

Interviewee: **Herman Evanston Glascoe**  
Interviewers: **Ernest Demby, Julie Hawkins-Ennis, Linda Moore-Garoute, Noah Waters, Ryan Craun**  
Date of Interview: **January 27, 2020**  
Location of Interview: **Eagle Harbor Community Center, Eagle Harbor, MD**  
List of Acronyms: **HG=Herman Evanston Glascoe, ED=Ernest Demby, JE=Julie Hawkins Ennis  
LG=Linda Moore-Garoute, NW=Noah Waters, RC=Ryan Craun**

[Begin Transcript: 00:01]

ED: I guess we can start by stating your full name.

HG: Huh?

ED: Let's start by stating your full name.

HG: Herman Evanston Glascoe

ED: Thank you Mr. Glascoe for being here. I appreciate you coming up and giving us your time. I guess we can start by how long you've been in this area.

HG: How long what?

ED: How long you've lived in Aquasco?

HG: All my life.

ED: All your life. Is your family from here originally?

HG: Huh?

ED: Is your family from here originally?

HG: Yeah

ED: Okay. Who were your parents? Who were your parents?

HG: John Glascoe

ED: What kind of work did they do?

HG: Farm

ED: Did you work on a farm as a young one yourself?

HG: I worked on a farm up until I went in the government.

ED: Okay. What was your responsibility when you were taking care of the farm?

HG: On the farm? Did a little bit of everything.

ED: Really? Did you plant tobacco like most of the families?

HG: I certainly did.

ED: Oh okay. Was that the way of your family to kind of make money for yourselves?

HG: Yes

ED: Okay. What was school like? Did you go to school around here? Let me ask that first.

HG: I went to school at Aquasco.

ED: What school did you got to?

HG: Orme. I went to two schools. I went to... The first school was the old school, Antique. They had a regular... The old school... you started in seventh grade. And then I started in another school in Orme. That's right up the road above the school that I went to. I went to three schools in one year including high school. Yup, a lot of people don't understand that but I do, because I went to 'em. And because when I went to high school, I told the people that I went to two high schools in the same year. They built a new school behind the jail in Upper Marlboro, used to be in Upper Marlboro. And I went to the old school that was there first and then I went to, to the new school. They build a new high school behind it, there's a jail in [INAUDIBLE other person in room suggests Upper Marlboro]... There was a new school built and I went to that school. And then the following year, they built completed another school and I went to that school in the same year.

ED: Right

JE: Was that Douglas? Was the name of the school Douglas?

HG: Douglas. Yeah. And that was a lot of school. Yup, it was a lot but I made it.

ED: What was school like for you?

HG: Huh?

ED: Did you like school?

HG: I didn't like it that much but I had to go because my father see that I went.

ED: What kind of guy were you like in those years?

HG: Huh?

ED: What kind of guy were you when you were going to school?

HG: I was a regular guy, I didn't like a whole lot of foolishness. . But you have some of that everywhere you go. You know? But I enjoyed it. It was a lot of changes in a year but I didn't have no other choice.

ED: How did you get to school?

HG: With school bus. When I first started school, I had to walk. I didn't live too far from the school. So my first year in school... I walked. Yup.

ED: All year?

HG: Huh?

ED: All year: winter, spring, summer, fall?

HG: How...?

ED: I said how long?

HG: No. You went seven years, seven days... You went seven...

ED: Seven days a week?

HG: Seven days a week. No. No No. No you didn't go seven days a week. You went five days a week.

ED: Okay. Was there a lot of kids in the school? Or is there a large amount of kids or small amount of kids?

HG: It was a large school.

ED: I mean the amount of people in the school... The kids.

HG: No, it wasn't a lot.

HG: See we had two teachers. One teacher had the school from one to fifth. And the other teacher had two uh...the other class.

ED: Right, so like high school.

HG: Uhuhuh, yeah.

ED: Did you work around here?

HG: Huh?

ED: Did you work around here after you got out of school? Or did you go outside of here?

HG: Did what?

ED: Did you work around here?

HG: At Eagle Harbor?

ED: Mhm

HG: Yes I did.

ED: Was it farming or another?

HG: No, not farming.

ED: What did you do?

HG: I did a lot of painting here in Eagle Harbor. I had one lady that I used to like to work for. She was a nice person. I don't know whether she had passed or not but she was a grand person. And because this lady that was a undertaker, her wife, his wife... she wanted me to come to work for her but I didn't like this type of work. You know uh, Funeral Homes – I don't be doing that kind of work. No, I didn't like that. They didn't like it but they was telling me about what I could make. It was another guy that worked and took care of this place. And he used to just come by on weeks when he didn't have nothing to do to do in DC, but I could do a little better than that, I need some work every day. But that house was school... The funeral home, wasn't too far from this building or the building that used to be here.

ED: Right. What was this area like in those times?

HG: Huh?

ED: What was this area like in those times? I look around and it seems like it was a lot of pathways around here before it was roads

HG: Was it a lot?

ED: ... of pathways and things like that? It seems like almost people went by horse sometime back then.

HG: No. You know... there was a lot... You know I wish I could think of that lady's name but that's been a long time. I worked for the lady a long time. And she was a school teacher. And then she also had uh... It was two teachers, two men teachers, that I used to work for down here a lot and they were real nice.

ED: That's what I hear a lot about people around here – that people would seem to be really kind and good to each other.

HG: Huh?

ED: It seems like people are really kind and good to each other around here. Seems like that's a history that this place has. It's just a sense of community.

HG: Yes, it was a nice community. But really, the people that was in charge didn't know how to run it. That was one trouble with this operation here. They all were from the South and they thought that they could come up here and build houses like they build 'em the South, you know? Throw 'em together and that didn't work. And they finally end up... If you had a house painted, you had to have a inspector. And uh... But I was well known and I didn't have to have a inspector, thank goodness. But it finally end up that way, regardless of who you was or how good a painter you were – you had to have the house inspected. But I didn't have that to worry about because I was one of the best.

ED: That helps I guess, right?

HG: Huh?

ED: I said when you're the best the people already know what they are going to get, they don't have to ask questions. |

HG: That's right that is true.

ED: And you said there was lot of people from the South that came here?

