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### Jacqueline Carter, Shirley Culberson Barrett, and Wilmer Amina Carter

Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation

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# Bridges That Carried Us Over Project

## Interview Summary

**Interviewee:**

Wilmer Amina Carter, Jacqueline Carter, Shirley Culberson Barrett

**Interviewer:**

Ratibu Jacocks

**Interview Date**

July 28, 2015

**Interview Location:**

Rialto, CA

**Length:**

01:06:53

**Interview Summary completed by:**

M. Camacho Nuno, 2024

**Description:**

Ratibu Jacocks interviews three people regarding their extensive family history. The first is his wife Wilmer Amina Carter, her cousin Jacqueline Carter, and a relative by the name of Shirley Culberson Barrett. Through enthusiastic and often overlapping conversations, the three women discuss their family history. Prominently through the use of a family photo album and recollections, the interviewees discuss church, family lineage, memories of those passed, and the issues with organizing contemporary family reunions. With faith, Wilmer and Jacqueline discuss the church revival events, food, and being saved through baptisms. They also discuss the family tree and how Wilmer's mother had been raised by her aunt, of which the latter sees as her actual mother. When later Barrett joins the interview, the topic again covers faith. Particularly, the topic of the Mount Talley church and the location and how the Carters, Sledges, and Moors families were important in its history. After discussing more family members, the three women go over the topic of family reunions. At the time of the recording, they have been less common for the families. Both high prices and lack of keeping in contact between the younger family members has hindered such reunions from being organized. The interview ends with the women's family ties to the Great Migration and the need to preserve family history.

**Subject Topic:**

- Family History
- Photo Album
- Faith
- Church Revival Events
- Food
- Baptisms
- Family Connections
- Family Reunions
- Expenses
- Loss of Older Family Members

**Spatial Coverage:**

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
The Mount Talley Church	

**Temporal Coverage:**

1944-2015

**Key Events:**

- Wilmer Amina Carter and Jacqueline Carter are cousins
- Wilmer showed Jacqueline family pictures on the Carter's side
- Jacqueline did not see the photos before that point
- Wilmer makes a point to visit her uncles before they pass away from illness
- Church revivals would serve so much food out of trucks
- Baptism in the river during the revivals
- Going to church despite the truck being stuck in a ditch
- Wilmer showing Jacqueline young people in the pictures
- James Young is a relative and the first Black mayor of Philadelphia, Mississippi
- Discussion of how Wilmer is related to some but not all in pictures
- Further explanation of families in the family trees
- The pictures originate from Wilmer collecting them
- Wilmer's mother being raised by her Aunt Hattie
- Shirley Barrett joined the interview
- Aunt Peola still remembering Wilmer even while losing her memory
- The Carters, Sledges, and Moores helping to create the Mount Talley church
- Wilmer being raised by an aunt by blood but is considered to be her mother
- Wilmer's father was the only one who went into the military service
- Wilmer being sad since she could not take Uncle Shot home
- Jacqueline being confused by some of the names in the family tree
- Wilmer is related to all of the families mentioned
- Deciding the name for the family reunion
- Resembling family members
- Jacqueline went to the African continent in the summer of 2006
- A family member that teaches at a college
- The prices of having a reunion have gone up so much and become an obstacle
- Younger generations without a connection to family and losing older folk
- Going to Mississippi for family reunions would be a helpful thing
- The Great Migration and the families fit into that part of history
- Writing down family history to preserve it
- The lineage ends with the youngest family member

**Key Organizations:**

- The Mount Talley church

**Interview Index:**

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:03:54 - 00:10:53	Wilmer Amina Carter and her cousin Jacqueline Carter talk about church revivals and baptisms.
Digital Video	00:36:53 - 00:37:24	Wilmer talks about how she is related to all of the families in the family tree.
Digital Video	00:43:20 - 00:50:23	The generational and economic problems with having a family reunion.
Digital Video	01:01:10 - 01:06:08	The Great Migration and how the families discussed fit into that part of history

### **Related Materials**

Additional oral history interviews are available from the Bridges That Carried Us Over Project at CSUSB, <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/>

**Full interview transcript can be found below.**

## Interview Transcript

### Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

RATIBU JACOCKS: Know when you have it up. It is. Okay.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: God took care of us. God took care of us I'm telling you.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Okay, stop just for a second, Amina. We are rolling. We are rolling. Today is -- today's date is July the 28th, [20?]15. And my name is Ratibu Jacocks and I'm interviewing Amina Carter and her cousin, Jacqueline Carter. Will you both spell your name for me please?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: W-I-L-M-E-R-D-E-A-N-C-A-R-T-E-R.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Okay, and you, Jackie.

