

STAFFORD COUNTY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW OF LOUISE MONCURE
BY CHARLOTTE B.BUTLER

APRIL 30,1986

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Signature of interviewee _____

Address of interviewee_____

Signature of interviewer_____

Address of interviewer_____

Date of agreement April 30,1986

Subject of Tape(s)
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
Mrs. Louise Scott Moncure
100 Bells Hill Road
Stafford, Virginia 22554

- I. Background
born 1908, Richmond; moved -to Orange County

lived for 2-3 years with George V. Moncure's (future husband) relative; met George through the family

Louise's mother worked in Quantico as a nurse married 1929--went with George V. to see his brother in Baltimore; married there--simple ceremony with no reception first lived in Episcopal Rectory (approx. where Bon Food is now; a simple farmhouse) 3 years later moved to Widewater; bought 200 acres from George's family George worked for the railroad; telegrapher; worked in Fredericksburg farmed at home--grew hay; Raised few cattle and chickens; always had horses; L. particularly enjoyed reading

II. Children

first child--girl--Scott (L. would not give the date as her daughter lived with her and L. did not want to reveal that information) boy was expected so they were not ready with a girl's name; hence the family name of L.

had baby in Alexandria; local doctor in Dumfries also a hospital in Fredericksburg--couldn't remember why she went to Alexandria local Dumfries doctor made house calls; gave advice and prescriptions over the phone; nearest drug store was in Fredericksburg didn't know anyone personally who had babies at home or with a doctor or midwife

Son--George V. IV born 20 months after Scott
Scott--presently librarian for Stafford school system

George IV--farms across the street from his mother; recently moved back from England; also has son named George V.

Children went to elementary school at present day Stafford Middle; went to high school at present day Drew Middle.

III. Moving

moved to present address in 1943

first inkling for move came when Marines were found surveying in the front yard of Widewater home government sent an official around to notify 200 families that they must move out because of George's job, they could have gone to Washington, or Fredericksburg, or Richmond voted to stay in the country
Louise's mother living with them until her death in 1950 moved everything in one day--including all animals and bathroom plumbing "new" house was probably 60 years old

and without running water and indoor plumbing, previous house had both fewer acres but continued to garden

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IV. Home Life

Always fortunate enough to have hired help--black nurse to help with young children; black cook canned enough vegetables to provide for the entire year L. cooks yet on a wood

stove--"no comparison for baking" baked biscuits every day--"When I married, I didn't promise to

love, honor, and obey, but to love, honor, and bake biscuits every day!" husband got biscuits

everyday--but not necessarily everyone else in Widewater they had an icebox--iceman brought

the ice and the news in Widewater--picked up mail at post office; in courthouse areas the mail was delivered did shopping in Fredericksburg

V. Social Life

many families had yearly picnic, parties, or dances Moncure family home--picnic every summer on the lawn--200 people would attend dances--had live music; did the fox trot and waltz

Aquia Tavern (corner of U.S. I and 610) had nice dances with live music; there would be nice dances for awhile until the Marines found out and when they came the dances became too rowdy--this became a cycle--dances would close down when they became too rowdy--a couple of months of good dances and then the Marines would come again

got together with family regularly--took turns giving dinner

parties all the generations would have fun together children learned to get along with older folks and to respect

them children received wings and legs when there was chicken and did not expect the "choice" pieces table was always big enough for one more person

VI. Changes

Depression and war brought few changes to family George's railroad job kept him home during the war-- exempt from the draft real change came with the Interstate a doctor lived

in a home where Pizza Hut is now used to ride on horseback west from the house along Austin Run

often to an old Stone House by quarry--Interstate put an end to that used to ride horse over to house

behind Golden Corral to get butter--mostly an excuse to ride horse

VII. Miscellaneous

mother dies in 1950 of cancer; nursed at home until death; learned how to

give injections when the doctor diagnosed cancer, mother was not told--not ever told--
cancer was a
death sentence; L. had to keep up brave front but thought mother probably knew by the
end

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VII. Miscellaneous (Cont.)

before children came, L. and George often went to Washington on the train
to go to the theatre--both live and movie-Warner theater after children came, mother lived
in so there

was no need for babysitter little George was responsible for keeping the woodbox full L.
never

remembered a fire in the local area;

closest fire department was in Falmouth went to Aquia Church each Sunday--took
children; taught Sunday

School; children sat quietly through church service had big meal at noon--always did
very little

traveling outside of visiting family members

This interview lasted about an hour and a half. Mrs. Moncure was alert,
with a quiet sense of humor;

she complained of her hands being shakey when she signed the release form.

Mrs. Moncure

looked very attractive in a printed silky shirt with a bow tied at the neck.