HG: Huh?

ED: You said it was a lot of people from the South that came here?

HG: A lot of people?

ED: From the South?

HG: Yeah.

ED: Do you know why they came here?

HG: There are people that really got this on on the move. Yup, but they didn't know how... They had money but they didn't know how to use it. Yeah they had a lot of money.

ED: So you think they just didn't put the money in the right places?

HG: That wasn't no problem but they didn't know how to put it in the right spot. Because they built a hotel down here years ago, but it all come to a quick stop and it completely, that was far as they got. They got the rafters up on it but it didn't... it didn't work. Because the people they had managing it didn't know how to manage. That may sound queer but I am telling the truth. Tell you what God knows. That is the truth. Yup.

ED: Do you remember any of the names of the people that came around here?

HG: Huh?

ED: Do you remember any of the names of people that came around here? The families that came around here back then? To come in...

HG: No, I don't remember names too well. Because I forgotten the name of the two brothers that I used to work for that used to be here. But they were two nice gentlemens, I'll say that about them. Yup...But, I never learned a lot of the peoples names too much because it was a lady that I used to work for... I should've known that lady's name or wrote it down because she was honorable person, you know. And then there was a school teacher that I used to work for a lot, Mr. Digs – he was the principal at the school in Upper Marlboro. And he ended up buying some property down here and I used to come down here and work for him. But there's one thing I would like to tell you. This guy brother told me one day, he said "you see that man walking across the street there, that's my brother" but he's got a school in Charles's County. His name was name was Digs , last name was Digs. And I said "that's your brother you're not talking too good about him" he say "well, if you

don't want me to say nothing bad, we can stop this right now, but don't work for him", he told me just like that. But he was a.. What do you call men that teach boys home ec?

ED: Oh uhhh

HG: Oh God.... You know I know it..

[Background discussion of the proper term]

ED: Do you know why he told you not work for him?

HG: Huh?

ED: Do you know why he told you not to work for him?

HG: Well, he didn't like to pay and he wanted to work the cheapest possible. And that don't work in painting sometimes you painting you got to give them the price. I always had a reasonable price and I didn't go under or over. Nope, I did not. But I found out what this man was talking about because the lady that had a building, not the building the house that I used to paint for, she say "Mr. Glascoe, why you never work for Mr. Digs?" I said "I got some bad news about Mr. Digs, and I told her I better stay.. while I was ahead, I was going to stay ahead."

ED: Yes, smart.

JE: Mr. Glascoe, do you remember how long the hotel stayed open? You said it only stayed open for a short time?

HG: Huh?

JE: The hotel you spoke of.

HG: The hotel?

JE: The hotel, you said there used to be a hotel here....

HG: They started one but it never was completed.

JE: So it never opened?

HG: Never opened. Mhm, yup. The people had big minds, and they had good minds that was running this operation, but they just didn't know how to do it. And that is something you seldom see. Its people have a operation and they don't know how to run it. Because most of people, and they were from the South, they always had the good eye on you. Yup they did. And...But these people just couldn't get it together.

JE: So this was during what year? Like the 1920s, 1930s?

HG: It's been so long, I done forgot the years. I should have wrote em down but I really don't have them. But it goes back a long ways. Because I was working... I couldn't give you no idea what years that I work you know that I was working down here, but I never had any trouble. Because I wasn't afraid to speak if I had to, and

which it helps a lot sometimes. I done forgotten the years when I used to work down here.

JE: That's fine.

ED: Do you remember what it was alike here when you worked around here?

HG: Huh?

ED: Do you remember what it was like around here when you worked around here?

HG: It was nice. Yeah I got along good with people because I know how to treat them, people, you know. And you had a different class of people then than you do now. People were different. But those two men that I used to work with were school teachers. They from DC, used to teach school in DC, but they were good. They were real nice. |

JE: Mr. Glascoe, how did people get their goods?

HG: Huh?

JE: How did people get their goods, , their produce, their products, their food products.

HG: Flowers?

JE: Like flour you make bread with. How do they get that? In this area since there weren't stores that many stores in the area I guess?

HG: You mean flours, like flour that you cook with?

JE: Yes Sir.

HG: Used to have a mill up the road in Aquasco and you could take your flour that mean the corn up there to have it ground.

ED: Is that where everybody went to get flour? I mean everybody you grow your corn and you take it to the mill?

HG: No. No, wasn't that much farming down here. People used to like farming but they didn't understand how to do it.

JE: So just tobacco? They just grew tobacco is that what you're saying?

HG: It wasn't a lot of tobacco raised to tobacco down here in the late years. Because when they first started this project, it wasn't any tobacco raised at all. It was in the last year that they started raising tobacco. And then there were some farmers outside that come and started raising tobacco.

JE: What about slavery? Do you know anything about slavery in this area?

HG: Slavery?

JE: Mhm, slavery in Aquasco?

HG: They used to bring slaves in... When you go to this road from Eagle Harbor, it used to be a lot of log houses on the road, on the side of the road. And they, most of the time, they used to have people that time was up at certain time and they would be engaged and know how many slaves sent in here to for the help their business they have. I don't know whether I'm making myself clear or not. But they used to, they used to send slaves from DC down here, and they had these slave homes where they used to take 'em to and stay overnight and then they would send em to where they was going, where they had to go.

ED: Did many stay?

HG: Huh?

ED: Were many able to stay? In Aquasco, the slaves were any of them allowed to stay in this area?

HG: No. Because it wasn't situated for them to stay. When they come in here they had to somewhere else to go.

ED: So this place was kind of like it would hold them here until...

HG: That's right.

ED: Okay

HG: Because there was one of those homes, the shacks they used to build for them to stay in overnight. If they get too many they all book them and they would have a place for em to stay overnight. My father had one of those places on those slave homes built on his place – shacks, you know. But he never used it because my father used to work farm all the time and he didn't have time for that.

ED: Did that seem like it was something hard for your father to deal with?

HG: Huh?

ED: Did that seem like it was something hard for your father to deal with?

HG: It was. Yes, very hard. But he would help them if they ask for help. But, now sometimes they didn't ask him.