JACQUELINE CARTER: J-A-C-Q-U-E-L-I-N-E-C-A-R-T-E-R.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Okay. And I appreciate both of you interviewing and we are interviewing at our home by Ratibu Jacocks and Amina [00:01:00] Carter in the city of Rialto. So we're just so happy to do this. Now, what are you doing and showing her at this time?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I was showing Jacqueline pictures and telling her stories about her line on the Carter side, the line right before her -- the line before me, as a matter of fact. My aunts and uncles, which would be her great aunts and uncles in a lot of cases and in some cases they're her aunts and uncles.

RATIBU JACOCKS: So basically it's family pictures.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Family pictures.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Family pictures. And you were explaining some of those pictures. Had you ever seen any of these pictures before?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Not the pictures, but I know some of the people.

RATIBU JACOCKS: You know some of the people. Okay. Continue to show her and talk about the pictures then.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah, this is one of my -- this is [Dorothy Lee?]. I know she never gained a pound.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Is that Ruby?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: That's me.

JACQUELINE CARTER: That's you? Looks like Ruby with that hairdo. [00:02:00] With the hair. You know Ruby wear her hair close like that.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Back then we were all wearing Afros and stuff.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Okay. Talk to us and loud enough that we can hear, not just yourself because it's been recorded. So I appreciate if you talk a little louder.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: But I'm showing Jacqueline a picture of Sam and Billy during his healthy days, during the days when he would take us all out and show us the land and tell us stories about his aunts and uncles who we either -- some of us knew and some of us didn't. And I was showing her a picture of my Aunt Willie, who was married to Uncle Holly. And this is when he was ill and it was just like a few weeks before he passed away. Whenever one of my uncles like that was really ill, I made a point to go home and see them before they passed away.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So you're saying [00:03:00] this is Sam and Sam's brother?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Sam's daddy.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Sam's daddy, and then --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: This is Sam.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Okay.

RATIBU JACOCKS: What is those relationships to Jackie?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: This is her second cousin.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Cousin.

RATIBU JACOBS: Oh, second cousin.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: This is her second cousin. And this is her great uncle.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Anderson?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No, this is Uncle Holly, Anderson's son,

JACQUELINE CARTER: The son. So this is Anderson's son. And just like -- he's my grandfather's brother.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Brother.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Okay. My grandfather's brother is Uncle --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So that makes him your great uncle. Yeah, that's your great uncle.

RATIBU JACOBS: Your great grandfather's name is what?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Anderson Carter.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And this is Ratibu. We were working on a Tom [Reilly?] campaign. He's got on this Tom Reilly shirt and we loved Aunt Willie because she always cooked for us so we could get down here eating food. Oh, this was like at the church. Remember I told you our church was one of the [00:04:00] last black churches in the area that still had food during the revival outside. And in the old days they would have it in the back of the wagons and you would push your wagon back up and everybody would go in a circle in the wagons and get a plate, get something from everybody's plate. In the modern days they still do it, but they do it out of their trucks. They all have trucks and they let the gate down and they have all this food in the back of the truck. And so everybody get their plate and they go around and eat food. Then they have this table full of food. You can't even

imagine how much food they have at the revival. And that's how they used to do it. And that's how they still do it. And this big tree --

RATIBU JACOCKS: Excuse me, just before the tree, where did the food come from?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: The people baked it at home. They spent two or three days before the revival cooking food. And at night, you know that, they cooked up a lot of food for Sunday. And the way my mother used to do it on Saturday [00:05:00] evening, they would cook the bulk of the food. And so when you came home from church, all you had to do was cook the cornbread.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Cornbread is the last thing.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Last thing. Cook the cornbread. And while your mother was cooking the cornbread, everybody had to wash up. And if you were like me, you had to set the table and get the forks and spoons out and make sure when your daddy came to sit down at the table, I mean his plate and everything was ready.

RATIBU JACOCKS: But at the picnic, people brought what they had cooked and they would put it on the table at the church? No,

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No, you would go around the -- you were with me.

