I understand she finished almost anything she started. Is that a fair assessment?

Randall [00:06:15] Yes, I would say so.

Graham [00:06:17] Well, what is the Lillie Mae Jackson story? Is there something that we don't know about her that hasn't come out yet in the usual newspaper accounts of her?

Randall [00:06:26] Well, I would say that I have worked for several people and been in several situations. And I do believe that she is the most dynamic personality that I've ever worked with. She is the type of person who believes that with God, all things are possible.

Graham [00:06:46] Mhm.

Randall [00:06:46] She also believes that in instances where she's asking for funds, asking for payments on life memberships and people might feel, you know, "Well, I just don't have that money right now." But she tried to let them know that God's storehouse was full and that all you have to do is ask. Those two expressions I heard repeatedly, you know, that God's storehouse was full. And it gives you a picture that you probably wouldn't see otherwise, and I have never heard anyone else refer to it in just that way. Because when you think of a storehouse, you think of everything in a place that you need. And that all you have to do is ask for something in that place, that's a rather unusual picture. But she had faith to believe that it was so, and I think that her success proved that her vision and her belief were well grounded.

Graham [00:07:41] Mhm. Did she intermix NAACP activities and Sharp Street activities in the office staff work?

Randall [00:07:53] No, I think Dr. Jackson was a person who, I feel, really had a single purpose in life, and that was the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Graham [00:08:05] Mhm.

Randall [00:08:06] Naturally, she had a great respect and regard for Sharp Street, but she didn't intertwine the two in her daily activities.

Graham [00:08:16] Was she as proud of her family background, as—in the early days, you know, this would be the 1960s—as, I'd say, later on in the 1970s, when everything Black was beautiful and people went around—

Randall [00:08:35] Yeah. (laughs)

Graham [00:08:35] —you know, expounding on their family heritage.

Randall [00:08:37] I think Dr. Jackson was very proud of her family heritage. More than once, I heard her refer to the fact that she was a descendant of the Carrolls of Carroll County. And she was very proud of that because of the fine contribution that they made to the very state of Maryland. And the fact that she was a descendant. So she was—

Graham [00:09:01] She was always proud of her background.

Randall [00:09:02] Yeah, mhm. Of her heritage. Mhm.

Graham [00:09:06] Can you recall anything on the incident about her sending a telegram to Kennedy not to give funds to, I think it was, Ocean City when there was a big flood or some big weather disaster down there. And supposedly a civil rights bill was lost in the Maryland General Assembly because of this action of hers. Can you recall anything of that?

Randall [00:09:28] I do recall it, but I don't recall the specifics, because I was not employed at that time. I remember, you know, reading the headlines and I was aware—I recall the incident.

Graham [00:09:39] Oh, well, this was not during the time you were employed?

Randall [00:09:41] No, mhm.

Graham [00:09:42] Well, what did she think of Kennedy himself?

Randall [00:09:44] Oh, she had high regard and respect for Kennedy.

Graham [00:09:49] Did she ever have contact with him in your presence? Or on telephone or through a telegram that we may not be able to (unintelligible; speaking at the same time)?

Randall [00:09:58] Now, I don't know of Dr. Jackson individually having contact with President Kennedy. I think all the presidents have been in some way connected with his family, but I really don't recall her individually having anything to do with President Kennedy.

Graham [00:10:14] What about Mayor McKeldin? He was the mayor during the time that you were secretary in the NAACP office. Was there—

Randall [00:10:24] (unintelligible) D'Alesandro.

Graham [00:10:25] I think McKeldin came in in 1963.

Randall [00:10:27] Mhm.

Graham [00:10:28] Was there any—Are you aware of any situations in which they were together in conversation— through the mail, or on the telephone—about any matter that—?

Randall [00:10:40] No, I don't recall any specific instance, but I will say with both McKeldin and D'Alesandro, that I don't think they ever turned her down—either one—on any request that she made asking permission for the city to cooperate with the NAACP in any program or activity—

Graham [00:11:02] Like what?