JE: Do you know, Mr. Glascoe, do you know about the Duckett's Slave Cabin that used to be down here? Or any slave cabins?

HG: No. I don't know. In the time that I worked here, I've never seen anything like that. No no. And I've spent a lot of time down here yup I did a lot of work for people. In fact, after people find out what type of work I was doing, I never had no problem. They would stop at my house and ask for me or father, and but I never had any problem with that. Nope. But Eagle Harbor had really changed. I'm telling you cause I was with daughter this morning and I used to know almost every hole and corner down here, but this morning – it was a different story. And if you don't know, it's best to keep quiet.

JE: Did you know all of the streets? I heard you used to know all the streets in Aquasco.



HG: Huh?

JE: I heard you used to know all the streets in Aquasco, all the street names.

HG: Yeah, used to know the street names?

JE: All the streets in Aquasco? That's what your daughter told me.

HG: Yeah, that's true. That wasn't the easiest job but sometimes if you was selected to do that, that's what you had to do, and it wasn't any playing around. You know? You got the job done. And my father gone see that you did the job, you know, but it's a lot different from today.

ED: I've been reading about this place and I learned that a lot of African-American people ended up coming around here and making names and having land for themselves. Do you know when that really started to happen, where the Black people started owning more things and it became more of Black-oriented community outside of working?

HG: Sir, I didn't hear you real good.

ED: It seems like a lot, eventually, a lot of African-American people came around here and started getting land and property. Do you know about what time, not time period, but did you notice that through the years? That it seemed like a lot of Black people were coming around and owning property and having their own businesses or was that something that was always?

HG: No, it wasn't too much of that really. You know, like I say, this project was run by people that didn't understand and it could've been much easier if they had a knew what to do and when to do. But you know, a lot of times people they can get money to do what they want, but these people had their own money here and they wasn't begging or borrowing – that is true.

ED: Do you think that had an impact on what is happening here now? Do you think if maybe that had been successful, then this area might be different now?

HG: Yeah. It could have been a lot of changes made. But some people don't know and they don't want to tell. Because at my age at that time, there was lot going on that I could see was bad you know. But you couldn't say anything because the first thing they would tell you "Boy, you don't know what you're talking bout".

ED: Didn't want to listen to you.

HG: And they didn't want to listen to you and you could tell them what you knew or what you had learned in life. By have a father that knew how to do things. You was afraid to tell people something wrong that didn't work. But... you know there was a lot of money wasted in Eagle Harbor and I was a young man and I could see what's going on. Number one, they wouldn't buy no equipment no good equipment. They would take half of a day to just try and start one of them old [inaudible 33:13] tractors and crank all day long, you still might not get started. Because my brother used to run the grater and they would crank that tractor all day long, and it might not start. And then sometime they come in the morning it and start right up, you know. But it's a lot different than being inexperienced, unexperienced and being not being experienced.

ED: So it sounds like if they would have just said "hey can you help us?"

HG: Huh?

ED: It sounds like you're saying that if they asked you to help em out then they probably would have been a lot more successful than saying not listening to you.

HG: Yes. Well see, One thing about my father had taught me to not disrespect people. Because I used to go home and talk to him sometimes and tell him what was going on, you know. And but he say "well son, you leave that up to them, they all getting paid for their experience, and if they don't know but don't you say nothing, that's not helping you any"

ED: I understand. Sounds like your father was a wise man.

HG: Huh?

ED: It sounds like our father knew that you would get the exact comment that they would give you.

HG: Yes. This could have been a beautiful place down here if they had to have somebody to run it like it should have. Because like I say, when they come down here and started to work, they thought that they could come down here and build homes like they were building in the South. And you would wonder why people would want to take that money and spend it that way instead of spending it the right way.

ED: What kind of homes were they're building? Big houses or...

HG: Shacks.

ED: uhuh ok.

HG: Excuse my expression but that's what they was building, was shacks.

ED: So that wasn't anything that would help this area. So if you build a shack that doesn't help this area too much.

HG: But like I said, this could have been a beautiful place down here if they just had somebody to run it...right. And then there was all one denomination of people. They say "we got the money and we go and spend our money ourselves" but they made a big mistake. But towards last, they put, they finally had to put inspectors down here. But because... Like they had a guy to gravel the road out here, the road in here. At first, they never had anything about gravel. I guess that's what they could afford to spend. But they didn't go about it in the right way of doing it, you know. Because there was a man that gravel this road... My father gave him the gravel. He didn't give him the gravel, he gave it to people that was running the job. So. All he had to do was haul the gravel here and dump them, and they would spread 'em. But they would get a lot of people that didn't know what to do or how to do and just make a big mess out of it.

ED: Did they waste a lot of it?

HG: Huh?

ED: Did they waste a lot of it?

HG: Waste a lot, mhm yup. But they had a good friend of mine that was hauling the gravel and he was an ideal man for doing the job but they didn't want to pay nothing – you know, they want everything free. And that went out the window long ago – you know, free work is bad work.

ED: I believe that.

HG: Huh?

ED: I said I believe that. You get what you pay for.

HG: But this gentleman that was hauling this gravel, it took a while for him to learn to spread the gravel the way they want 'em because they didn't know how to do it. But it's a bit different when you know something. You know how it should be done, and then when you are out there trying to do half through, that's a lot of hard work... and you're wasting money. I had experience with that on the farm. Yes, working on a farm is not easy. But you can eventually learn. And if you got a father that will see that you gone do it right, because he know and you just wasting time trying to do it wrong because you're going to do it over again. If you do it wrong, you gone have to do it right. And it didn't take me long to learn that. That's true!

JE: It seems like you were close to your father. Were you really close to your father?

HG: I was.

JE: Did he ever tell you any stories about his life in Aquasco or this area? Your dad?

HG: No. You know, I was close to my father but we weren't that close that he would discuss things with me, you know. Because you was too young to know. So you didn't make no, you didn't make no decisions. You work on a farm for about 20 some odd years but you didn't make no decisions. Nope you did not. Which my father was good to me and I'd be less than a man if I would say that he was the opposite way. But he was going to see that you do things right. Number one – he didn't like to spend money. And when you caught yourself doing something as a waste of money, he didn't like that, no.

ED: What about time?