RATIBU JACOCKS: I know but I'm talking about history.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: We would go around the truck and get the food and you could go sit back in the church or you could go and eat, if it wasn't too hot you could go eat on benches that they had. They had picnic tables and stuff right outside the church where you could sit and talk to people while you eat.

RATIBU JACOCKS: And when are they usually held, those picnics?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: During the revival?

RATIBU JACOCKS: I mean, what month?



WILMER AMINA CARTER: In our church it [00:06:00] was always August.

Always the fourth Sunday in August --

JACQUELINE CARTER: Okay.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: -- that we would go to the revival.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Mount Talley.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Mount Talley.

RATIBU JACOBS: Right.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And then they had -- the Sunday was the big picnic and everybody came and all that. And then every night during the week they had visiting churches come in to do the program. And back when I was a little girl, it was during the time where all the young people who had not been baptized, you were going to get saved one of those nights.

JACQUELINE CARTER: It was your turn.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: By the time you were 9 or ten years old, I mean you were going to get so your mama told you before you left home, you get saved tonight, you go right up there to that front row and you get saved. And so what Dorothy, Sybil and I decided that we would just go ahead and get saved the first night so we wouldn't have to sit because if you didn't get saved that Monday, you had to go back and sit up on that [00:07:00] front row on Tuesday night. You sit up on that front row until the end of the week. And then if you didn't get saved, I mean you got the look, they would come and look at you.

JACQUELINE CARTER: You know how old you were?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I had to be about 6 or 7.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Wow.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And so probably about seven. And then after you got saved, you had to give your life to God and all that. Then you could go sit back

in there regular audience. But you had to get saved. You had to sit on that front row till you got saved.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Well, when did you get baptized?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So then after the revival is over that next Sunday, everybody, all the little kids, all the people who got saved at that time, we had a stream coming down through the church, through the woods and everybody would go down to the river to get baptized and we would sing all the way from the church. And they would put these white sheets on the young people just like [00:08:00] you see in the movies. And you would walk down and everybody would sing, (sings) "Take me to the water, take me to the water, take me to the water to be baptized."

JACQUELINE CARTER: (sings in unison) To be baptized.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And so you would sing that and everybody would go. And when you would get there, the deacons, they would have on their white stuff in the water and on each side and then the men or whoever would walk you out to them and they would you want to be saved? And I forgot what they say. Are you accept the Lord as your savior or whatever it is. And you had to say yes, you better say yes. So once you say yes, they caught you by your nose and ducked you under and got back in and brought you back up and you were saved. And so you went over there and your aunts and uncles and stuff would have a quilt or something to put around you to dry you off and take [00:09:00] you into the church and put you on something. And it was so special because they told you you were saved and that God was going to take care of you. I mean you actually believed -- I mean I actually believed it -- that God was going to take care of you and now you had to walk a certain way, talk a certain way because you were a Christian and you were saved. Which meant you had to go to church every Sunday after that you just couldn't miss Church and Sunday school and stuff. But I actually enjoyed it and we

lived all the way. Okay, you don't even know what I'm talking about. But we lived quite a ways and in my early years I can remember having to go to church in a wagon. That was before we had trucks and stuff. And my dad was always the first one to get a truck and a car and all, not cars but a truck. People had trucks because they were farmers. But I can remember riding in, [00:10:00] when I was like 4 or 5, in a wagon all the way around that road to church. And one time in the winter it was really raining and so there was always ditches when it was raining, in the road because they didn't have paved roads. And I can remember the wagon getting caught in a ditch and my daddy had to get out in his Sunday clothes and had my mama hold the rein and then he would get the horse to get the wheels to get the wagon out. But we were going to go to church, come rain, sleet, snow. Unless it was just like a real storm, they were going to show up at Mount Talley on the third Sunday. I think it was the third Sunday that we met. But after you got baptized, you went to church every Sunday and you went to Sunday school every Sunday. And see, this is Dorothy Lee and this is one of those [Sledge?] girls. This is Bobby [00:11:00] Sledge. You were talking about the Sledges.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yes.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And see they lived down this street, I mean down the road. And she's her age -- they grew up together. And so everybody had this, these are Sean, these are Dorothy Lee's boys when they were young.

JACQUELINE CARTER: See I know them.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: You do?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah. They're probably your age. Yeah, that's when they were very young. And this is one of [Irleene?]'s and JT's Young sons who got killed out here.