Randall [00:11:03] —that was being carried on. (sighs) Let's see now.

Graham [00:11:07] What—

Randall [00:11:09] I think each one if I'm not mistaken, had a life membership.

Graham [00:11:14] (speaking at the same time) Oh did they?

Randall [00:11:18] (unintelligible) Well, almost any program—No, I don't remember specifically, but almost anything that she asked for, I feel, was granted. But I really can't give you specifics.

Graham [00:11:27] Mhm. Well, can you relate anything that—any incident that happened while you were secretary, which might indicate something about Mrs. Jackson besides her campaigning for— besides her ability to garner memberships? Can you think of any incident that might be added to the story of Mrs. Jackson?

Randall [00:11:48] Well, of course, she led the fight—Like I say, I really can't be specific, but I do know that she led the fight that led to equal opportunity to eat and sleep and work in the state of Maryland, because we had chapters throughout the state. And she was president of them—Well, no, she wasn't president of the Maryland State Conference, but she was very active with the Maryland State Conference and through the efforts of the Association. And that's the Baltimore branch being the largest branch in Maryland. She was able to help get some of these things actually—laws passed. I mean, you know, it was a matter of contacting senators and congressmen and city councilmen. But to tell you the truth, for the life of me, I can't remember any specific incident as much as we worked on, as hard as we worked. But just generally, I know that the branch under her leadership was responsible for us getting rights, as we said before, to eat, to sleep, and to earn as American citizens.

Graham [00:13:09] Mhm. Well, how did she handle local branches? I understand that she may have rode roughshod over the local branches; that it was either her way or no way at all. Is this true?

Randall [00:13:21] (laughs) You mean the state branches in Maryland?

Graham [00:13:22] Yes. I mean—Yeah, the county branches—

Randall [00:13:26] Um. Well, she was a person who was determined. Lots of times, you know, if you are determined that a thing should go a certain way, if you have a program, very often you may not be too tactful in the manner that you might address a person or group of persons because your main interest is focused on actually getting a job done.

Graham [00:13:47] Mhm.

Randall [00:13:47] So sometimes if a job is to be done, a person—almost anybody—will kind of ride roughshod over everybody and everything. Really, they don't mean to hurt feelings or be insulting or engender impatience on the part of their listeners or this, that, and the other thing, but they see that there is a job to be done. And the command, therefore, is to go and do the job.

Graham [00:14:13] Did you ever see her lose her patience with anyone?

Randall [00:14:15] No. No, I said to engender impatience, meaning that, you know, sometimes people might get impatient with her—

Graham [00:14:21] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:14:21] —might have gotten impatient with her, you know, as a result of, possibly, the demands that she was making or something like that.

Graham [00:14:33] Who were some of her key supporters in the county branches?

Randall [00:14:36] Well, let's see, as I recall, Mr. Stuckey and Ms. Dorsey (??), who was secretary, um—Hmm, (unintelligible).

Graham [00:14:54] How about people in Cambridge, were—?

Randall [00:14:55] Yeah, Cambridge was a strong branch.

Graham [00:15:00] Mhm.

Randall [00:15:00] And, uh—I can't think of the lady's name down in Cambridge, right now. But that—I really can't recall too many names.

Graham [00:15:11] Mm.

Randall [00:15:11] Mhm.

Graham [00:15:12] What did she think of the, I think, the Rap Brown incident in Cambridge? When, I think—remember, when Rap Brown was involved in some sort of arson, I think (both laugh), in Cambridge. Did she have any comment on that? Or how did she direct a local branch in Cambridge to handle that situation? Or did she get involved at all?

Randall [00:15:28] I don't remember. I remember Rap Brown, but I really don't remember her reaction.

Graham [00:15:33] Mhm.

Randall [00:15:33] Mhm.

Graham [00:15:33] What were some of her key supporters in the Baltimore branch—who were some of her key supporters, rather?

Randall [00:15:39] Well, all members of the Baltimore—of the board—

Graham [00:15:43] Mhm.