HG: Huh?

ED: What about time, was he strict with "time"? You can waste and lose money and things like that, but also if it takes you a long time to do something, it could also hurt you, you know, especially farming.

HG: No. He wasn't like that. He was going to see that you do it right to start with.

ED: Okay

JE: Was your father's people close by? Did you have relatives that lived close by?

HG: Huh?

JE: And was you father African-American? Was he African?

HG: Yes

JE: He was?

HG: Yes, he was.

JE: Did you all have any Native American in your family that you know of?

HG: No. Uhuh, no.

ED: Is there any memory that sticks out to you?

HG: Huh?

ED: Is there something you think back on when you think back and you kind of reflecting Is there something that you remember the most about them times?

HG: No uh... I had a good father. He didn't take a lot of foolishness. If you went out there, you're going to weed the tobacco that day, or you'll going to cultivate the tobacco that day – that's what he look for you to do. And he wasn't afraid to tell you if you was doing something wrong. That was a good thing.

JE: Mr. Glascoe, do you remember anybody mentioning the Underground Railroad to you here?

HG: Huh?

JE: The Underground Railroad. Have you heard of anything like that in Aquasco?

HG: Yeah, in Aquasco?

JE: Or in this area?

HG: They used to have steam-boat that used to go right passed this building and all up on the way. Number one – people didn't used to like to haul fertilizer up the hill, this hill going out of here. And they tried their best to get that taken care of and the guy, they finally got a steam-boat. Put right out here that went on up to, up this uh driveway. Not the driveway cause Steam boat travels by water.

But that was the biggest trouble. Why didn't they have a whole lot hauling out of here? Because those hills and people had horses and they would get hung up on the hills in the middle. Get halfway up way up the hill and that would be it. You heard about that?

ED: Yes

HG: But, that is true. That is true. Cause I used to come by here with my father to get fertilizer but we never had that problem, you know. Because my father always took care of his horses and they didn't overload them. But a lot of that was people overloading the wagons and you couldn't tell some people you couldn't put but so many bags of fertilizer on a wagon and they didn't understand that, a lot of em didn't even know what you are talking about. They were sent down to get fertilizer and lot of men would throw it up on there, they'd just put on it and figured they could go up the hill. And when they get half way to hill, there you'll be setting up with your wagon and too much fertilizer and the horses just couldn't move. They had a lot of that.

ED: Does that speak to what you were saying that people came around here but they didn't know what to do?

HG: Huh?

ED: Does that speak to what you were saying that when people came around but they didn't know what to do?

HG: No

ED: Right, Right. Cause it sounds like you had a lot of people that wanted to come around here and do farming and things, they just didn't understand how to do it. You know so, they weren't able to..

HG: Well, lot of the people that used to be down here used to worked in Washington. Really. And they went to Washington to work and worked in the street. But some people didn't learn because my father had a horse and we used to use that horse to pull electric wires in place. It used to take a long time to do it but you wasn't making a whole lot of money. But I had a brother used to pull those light lines in place that went for PEPCO too. When PEPCO first started out, they didn't have a lot of equipment to do work with. Because in a lot of places, they used to use my father horse to pull electrical wires, not the wires poles in place. But I wasn't able at that time to do that – I was just a young, I was just a young boy. I didn't have...But because the guy build the house down here and he had to use my father's horse, although PEPCO used to pay so much to use a horse to take these poles up across these area and places where water was or what have it, and uh they didn't have equipment to do it with. When PEPCO started up, they was very poor. Can't say that about em now. But they wasn't that, you know.

ED: They were lucky to have you dad, it sounds like.

HG: Huh?

ED: It sounds like they were lucky to have your dad.

HG: Yeah well, my daddy used to tell them all the time that "every time I get my son ready to go plow or something in the field, you're here worrying him about pulling some poles". He would tell 'em you know, but its true.

LG: Mr. Glascoe. Hi. My name is Linda. Do you remember ever going over to Cedar Haven – the other town next door?

HG: Huh?

LG: Do you remember anything with Cedar Haven? The other town next door.

HG: I never worked in Cedar Haven too much. I did a little work over there. But really most the people went to Eagle Harbor. It was just the late years that the people went to Cedar Haven.

LG: Okay

HG: Yeah, right. But it was a lot of towards last... It was a lot of people went to Cedar Haven.

LG: Why do you think they went to Cedar Haven as opposed to come here to Eagle Harbor? Just to explore?

HG: Well, there was a lot of land over there and people had more land than they could handle. And they let em, they didn't know what to do or how to do, but they just let people do somewhat the way they wanted to do. Cedar Haven was a nice place and it turned it out in the last that Cedar Haven was the top of this place. The crop of this place.

LG: Really? Why do you say that?

HG: Huh?

LG: I said why do you say that?

HG: Because they had lot more land over there and it was different "land".

LG: Different land?

HG: Yes

LG: What kind of land did they have over there?

HG: Huh?

LG: I said what type of land did they have over there that was different from Eagle Harbor?

HG: They had a lot of land that was built up over there in Cedar Haven and the people knew how to operate.

LG: Oh. The people knew how to operate over there in Cedar Haven? As opposed to people over here Eagle Harbor that didn't know how to operate?

HG: No, They didn't know. A lot of people that was in Cedar Haven was people that was really from Eagle Harbor. They got their heads together somehow.

LG: And left Eagle Harbor went over there.

HG: That's true. That's true. But it was a lot of moving around down here.

LG: And you think, did becoming a town really helped Eagle Harbor? Once Eagle Harbor became a town?

HG: Huh?

LG: Eagle Harbor is a town is a town now right?

HG: Yeah.

LG: By becoming a town, do you think that it really helped Eagle Harbor to prosperous to go, to become known as it has today? Because everybody heard of Eagle Harbor today.

HG: That's right.

LG: But very seldom people hear of Cedar Haven

HG: Well, Cedar Haven didn't have the name that Eagle Harbor. See when they first started, Eagle Harbor was a place. Labor Day, big days and people was coming to Eagle Harbor and you didn't hear anything of Cedar Haven. But in the later years, they started talking about Cedar Haven. Yeah. Because I was looking at this morning when I come down here and there's a lot places that I see has been built up that's years ago they didn't look at it. And then you had different land over in Cedar Haven from what you got in Eagle Harbor. In Eagle harbor you've got lot of water land but you don't have too much of that in Cedar Haven.