RATIBU JACOBS: Talk a little louder if you would. Amina, just go ahead and talk louder.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Not sure who's -- I'm not sure.

RATIBU JACOBS: I mean go ahead and talk louder.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Earl Young. You've heard of the Young's, right?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Because Aunt (inaudible) had [00:12:00] a child by one of the Young's. And Walter [Reed?] is a Young.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Willie Earl was a Young too. So which is --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Those are (inaudible)'s children.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Is daddy's oldest brother's son by somebody.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Is a Young.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Is a Young.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And so the Youngs are people who lived up in Nashoba County, but it was close to Winston County line. They had a lot of land. And it's a Young now that's the mayor. One of the Youngs is the mayor of Philadelphia.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I need to ask about, I know Willie Earl Young was his last name, but I knew his --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And see Earl Young. See Miss [Pinky?]. See it's real complicated. Miss Pinky was married to a young, and then when her husband died, she married Grandpa. She married Anderson Carter because his wife had passed away in childbirth. So she married [00:13:00] him, although they didn't have any more children. All of his children are by the same woman.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Just the second wife.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah, this is the second wife. So he married Miss Pinky.

RATIBU JACOCKS: And Amina, you mentioned Young and the mayor. Tell us his name and what city is he the mayor of?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: What's his first name?

RATIBU JACOCKS: James.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: James Young is the mayor of Philadelphia, Mississippi right now.

RATIBU JACOCKS: First black mayor.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I think he's the first black.

JACQUELINE CARTER: And he's our relative.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah, he's our relative. He's some of our relatives. See all of us are not related to the Youngs. See, only Aunt [Viola?] and Aunt [Peola?] I think had children by the Youngs. They were, even though their mother married grandpa when his wife died, they didn't have any children. So I'm not related to him, but my cousin Walter Reed and all of them are related to the Youngs.

JACQUELINE CARTER: And I need to ask Daddy.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: You need [00:14:00] to ask him.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Willie Earl because his last name was Young. Does he fit in that lineage somewhere.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I don't think Uncle (inaudible). I'm trying to think if they had any children who married a Young. See, I don't know, but I know [Evowla?]'s her two children.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Well I'll ask about that. I can get that. Yeah.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So that's how the Youngs came into our family.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah, see right here, right here.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: You know that person? This

JACQUELINE CARTER: Name Claudia? This was Willie Earl's mother.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Oh really? Yeah, Willie Earl is whose son?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Willie Earl is my dad's oldest brother's son. And his name was --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Not Clyde? No. Austin.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Austin. Right. So Austin had Willie Earl and Johnny. Okay, so the Culbersons come in there too somewhere.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Right, right. And so these [00:15:00] are all JT, [Burnside?], and Irleene Carter. And see, I think she was a Young too. See Aunt [Hattie?], I think married one of those Youngs and these are the descendants. This is [Ethel May?]. This is one of Aunt Willie [V?]. You heard me talk about Aunt Willie V.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I know her name.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And this is Irleene's daughter right there. And they had an aunt. They both are passed away now, but JT lived to be 90 --

RATIBU JACOCKS: In his nineties and recently died.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: She's Irleene and she's the one that was sick for so long. But he took care of her like you would not believe. I mean she was sick for a long time. I mean bedridden and didn't speak. And so she had to be cared for. He did not let her go into a home. He took care of her himself. And I'm not sure whose wedding that is, but it's probably one of our, oh, it's -- [00:16:00] and then their brother got killed.

RATIBU JACOCKS: So where did all these pictures come from? Amina, where did all that come from?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Well, a collection of either being at the event or --

RATIBU JACOCKS: You collected them?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yes or them being over there over to my house right here. And because we always had family over on Sundays or Saturdays and sat around the pool or either I was running for election and they were all coming over to an event or we were having something. And this is Shirley right here. This is Shirley, this is Edie. This is Edie's husband. And so they're all sitting out back there. And this is Uncle Winter. See that should have been Winter. It's not Winner, it's Winter. But it was spelled wrong. Now you didn't know him, did you? He lived in St. Louis? No, he had two sons.

JACQUELINE CARTER: [00:17:00] And this might've been that church we went to.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Because his sons probably got buried there too.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Let me see.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: See he had four sons, Ernest, William and [Earthy?] and Everett.