Randall [00:15:44] —Dr. Charles Watts, Dr. William Watts. Um—Oh, gee, all the ministers: Reverend Mead, Reverend Bryant, Reverend Dobson, and—gee I'm trying to think who else. She, um—Of course, Mrs. Mitchell worked with her very strong, and Mrs. MacMillan (??) was very strong.

Graham [00:16:07] Mrs. MacMillan (??), isn't—Was there a feud between, at least, Mrs. MacMillan (??) And Dr. Jackson when she left or something?

Randall [00:16:16] Well, that part I don't know anything about.

Graham [00:16:18] Mhm.

Randall [00:16:18] That was after my time. And I really am not aware of exactly what happened.

Graham [00:16:23] Mhm. But I guess you've heard rumors, haven't you? Is it fair to put some of these rumors on tape just to sort of, I guess, weed out what is maybe truth and falsehood and (unintelligible; speaking at the same time)—

Randall [00:16:33] Well, to tell you the truth, I don't think I know too much about it. As you ask me, I'm thinking. I do know that Dr. Jackson resigned. She'd felt that she had, you know—It was time for her to give up the mantle, I guess. And it was a matter then of who would serve as president. I do know that there—I heard, like you say, rumors, but I really—that was several years ago. And I've really forgotten just how—any unpleasantness that might have occurred—just how it occurred or why it occurred or to whom or what. As far as I know now, you know, they're cooperating.

Graham [00:17:12] Mhm. What about Carl Murphy? What kind of relationship—Can you assess the relationship that Mrs. Jackson had with Carl Murphy?

Randall [00:17:18] Well, I often heard her speak of Dr. Carl, as she called him. He was the founder of the *Afro-American* and she, of course, working as president of the Baltimore branch NAACP, found a lot of support through the *Afro*. They sort of worked as a team, and the *Afro*, I am sure, publicized a lot of the events and activities of the NAACP and, you know, put the story forth to the people of Baltimore. So they had a very close relationship.

Graham [00:17:54] Mhm. Can you recall any striking incident that you may have witnessed between the two? Or some kind of memorable letter that she may have sent him or he may have sent her?

Randall [00:18:06] No. No, I can't say that I do. I just know that as far as I can recall, I would say that there was good rapport between them. And I really don't remember, again, any specifics, but I do remember the relationship as being one of mutual respect.

Graham [00:18:28] Mhm. Were you there during the time of, I think, the Kennedy assassination? Were you working in the office then?

Randall [00:18:33] In '73, no.

Graham [00:18:34] I mean, not Kennedy, um—King!

Randall [00:18:37] King.

Graham [00:18:37] King.

Randall [00:18:37] No. When was that?

Graham [00:18:39] I think King was shot in '68, wasn't he?

Randall [00:18:41] '68. I probably had left there, if I'm not mistaken. No, that was the fall—It might have been just about the time. I think I left in November of '68, and it was just about the time of that.

Graham [00:18:55] Mhm.

Randall [00:18:57] Of course, I know everybody was just feeling bad. Just exactly how we felt. I don't even remember just where—whether or not I was still with the Baltimore branch at that particular time.

Graham [00:19:08] Mhm.

Randall [00:19:09] Because I left early in—It was either late in October or early in November.

Graham [00:19:13] Mhm. Did you volunteer any of your time in the sense that, you know—Did you stay overtime or help in other ways that were beyond the scope of your, I guess, your salary or the activities called for in your job description?

Randall [00:19:27] (speaking at the same time) Well, that's not actually volunteer work. No, most of my work was paid for.

Graham [00:19:31] Mhm.

Randall [00:19:32] We worked nights, Saturdays, Sundays, as well as days. But, um—

Graham [00:19:37] Doing what? I know you would be maybe getting memberships, but what were some of the other things on Saturdays and Sundays, I can't—

Randall [00:19:43] Oh, well (laughs)—

Graham [00:19:43] —except for rallies maybe.