LG: They don't have wetland over there.

HG: Huh?

LG: I said you don't have all that wetland.

HG: No

LG: But Cedar Haven has beautiful beaches. I mean Beautiful beach shores. Right? Areas to swim.

HG: Yes it is, very. You know, sometimes it's just who managing, where the people who's managing know what to do or when to do. And this was one thing about lot of the people in Eagle Harbor, they didn't know nothing about that. Uhuh, no. Because when I first heard of Eagle Harbor, I thought the people was going to come in and really do something with Eagle Harbor. But they come in and want to start building the same shacks to build their homes, excuse my expression but no it didn't work. It didn't work

LG: Now do you think that if they built pretty homes like they build over in Cedar Haven in a different style kit homes, it would have worked over here? You know if they build different types of homes?

HG: Oh in Cedar Haven?

LG No, no in Eagle Harbor. Do you think it would've worked?

HG: But see, they wait too late to start doing that. Because these two guys that I used to work for over in Eagle Harbor, they come down here early. And they when they come down, they build nice homes like they have been used to in the district and that makes a big difference.

LG: Yes, it does.

HG: But like I said, Eagle Harbor could have been a beautiful place if they had went about it right, but they didn't know how to go about doing it. And they wouldn't buy decent equipment to work with so they could do the job. You know? They would bring old tractors in here and crank on that, crank that all day and come back the next day and might do the same thing. You know but, they're wasting more money than they're actually spending in here. Because I was down here at that time when they was putting the roads in and they just didn't seem like they knew how or what to do, what the next move was. There was a lot of people could have come in here and started off on the right foot but they didn't have that. Start off with every foot but the right one. That is true. That steam boat that used to go passed here and go on up the...

LG: Down to Benedict?

HG: Huh?

LG: Down to Benedict?

HG: Did it go down to Benedict?

LG: Yeah.

HG: No, they didn't have to go to Benedict.

LG: Oh they didn't have to go all the way down there?

HG: They could keep on out here and they could go down to a lot places. Like down to... they used to have places like where I go to dinner now, or used to go cause I don't drive now. But the people... The people lunch down there.

ED: It's a restaurant?

JE: Solomons, I think that's Solomons.

HG: Solomon's Island

LG: He used to go all the way down there.

HG: And there's another place they used to have there, they have dinners down the road and they have some good dinners. But, but they just... Well the guys from Baltimore followed that up this driveway out where they used to use, they used to haul stuff for the road but they just didn't know what to do or how to do.

ED: It sounds like that they had an idea but they

HG: Huh?

ED: It sounds like they had an idea, they just didn't know how to execute their plan.

HG: You know I don't know if they had idea because they wouldn't do things like they're supposed to do. They'd be so used to just doing what they wanted to do. And being home too, they was doing what they want to do. And it thought they could have come here and do the same thing but they got stopped.

LG: So, who stopped them?

HG: Huh?

LG: Who stopped them?

HG: It was. It was time to stop.

LG: They couldn't do it here.

HG: Huh?



LG: I said they just couldn't do it down here because you had those inspectors, right?

HG: Well, what's helped Eagle Harbor a lot was they got inspectors before it was too late. But then a lot of Eagle Harbor, the big shots... The guys that thought something of themselves, they did things like they was supposed, Fields was one man... When they did something, they did it right.

LG: What about Mr. Diggs?

HG: Huh?

LG: Mr. Diggs?

HG: Mr. Diggs. He had it made. In fact, Mr. Diggs was a very peculiar man about spending his money. And if he spent it, he liked for it to be spent well spent. People work for him and he would let 'em know real fast "now we got to do this right, this got to be done right, don't take no shortcuts here". And when he was teaching school, he was the same way. A lot of the people didn't like Mr. Diggs because... But this was Mr. Diggs from Upper Marlboro, not the Mr. Diggs from down in Charles County. Its two different, lot of two different brothers.

LG: Oh. That's two brothers...

ED: The one that people didn't like was that the one that also that his brother also told you watch out for him?

HG: Huh?

ED: I said the one that you said people didn't like was that one that his brother told you to look out for him?

HG: That's right.

LG: The one down in Charles County?

HG: Yes [next few seconds a little hard to distinguish with people talking over each other]

LG: You told to look out for his brother in Upper Marlboro. He didn't like his brother in Upper Marlboro brother?

HG: Huh?

LG: He didn't like the Upper Marlboro brother?

HG: They wasn't close

LG: But both of them lived here, right?

HG: No. One lives in Charles County and the other one lives in Upper Marlboro.

LG: Okay. But which one had the house here?

HG: Huh?

LG: Which one had the house here?

HG: The one from down in Charles County.

LG: Oh, he had the house other there?

HG: Yeah. He thought he could come up here and strike it rich. But he didn't want to pay nobody for working for him. He want the work done but he didn't want to pay. Because the lady that I used to paint for Oh god, I wish I could think of that lady's name The lady that I used to paint for all the time she say "Mr. Glascoe, I seen you haven't be over to paint for Mr. Diggs" I said "no, I've been busy, I haven't had time".

RC: The lady that that you used to paint for, the one you were just talking about

HG: Huh?

RC: The lady you used to paint for that you were just talking about. You said, was she part of the funeral home family? Is that what you were saying?

HG: No. No, this lady wasn't. She was a teacher.

RC: She was a school teacher. Okay. I was trying to think of some names that were related to other stories we've heard.

HG: This lady was about two houses over from this building.

RC: Okay

ED: Wow

HG: I should have wrote that lady's name down. But you know when you get busy sometime... cause I wonder if she's still out there in the street but I know she probably retired now. Because I've retired from two jobs and I know she's going home.

ED: Is there anything around here, like being around here, is there anything that was here that's not here that you remember?

HG: Huh?

ED: I said is there anything that was here that's not here now that you remember?

HG: Yes. The streets are different.

ED: Really?

HG: They're a lot different. And you might say well " Mr. Glascoe how you realized that?" When the county took this place over, they start hauling asphalt down here and fixing the streets like they supposed to been.