JACQUELINE CARTER: One of these sons died. And because I believe we went to a church right after mom passed in 2004, somebody else died. And this is the section of Carter's that I said I didn't know, but Daddy took me to the funeral.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Did you know [Al Marie?] and Maria Lindsey? Those were his two daughters.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I know these names from Dad, Everett and Ernest. I know these names.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Okay. And see how the picture, this is one of the older sisters. This is my aunt Hattie. This is Irleene's mother. She was maybe like the third or fourth child. Oh, here comes Shirley. And [00:18:00] so she had four

children, but two of them by a Culberson guy and two of them by, what was her other husband's name? I can't think of her other husband's name.

RATIBU JACOCKS: But while you're thinking of that, you said that these are one of his sisters. And I wanted to relate these sisters. Who are these sisters?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Grandpa's daughters and sons.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Bring Shirley in here.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: This is grandpa.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Great grandpa Anderson Carter.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Anderson Carter. And she was like maybe the third child. See I told you the one that went to Moss Point was the oldest. And [Jenny May?] was the oldest child and Peola was the second child and Hattie was probably the third or the fourth. And see all of those older children raised the younger ones because my mother, Leslie, never knew her mother, her [00:19:00] mother died when she was 6 or 7. And Aunt Hattie raised her. So she grew up, she said she was almost 10, 11 before she found out that Aunt Hattie was not her mother. She raised them. You know the older sisters and brothers raised the younger ones.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yes.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And so she raised my mother.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Oh, okay.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: She was one of the older ones.

RATIBU JACOCKS: And you can jump right in. Come on.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And see this was my dad, Cesar Carter, the one who raised me.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Sit down, go around the back and sit down on that side of her.

No, this way.



(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

WILMER AMINA CARTER: We were at church, we had some program at church.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Come and sit right here. Joining us is Shirley Barrett. You can sit down if you want to, Shirley, you can stand there. Do you want to stand there? But it is not too longer.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: See I'm not sure if this is the Culberson lady or the Carter lady. [00:20:00] And I need someone to tell me this, but I think it's Grandpa's wife. I think that's who it is.

JACQUELINE CARTER: You think this is --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Grandpa Anderson Carter.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: You think it's his wife?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Your great grandpa.

JACQUELINE CARTER: You think it's his wife?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: That's what I think. And so I have to show it to somebody older than me.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Who gave it to you?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I'm just not sure where I got this. I told you every time I went home in the summer, I went through everybody's stuff and got pictures and stuff.

RATIBU JACOCKS: But you didn't tag them.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Not all of them, but I know it's one of them.

RATIBU JACOCKS: And you think that person is related to Aunt Shirley?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I'm not sure if it's a Culberson woman or a Carter woman and one of the Carters married her or one of the Culbersons.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Can you tell Aunt Shirley?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I got to ask Dorothy. Shirley's too young.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, I'm too young. [00:21:00] I don't know all of that.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah, she don't know all that. Dorothy, see Dorothy, and so I enlarged the picture. So it had to be relevant. It's one of them, but I kind of think it's -- I got to ask her again.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: She looked more like a Carter than --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Well, she would have married a Carter. Yeah.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Oh really?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So I got to ask Grandpa.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: So Culbersons and Carters were marrying each other a lot?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah. And this is Aunt Peola when she was younger. And this is Uncle Jack. Uncle Jack married Aunt Viola. But she didn't have any children by him. She didn't have any, I'm not sure who that is. It may be Aunt Peola. I'm just not sure -- in her younger days. See, this is Aunt Peola in the rest home when I told you we went down there that summer when they called us and said that she was [00:22:00] losing -- not losing their mind. But that's how they said it, that she was losing her memory. She didn't know people and they had to put her in the rest home. And this is when I went down there and I said my aunt was going to know who I am and she did. And so we took a picture, and this is another lady that was in the rest home with her, was in the room with her.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

WILMER AMINA CARTER: She was in her nineties. And I don't know if you've heard your father talk about the triplets, Mr. [Lacey?] triplets family. You probably heard your -- okay.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Oh yeah, I heard about the triplets.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: They had all that land. They were one of the founders of the church too. See it was the triplets, the Carters, the Sledges, and the [Moore's?] who built that church, put their money together and built that church.