Randall [00:19:45] If you were writing to the membership, you were probably sending out five or six or seven thousand letters.

Graham [00:19:50] Oh!

Randall [00:19:50] Well, that, of course, was quite a bit of time.

Graham [00:19:52] Well, you'd actually would send out those?

Randall [00:19:54] There were times when we wrote to the membership, yeah. When you're building up your campaign and announcing meetings.

Graham [00:20:01] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:20:01] You know, you probably announced all of your meetings, because by the time we opened the campaign we would have the calendars set up.

Graham [00:20:08] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:20:08] So (unintelligible; speaking at the same time)—

Graham [00:20:08] You said campaign, you mean what? A membership campaign?

Randall [00:20:09] (speaking at the same time) A membership campaign.

Graham [00:20:09] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:20:12] Excuse me. The fall membership campaign was usually the largest activity during the year. And during the summer the actual schedule of meetings—

Graham [00:20:23] Mhm.

Randall [00:20:23] —is set up.

Graham [00:20:27] Mhm.

Randall [00:20:28] And so letters are sent out to the membership—

Graham [00:20:29] Mhm.

Randall [00:20:31] —advertising—well announcing those meetings so that members will know and be able to attend because we had the cooperation of the churches and the preachers and the choirs would participate on programs—

Graham [00:20:42] Mhm.

Randall [00:20:42] —at those meetings.

Graham [00:20:44] All right.

Randall [00:20:45] And that was your drawing card.

Graham [00:20:47] How did she—what were some of her favorite choirs? Because I understand she was a singer in her own right, but uh—

Randall [00:20:53] (laughs) Well, uh—

Graham [00:20:54] Did she have any favorite choirs she'd want to call on more so than others?

Randall [00:20:59] (speaking at the same time) Usually—Well, I think the more matter of the church—the pastor and church—that was the most cooperative in spirit, you know.

Graham [00:21:05] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:21:07] —and that we would probably feel—

Graham [00:21:08] What you mean corporative in spirit? You mean some of these ministers wouldn't donate time and church building?

Randall [00:21:15] (speaking at the same time) Well, let's say that there might be some that would really one, two, three, you know, really quickly. I don't think anybody actually turned it down when she, you know, said, "Well, would you come to my church?" But I think that there were some who might have come quickly and maybe more often than necessary. They were just—

Graham [00:21:30] (speaking at the same time) Who were some of these?

Randall [00:21:30] As I recall, I know that Reverend Mead's church—

Graham [00:21:37] Now, what was his?

Randall [00:21:37] Right about this minute, I can't tell you.

Graham [00:21:40] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:21:41] _____ (??) Baptist, Faith Baptist, Sharp Street, Reverend Dobson's church—Union Baptist. Um. I trying to think now. Churches that really—Let's see, Bethel. Oh, my goodness, you know, Bethel and Sharp Street were home churches. Well, really, any number of the churches in Baltimore City—

Graham [00:22:11] Mhm.

Randall [00:22:11] I feel that—I don't think that there was anybody who would actually deny, but there's usually always a person, who as soon as you call, you know, and say, "Well, will you come?"

Graham [00:22:22] Mhm.

Randall [00:22:23] Well, one, two, three, they'll say, "Yeah." You know, some people might have figure it out, think it over, and like that. But for the most part, you had the support of a large number of churches in Baltimore.

Graham [00:22:34] Mhm.

Randall [00:22:35] I would say that you have about—Well, the campaign would run about ten or eleven weeks, and with two campaigns a week and some Sundays, well, that runs you about twenty-five meetings. And, I mean, you've got, you know, that many churches who would be willing to house a meeting at their church: the preacher, preach, the choir, sing. And then you come along with your pitch for memberships and those meetings were always well-attended.

Graham [00:23:04] Mhm.

Randall [00:23:04] Mhm.

Graham [00:23:04] I would imagine that Mrs. Jackson had to be diplomatic in the way that she, I guess, would show her favoritism towards some of these ministers. Did she have a favorite minister herself?