But then, they didn't have... A few years ago they didn't have no streets like they got down here now.

ED: Was it a lot of pathways?

HG: Huh?

ED: Was it a lot of pathways, I guess you could say from just people travelling the same way so you kind of make your own roads you know?

HG: Years ago they used to do that. Really. and half doing it.

ED: I was telling somebody like it seemed like coming down here it seem like these is one of the roads that people kind of mapped out. It seems like it was just a road that everybody followed the same path. You know cause they're winding roads and anything like that?

HG: They had lot of winding roads down here, a lot of them. But the most people, the majority of the people had their way of doing things. What they want to do. They didn't go by the rules and regulations of what need to be done. And that's what hurt them people more than anything. Yup, really. But, I enjoyed working for the majority of the people that I've worked for down here. But I'm not, I'm not glad I didn't move when I did, yup, because I went to the Pentagon and that was a nice move.

ED: It sounds like it:

HG: That was a nice move. I was at the pentagon for about 3... 12 twelve years and I don't regret it, not a day.

ED: You shouldn't.

HG: Huh?

ED: You shouldn't, nothing to regret.

HG: Yes, I don't regret it.

ED: So you said that there was the time... It seems like you think the time to fix this area up has passed. Do you think that that could be possible in the future? Do you think it could be safe; do you think that it could be?

HG: You could repair all this. It could be done, somebody got enough money to invest in it – nothing is impossible. But there's a lot to do. Because number one – see, when you go repairing something that's somebody else already done, you got a lot of problems there. And it cost you twice the money. But if somebody come in here with some money and not afraid to spend the money, it could be done but it's going to take a lot. Yeah, it's going to take a lot.

ED: I agree.

HG: huh?

ED: I agree

JE: Mr. Glascoe, have you ever heard a story about slaves coming in on Trueman Point or anything about Trueman Point?

HG: Trueman Point?

HG: Well that's where a lot of slaves used to come in and they would send them where they want 'em to go. And that's why they end up with them, slave houses. We used to call 'em "huts home". People used to stay there overnight 'til they get to them where they going. But they used to send slaves in, what the name of the place you called it? They used to send slaves into a lot of places. Mhm Yeah, yup. And that was a waste of money.

LG: What was a waste of the money?

HG: Huh?

LG: What? Holding the slaves here overnight?

HG: No. The thing of it is it's the way they had to it. That's a little bit before my time. I can't tell you too much about slavery but I knew we used to have a guy who used to come down to the house and talk to my father, he was a slave. And my father's mother was a slave. And they could tell you some terrible tales about what used to happen to them overnight.

LG: The slaves that was holding

HG: Huh?

LG: The slaves that were holding overnight had bad stories that used to happen?

HG: That is true.

LG: I just can't imagine? Like what? What happened? Do you? .

HG: Yes. But see, all the time they couldn't get where they wanted to go. Because the man that was sending out the slaves, he put two men or couldn't count and they was putting out any number. The slaves was on a thing to be hauled.

LG: Like what, would they would left the ship and they would they would put on what – something to be hauled away?

HG: That's right. It was terrible but the way that slaves were treated. You know? And they needed them because they used to do a lot of work. But the people was really mistreated.

JE: Are those the stories that you heard from your father's friend who was a slave?

HG: Uhuh. A lot of days he would come down and sit down and talk with my father. And my father's mother was slave. And they could tell you some terrible tales about you know, what went on.

LG: But so, which plantation were they on?

HG: Huh?

LG: I said, your father was on which plantation around here? What was the name of the plantation that he was on? Did he tell you that?

HG: I don't know. Well they never talked about too much about what plantation they was on.

LG: They were just happy to be free.

HG: Yes

JE: Do you remember you father's friend's name? His first and last name?

HG: Yes indeed. Henry Bonds... Not Henry Bonds..., he was my father's brother. Gross .. He was a Gross.

LG: You said Henry Bonds?

HG: Huh?

LG: You said Henry Bonds, that was he your father's bother?

HG: No, my father's brother wasn't no slave.

LG: No, I mean the Bonds. You said Bonds

HG: Bonds?

LG: Yeah, the slave name.

HG: No that was my father's brother.

LG: His name was Henry Bonds.

JE: What was your father's brother's name?

JE: It sounded like you said Henry Bonds.

HG: No, no no. He wasn't a slave. I do know that much about him.

LG: Who? Henry Bonds?

JE/HG: His brother.

JE: I'm sorry, You said that your father's mother was a slave as well?

HG: Uhuh.

JE: What was her name?

HG: Anna.

JE: Anna. Do you know what her last name was?

HG: Bonds.

JE: B- A-R- N- E-S

JE: Huh?

JE: B- A-R- N- E-S

HG: B- O- N – D- S

LG: That's my great grandfather, yup. Henry Bonds was my great grandfather.

ED: Is that your great grandfather that he's speaking of?

LG: Yes, Henry Bonds.

HG: Who?

LG: Henry Bonds

HG: Henry Bonds...

ED: ...is her great grandfather

JE: is her great grandfather... So you [Herman Evanston Glascoe] and her [Linda Moore – Garoute] might be related. The world is small, isn't it Mr. Glascoe?.

HG: Yes it is.

LG: Yes, Henry Bonds. He had a son named Sylvester Bonds.

HG: Yes. Where are you from?

LG: I am from Brandywine.

HG: Brandywine?

JE: She's a Moore. You know the Moore's?

HG: Yes, indeed. I know them well.

JE: She's a Moore from Brandywine.

HG: Really?

JE: Mhm

HG: Okay

LG: So you knew some of mine...

HG: Huh?

LG: So what, Did you know Peter Moore?

HG: Yes, indeed.

LG: That was grandfather.

HG: Really? I never forget that man. We used to sing... The Glascoe Brothers.

LG: Oh, The Glascoe Brothers.

HG: Do you remember that?

LG: Yes

HG: He [Peter Moore] used to take up collections.

LG: Who? Peter Moore

HG: Peter Moore, sure did. And I don't care how the people would give him money and he would say "I need a little more". He'd take that collection up and he said "I need a litte more". Am I telling truth?

JE: What church was this? What was the name of the...