JACQUELINE CARTER: How old is Mount Talley? How old is it?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: [00:23:00] Old -- goes back in the early twenties. See the church was owned by white people named Talleys. And then they raised the money to buy that church. And then eventually grandpa bought that land that the church is on and so now the land is Sam's.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So they haven't probably had his hundred yet. Hundred anniversary yet?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: The church? Yeah, it's probably had it.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Daddy born in 1944. It make it 70.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Well it's probably older than that because I did a resolution. They had sent me the history of the church and I did a state resolution for them for their anniversary. So I think they had the hundredth one. Okay, so it's on the wall down there on the church. But anyway, this is still the visit with Aunt Peola. Now this is an earlier picture when Aunt Peola was alive and living in California. And this is Mary mama. This is the second wife. This is the wife my [00:24:00] father, my uncle married when Beatrice passed away. And this is Uncle Jake. This is Aunt Peola's husband. He worked for the railroad. And so when he came out here, he got a job with Santa Fe. And so that's how Aunt Peola could go home all the time, every summer because she would get a ticket. She would be able to get a ticket because he worked at the railroad. And so when he passed away, that's when [BessieMae?] and all of them started taking care of Aunt Peola. They lived over on 20th Street. And when we first came to California, yeah, this is when we first came to California. This is Uncle Jake. I don't know if you remember

that little house on Tijuana, Daddy had rented that house when he first came here. When we came, that's where we lived. And that was the garage?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: No, I don't remember when --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Back came back in those days. The garage was separate from the house. It was sitting way out. That's Uncle Jake.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I think when I came you guys was [00:25:00] on Vine, down there on 7th and Vine.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: This was my mom that died. She was a Culberson. Yes. We had gone to the mountains and they had taken this picture. Daddy.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Your mom was a Culberson.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: The one who raised me.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Oh yeah, yeah.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: She was my aunt really, by blood. But she was the mom that raised me. This is Uncle Jake and I'm not sure who that is. One of us. Seemed like that's one of them Culberson boys right here. I just can't tell. And this was a certificate that Uncle Jake had got. And so this is when Aunt Peola passed away. She passed away in (inaudible). This is her obituary here.

JACQUELINE CARTER: See, one of the things we keep talking about now is that sometimes when you go to funerals, people are not putting the lineage.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And they should. That's how you're going to know.

JACQUELINE CARTER: That's how you're going to know. That's how you're going to know.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: [00:26:00] Let see, Walter Reed was living in Tacoma when Aunt Peola died. Remember I told you about that huge storm that

year. And Walter Reed was able to come from Tacoma a day before the big storm was in Texas. And see, I was coming trying to come from California and the planes didn't fly. I mean they didn't fly anybody out of Dallas so I couldn't get a connection to Jackson. So I couldn't get to the funeral because it was just storming the day of the funeral. This is just another picture of Aunt Peola. Now like I told you, I'm not sure who these people are. I would have to ask somebody older than me, but I know this is Aunt Viola's husband, Uncle Jack. I'm just not sure who that is. And this person, I'm just not sure.

RATIBU JACOCKS: That's not your daddy.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: It may be. It may be him because he was the only one of all those 17 children that went into the military, my daddy. [00:27:00] None of them went into the military. And these are just some more pictures of Aunt Peola during that visit. Now this is Zora Carter. Now Grandma Zora was Anderson's wife.

JACQUELINE CARTER: How many wives did he have?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Well, he just had two. One that died, Grandma Zora.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Was first.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yes. That he had all the kids by. And then he married Miss Pinky. They didn't have any kids.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Because my auntie, Daddy's sister is named Zora.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah, they named her after her. But anyway, this says I can't see I don't have my glasses on. Is that Aunt Peola?

JACQUELINE CARTER: It's Pinky Graham Carter.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: This is his second wife [00:28:00] and they didn't have any children.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So first wife, second wife, and you got tagged. And then this is a grave here?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Anderson Carter. This is his headstone. And this is, we called him Uncle [Shot?], but his name was --

JACQUELINE CARTER: I know him.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And these are some more people at a reunion somewhere. I'm not sure where that was. And this is another picture of Uncle Shot. We were all farmers. And this is a picture when I went down to see him in the rest home and I cried all the way to Georgia, Atlanta, because when we went down there --

JACQUELINE CARTER: I was little, I remember that name. The names are unique.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I remember it too.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: He was so glad to see and he just started crying. I mean, just thinking about it. He wanted me to take him with me. He kept saying, "Don't leave me." [00:29:00] And I was just "Ratibu, could we take him?" He was like, "No, we can't."