Randall [00:23:19] Well, I don't think so. The favoritism, if there was such a thing, might have been, because here you have a minister, as I said, who is very active. Reverend Mead as I called his name before, and as I recall, was a member of the board, and the board members—the ministers on the board—you know, they were called on (dog barking) by all means to please cooperate.

Graham [00:23:42] Mhm.

Randall [00:23:42] Mhm.

Graham [00:23:46] Um—Is there anything else that you would like to say about Mrs. Jackson that perhaps you think that we haven't covered? And that you can recall to mind?

Randall [00:23:58] (clears throat) No, I think we've covered the area of her association with the branch office, as far as I can see it. As far as I saw it during the six or seven years that I worked with her. But I would still say that a lot of her success was due to her perseverance. And we used to joke at the office because regardless of the weather—hot or cold or what have you—Dr. Jackson found a way to the office. Very few days that she didn't turn up at that branch office to see what was going on.

Graham [00:24:37] What time would she come in?

Randall [00:24:39] Well, she would come in an average of, possibly, early afternoon, I guess. As soon as she'd had her lunch, maybe, and go home in time for dinner. You know, so that meant she would spend the afternoon.

Graham [00:24:48] Mhm.

Randall [00:24:48] Now you had people walking into the office, you know, with their problems and this, that, and the other thing. And so they could come in during that time and discuss their problems and she could make referrals.

Graham [00:24:58] Mhm.

Randall [00:25:00] That was about the last thing that she would do in the afternoon when she was there. And of course, during campaign times, you had a constant flow of people coming in to report memberships.

Graham [00:25:11] Who drove her around? I would imagine an older—

Randall [00:25:15] Her grandsons.

Graham [00:25:16] Oh, her grandsons drove her around?

Randall [00:25:18] Mhm.

Graham [00:25:18] I mean, were they were on standby or what? (both laugh)

Randall [00:25:20] Yeah, just about. (laughs)

Graham [00:25:22] Well, now did—They actually were on standby?

Randall [00:25:24] Yeah, yeah. Well, they were young men, you know. Mike at that time, he was in high school or college. And he was more or less available.

Graham [00:25:32] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:25:32] Mhm.

Graham [00:25:33] Yeah, because I was going to say, I imagine she couldn't—or didn't want to, maybe—bother driving a car in her old age.

Randall [00:25:40] No. No.

Graham [00:25:43] How did she handle requests for intervention on the part of prisoners or people detained in jail? Were you ever to witness any kind of a incident of this kind? Because that seems to have taken up a large bit of her time, I would—?

Randall [00:26:01] Well, I think in cases where they were first offenders, Dr. Jackson was able to go downtown and talk to the judges. I don't think we mentioned this before, but she was on pretty good basis with the judges down there and the lawyers. And she did go down to the judges and talk with them—

Graham [00:26:21] Mhm.

Randall [00:26:22] —and in some instances, she was able to have these young men's names cleared—

Graham [00:26:29] Mhm.

Randall [00:26:29] —so that they could go ahead and get jobs and like that. As long as they acted like respectable citizens, they were able to continue their career without being harassed about a jail sentence or something.

Graham [00:26:43] Mhm. Can you comment at all on her relationship with her children? Say, Juanita, even _____ (??), and Virginia, and Marion? Can you make any comment on—

Randall [00:26:54] Well, she was very close to Juanita.

Graham [00:26:55] Mhm.

Randall [00:26:56] In fact, during the time that I was with her, Juanita—_____ (??) wasn't here during that time.

Graham [00:26:59] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:26:59] —(unintelligible; speaking at the same time) since then. (dog barking) So I'm only aware of her relationship with Juanita, which was very close.

Graham [00:27:08] Mhm.

Randall [00:27:09] Mhm.

Graham [00:27:10] Um, let's see. What about whites, did—In this latter stage, did she allow whites to be hired in her office? In the NAACP office? Or to take part in any of the general direction of activities in the office? I understand in the earlier period, I think she didn't particularly—

Randall [00:27:31] Mhm. Now, I don't know her stand on that. I don't recall us having any white employees while I was at the branch.