HG: Huh?

JE: What was the name of the church where this collection was taken up?

HG: Where it was taken?

JE: What church, yes.

HG: Dansville.

JE: Is that in Brandywine?

HG: Yes. But it might be another one because them Moore's used to belong to a lot of churches. It was used to be so many of them. But we used to hate going to em, not hate going to 'em cuz you had to go. If you had engagement that day, your father see that you went. But that man was terrible. Lord. I hope I am not hurting your [Linda] feelings but I am telling the truth and you know I'm telling the truth. God man. "Can't you give me a little bit more?" I got such and such amount I wanted to get another add on to this. Lord today...

JE: Mr. Glascoe, because I am such a youngster. I really want to go back and talk about your or your father's friend being a slave. So, it sounds like your father wasn't a slave?

HG: No. No.

JE: Well I guess he would've been younger though.

HG: Huh?

JE: During that time...

[background voice]: his father's mother was a slave.

JE: ...his [Glascoe] father's mother was a slave

HG: Yeah, my father's mother was a slave.

JE: Did she talked about anything at all about slavery?

HG: Not a whole lot. I don't think she liked it.

JE: Not a whole lot.

HG: Mhm. But at the time she couldn't help herself, you know. But that man, the man that used to come down visit him, he used to tell some terrible tales about slavery.

JE: And he was a slave in this area, in Aquasco?

HG: Huh?

JE: Do you remember if he was a slave in this area?

HG: No. No no no

JE: He was not?

HG: He was sent into the area.

JE/ED: Okay

ED: I have no more questions for you sir.

RC: I do have one question: You said, What church did you go to? Is Dansville?

HG: No. I used to go to Dansville to sing but went to a lot of churches. I used to go to the church of...

JE: You got ready to say Christ United – Methodist?

HG: Huh?



JE: Christ United.

HG: That's the church now?

JE: Right

HG: But before then it was...

LG: St.Thomas?

JE: Do you know what the name of it was before it was Christ United?

HG: Yeah. John Wesley. Nice church.

JE: Do you remember anything about John Wesley or the Parsonage? They always talk about a Parsonage

HG: Yeah. It wasn't a large church but it would hold the people you know. Christ Church was built after this church went bad. Got old. Sir [Ryan Craun], now what did you asked me about church but a singing?

RC: Yeah. I was asking what church you went to and I said Danesville and you said you were singing at Danesville.

HG: Yeah I was singing at Danesville Church.

RC: And that was, you were in the choir for?

HG: Huh?

RC: You were in the choir at Danesville?

HG: We had group of brothers. Four brothers – The Glascoe Brothers.

LG: Do you remember the Moore singers, the four brothers that used to sing for the Moore Group? Kermit.. [inaudible]

HG: I didn't hear you.

JE: Do you remember the Moore Brothers that used to sing?

HG: Oh Yes, indeed. They were almost bad as Mr. Peter. They used to do the same thing. They... they would take up collection and the first thing they would come up with... We take up certain collection here and we would like to raise this to \$500.00. They may not say \$500.00 but they'll say \$300.00. But they was similar to [inaudible 1:27:26]. But I tell ya, Mr. Peter Moore was something else. I tell you, God. [Inaudible 1:27:36]... Lady I don't mean to be talking about your people but...

JE: I have a couple more questions.

HG: Ok.

JE: What was the area like during the 1960's? During Martin Luther King era. What was the era like in the '60's, in the 1960s? What was it like here?

HG: What was it like here?

JE: During the 60s.

HG: I know a lot of people used to come down from Washington, DC and they used to have nice affairs. The people used to drive their cars down here cause they always had good entertainment here. Wasn't anything special was a lot of things people used to like to do – the people that visited.

JE: Do you think it was because during that time because it was segregation, they couldn't do a lot of things in Washington, DC so they came to this area? Do you think that's why...?

HG: Well this was a nice opening for em. They could come down here and they wouldn't have to spend a whole lot of money. They could do as they like somewhat. Parking wasn't the best at the time because a lot of times cars would line up from past my house down to, all the way down to the road where it come down here. That is true. That might not sound like its true, but I'm telling you the truth.

LG: Really? It was just that popular that people would come here?

HG: Yes. Well people used to enjoy being down here was different to leaving Washington DC and come on down here and they could enjoy themselves.

JE: Do you remember Banks Field? Somebody told me about a baseball field that they used to have.

HG: Banks field?

JE: They had a baseball field.

HG: Yes. They had a nice baseball field. It had a lot of people used to go to the games and it was a nice affair. And they had a good team. I didn't play baseball but I went to the games.

JE: Do you know if any of the people from the local baseball teams played with like the Negro Leagues?

HG: Huh?

JE: Did anybody play for The Negro Leagues? Do you remember like the, what did they call em? Black Negro Leagues, the baseball teams. Do you know of anybody that may have left here to play for that professional team?

HG: It was three or four guys. Mhm, Yeah.

JE: Do you remember their names?

HG: No, I don't remember their names but it was some that went. Yup. And it was an honor for them to do so.

JE: How about Aquasco Speedway? Do you remember that? The Aquasco Speedway.

HG: Ahh yea I never did go down there. Because the guys used to stop the cars at my house and get in the trunk and go to the, down to the Speedway.

RC: Why is that?

HG: Huh?

RC: Explain why. Why is that?

HG: Well it was they're getting their way free. But that was something... The Speedway was a nice place down there. And they took care of it pretty good. But they didn't want to do right so they closed them down.

JE: What year did they close it, Do you remember?

HG: You know, I don't remember. But they used to go get in the trunk of the car, I don't know how they got out but that was something to see. I used to be sitting on my porch and it go down.

JE: My last question.

HG: Uhuh

JE: Wilmer's Park. Do you remember Wilmar's Park?

HG: Yes, I didn't like up there.

JE: You didn't.

HG: No, I didn't used to go up there, either. I went there and took up with Fats Domino whenever he would come down there at Wilmar's Park. That's my man – Fats Domino. You know, that's another place, Wilmer's Park that could have been beautiful place but it wasn't run right. He did everything but the right thing and get by with, you know. That's none of my business but its amazing how people do things and get by with it, you know. It was too much fighting up at Wilmer's Park.