Graham [00:27:40] Mhm.

Randall [00:27:40] But in view of the fact that she considers, you know, all God's children equal and like that, I don't think it would hold up, you know, that on the other hand, she would be prejudiced. So I don't recall any incidents where she definitely stated, either one way or another, that she didn't want any white employees.

Graham [00:28:02] Mhm.

Randall [00:28:02] Now why we didn't have that (unintelligible), I really don't know.

Graham [00:28:04] You really don't know?

Randall [00:28:04] Mhm.

Graham [00:28:04] Huh.

Randall [00:28:04] But I do recall that—I don't recall us having any.

Graham [00:28:09] Mhm.

Randall [00:28:09] Mhm.

Graham [00:28:09] What about her—Can you make any comment on anything involving Morgan and Dr. Jackson during this period of time? I guess even during this time, they were trying to become a university.

Randall [00:28:23] Mhm.

Graham [00:28:23] I think they were.

Randall [00:28:24] Well, at any rate, Morgan supported her. She would, you know, supported Morgan. She had a lot of faculty members there who took memberships and Dr. Cornish—

Graham [00:28:38] Mhm.

Randall [00:28:38] —who secured a lot of memberships from Morgan.

Graham [00:28:41] Mhm. Did she help in the attempt to, I think, to integrate Northwood—?

Randall [00:28:47] Oh, yeah. Well, um (laughs)—I smile at that because of a personal thing I had. But, um—

Graham [00:28:54] What you mean?

Randall [00:28:55] Well, my daughter was a student at Morgan, and she participated in that.

Graham [00:29:02] Uh-huh.

Randall [00:29:02] The one who left here a little while ago.

Graham [00:29:03] Right. What was her name?

Randall [00:29:03] Julia Carroway or Caraway (??).

Graham [00:29:04] Julia Carroway or Caraway (??).

Randall [00:29:05] And then she was Julia Randall Carroway or Caraway (??).

Graham [00:29:05] Mhm.

Randall [00:29:07] But at any rate—Yeah, we supported that.

Graham [00:29:11] And in what way did Dr. Jackson get involved in it? Can you tell us anything?

Randall [00:29:15] No, I can't remember any direct involvement in that, because those youngsters mostly came from Morgan, I think, and did a little sit-in there at the theater. Of course, they were taken out to the jail. Now, whether or not—I think that's a little before my time too—

Graham [00:29:39] Mhm.

Randall [00:29:39] —that incident. I don't know of the participation of the NAACP in it.

Graham [00:29:43] Mhm. What about the Freedom Riders or the—Did she shell out bail money for those who were involved in Freedom Rides in Baltimore, like on Route 40?

Randall [00:29:54] Could have been.

Graham [00:29:55] Mhm.

Randall [00:29:58] Um—Because we did make a contribution to a lot of these northern—helping things, you know, progress.

Graham [00:30:07] (whispers) Okay, so—

[00:30:07] *pause in recording*

Graham [00:30:07] Mrs. Randall, what about the voter registration drives? What part did the NAACP play in that?

Randall [00:30:13] The Baltimore branch NAACP was very active with voter registration drives because it felt that if the citizens of Baltimore would vote, they would have power. And so through their efforts, they were able to encourage people who were not on the books to go downtown and register. They provided busses for transportation for people at stated times so that they could carry groups of people downtown by the hundreds. I can't say how many people we took downtown, but there was a large number.

Graham [00:30:43] Were courthouse officials cooperative, or—?

Randall [00:30:46] Yes, they were.

Graham [00:30:47] Mhm.

Randall [00:30:47] And they they made it possible for us to come on in and vote—register and come on out.

Graham [00:30:52] What did the political bosses think of you registering so many Blacks?

Randall [00:30:56] I don't know that.

Graham [00:30:57] Uh-huh.

[00:30:57] *end of recording*