ED: A lot of people are drinking and things like that?

HG: Huh?

ED: A lot of people drinking and things like that?

HG: Right. But that wasn't my place. But whenever Fats was there, I was there. Yup, that's my main man. I used to go to a lot of places to see Fats.

ED: Do you know him personally?

HG: Huh?

ED: Do you know him personally?

HG: I used speak to him. I painted a couple of buildings that he used to work, to play at. But that man was on the ball.

ED: He's one of a kind, for sure.

HG: Huh.

ED: He was one of a kind for sure.

HG: Yes, he was.

RC: I have another question. You said that you've painted a lot of houses and such, did you ever think of yourself as an artist, as a painter?

HG: No. no.

RC: Okay

HG: A lot of people used to tell me "say man, if I could paint like you could paint, I'd be a artist", but no I didn't go that far. I did nice work for people but I never thought about that. You know, a lot of times because people tell you "I would do this and I would do the other", but if you are not ready up here, you don't try it or pay no attention to what they are saying, you just keep on doing what you're doing and do it right – it makes a big difference.

ED: I don't have any more questions for you, sir. I don't know if anybody else has something they want to add.

JE: Thank you, Mr. Glascoe. Thank you for coming up.

ED: Thank you for your time. Thank you very much, sir.

HG: Oh you are quite welcome. I thought that when they put that...

RC: Powerplant?

HG: Oh god... That space out here, I thought that was going to really work out and be something.

ED: Okay, right.

HG: It didn't work out too good.

ED: Do you think it's because maybe they didn't advertise for it? Or put out you know....

HG: Well type of work...It wouldn't be large enough for them to put out announcement, advertisement. Because it's a small area and they didn't have enough area to cover. Because that's why they had finally go out of businesses, because they didn't have enough to advertise. Yup. But that used to be something to sit out here and see that steam boat go passed you and go on up passed the river in the Chalk Point?

JE: So you went to Chalk Point when you were a small boy. Were you a small boy when you would see the steam boat? How old were you when saw the steamboat go by?

HG: Oh, I was down here working there. No you didn't have the time, and you working on a farm and your father let you come down here and sit and watch the steam boat go up and down the water – no, he didn't operate that way.

ED: So he said "You've got work to do". No time to watch the steamboats.

HG: That's right. That's true. But when I was about 21 or 22 when I was down here and watching the boat go up and down the river. I've had a nice life, really. My father didn't play but he was a nice man you know.

JE: So living here you had you had no issues?

HG: Huh?

JE: Living here in Aquasco you had no issues? Especially as a Black man you didn't have any issues growing up here?

HG: Yes, I had a lot of issues. One thing about my father you know, just because you would say I would like to do something and he would tell you real quick say "Son, you better wait 'til you get a little older" to take that up." Yup. He'd tell you real quick. And then he would ask you "Well what you going to do if I would let you go do something that you think you want to do?" He'd let you know real fast bout that. You did what he wanted you to do and it made sense. Because I've seen a lot of boys you know that quit working on a farm and then they didn't have nothing else to do but I never had that to happen to me. As I grew older, I learned a lot and I wasn't afraid to ask questions if I had to. And I respect elder people. That's one thing my father, he taught me to respect elder people. You know we went to the store and you didn't rush in the store in front of an elder lady or elder man, you wait until your time come to go in the store and hold the door open, too. That's right.

ED: Manners.

HG: Yup, and that was an honor. You might not could see it at that time, but you won't going say nothing about it. Why did I have to stand there and hold the door open for somebody else to go in church, not in church, in the store? We could go down to the Christmas but you didn't, you respect when that man, his toys, you respect that to the highest. Because if you touch something in there you didn't see that man looking at you but he was watching you – and that wasn't good. And the news would get back home so your best bet was to go in and come out like you went in. Come out like you went it in. That's right, sure did. Well, it was pleasure..

LG: Definitely a pleasure

HG: To speak to you all this morning.

ED: Thank you for telling us your story.

HG: Ok, yup.

ED: It's important. Things that people need to know.

HG: Mhm. Well, I've gotten old but I've had a nice life. Yup, I've had a nice life.

ED: It's good that you can find that perspective you know.

HG: Huh?

ED: looking back on it and finding that perspective that's a great thing.

HG: Yes. Well, I'll tell you something else. My birthday was the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.

ED: That's my birthday, too.

HG: And huh?

ED: That's my birthday.

HG: Really?

ED: Yes, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

HG: And they take me to Upper Marlboro and give me a tour around the, the block around the main street. Singers were there, [inaudible 1:44:37-38] I didn't know what's going on. Because the first thing they did decorate my car for me and I couldn't understand that. Laura was in on this.

[Inaudible background discussion]

HG: But that was a surprise of my life.

ED: That's nice.

HG: If I don't see, they don't have nothing else for me. Man, that was really a surprise.

JE: That's sweet, that's nice.

ED: It's good to be celebrated

HG: Huh?

ED: It's good to be celebrated.

HG: When?

ED: I said it's good to be celebrated, people were celebrating you. It's a good thing.

HG: Yes. And the schools that I went to that were still standing, I went to them. But I couldn't figure what was going on at first. And then my friend told me that we are, that we are early and I don't never hear that. I don't care where we go, I never heard that before. Nice lady but they decorate my car for me. And I tell you that we've got some singing people. I used to sing myself a little bit.

LG: In what band?

HG: Huh?

LG: In what band?

HG: I didn't hear you.

LG: The Glascoe Brothers?

HG: No. All of The Glascoe Brothers has passed. I'm the only one living. It was 13 of us.

LG: Were you the baby?

HG: Huh?

LG: Were you the baby boy?

HG: Yes

LG: I guess life was pretty easy for you because you were the baby.

HG: I wasn't the baby but there's another boy that was behind me. Was 13 in my family.

JE: 13, huh?

HG: Yup. And I'm the only one left.

HG: Well.

ED: Thank you very much.

LG: Thank you.

HG: Okay, thank you, all.

ED: We appreciate your time.

HG: Okay, and you take care.

RC: Thank you so much, sir.

HG: Ok. Alright

[End Transcript: 01:48:00]