RATIBU JACOCKS: Let me ask you, Jackie. What time do you need to get ready to stop this interview?

JACQUELINE CARTER: I'm already ready when it's time for me to go.

RATIBU JACOCKS: So you can keep right on running. So let's just let know.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I'm already ready. I'm packed.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I have to be somewhere.

JACQUELINE CARTER: She has a two o'clock.

RATIBU JACOCKS: So just let me know how long you want to run it. Because I got to close it out when you finish.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Okay.

RATIBU JACOBS: Oh, okay. Just let me know.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So this is just another picture.

RATIBU JACOBS: Y'all can continue to talk, but I need to close it out.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And this is Sam and this is Johnny Lee. Oh, that's one of Uncle Shot's --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Children.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: -- sons, yes. Johnny Lee. And that was him in earlier days when he had retired from farming and all of that. He lived in a trailer. Once his wife died, he lived in a trailer outside of Aunt Willie's house. So he was up there with them until he just couldn't do anything for himself anymore. And that's why they took him to [00:30:00] the rest home down in, I mean the convalescent home down in Meridian because Aunt Willie and all of them had gotten old too and they couldn't watch him. He would get up and they'd find him all out in the field at night, stuff like that. So they didn't want to take a chance on him doing something that was --

JACQUELINE CARTER: Wow. Yeah. Come sit here. How have you been? How have you been?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Oh, I've been pretty good. Pretty good. Pretty good. How have you been?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Pretty good too. Look, I finally made it back this way.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, you did. How many years has it been?

JACQUELINE CARTER: I don't know. I don't want to count. Remember everything. She's making me remember. I know.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I want Shirley to say who she is since you're still -

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RATIBU JACOBS: Thank you so much for this interview and we were joined by Shirley Barrett. Will you spell your full [00:31:00] name for us please?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And your maiden name first.

JACQUELINE CARTER: S-H-I-R-L-E-Y. Culberson, C-U-L-B-E-R-S-O-N, Barrett, B-A-R-R-E-T-T.

RATIBU JACOBS: Alright, well thank all of you for the interview today and I appreciate you letting us do this. Thank you so much. Okay, keep right on going.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So yeah.

RATIBU JACOBS: So you know her?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Wilmer is making me remember how small I was and I just know names and faces and how he used to going to go come here and speak. This is, oh hi Jackie. I'll be like, hi. Then you just go off and play. Now I can look. Now I'm trying to pull all it back together in my memory.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I know.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So she's just been talking and talking and talking.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: How is your dad?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: He's doing good. He's doing good too. Doing that's good.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I told him I was coming out here to talk to Wilmer so he knows [00:32:00] that I'm going to have a mouthful when I come back. So all of the names that he's been saying all my life, I hear these names. He said over and over.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: These are my sisters, she's the oldest, I'm next.

And then Jesse, she passed away, and Irene, Birdie, Maryanne and what's the



baby's name? This is the baby. I can't think of her name. But that one year when I went to family reunion, all of them went.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So all these are your sisters by Cesar?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No. These are --

JACQUELINE CARTER: Leslie's kids.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: These are Leslie's.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Kids. Leslie's kids.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So Irma's father is Burnside. She was married to, remember I told you she was married to this Burnside guy and had Irma and he went to the service?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yes.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And then he never came back. He said, I'm going to Tennessee.

JACQUELINE CARTER: And she didn't want to go.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And she didn't want to go. Then so in the middle of [00:33:00] all of this she had (inaudible) by (inaudible).

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yes.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: By my brother.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yes.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Then she married this guy called Wheeler Carter and had all these other kids.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah. Okay. So this, I had to get that straight. She's first and then this is our lineage. This is how you come to us.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah, I'm second.

JACQUELINE CARTER: And then these are other sisters by the other men.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Right. Those are the other men. And so we just did all these pictures while we were trying to get all the boys. One of the boys is missing from this. We were trying to get the whole line so everybody would have a picture of all of us. And see then she had gotten really sick then. But this is Leslie, but I have earlier pictures of her that her natural look, and this is Irma, my oldest sister, she lived down in San Diego. So this was at a reunion. Me and Jesse and Irma went, we live out in California. All the rest [00:34:00] of them lived right there. So they were welcoming us home that year because we all decided to go home so we would all be together. And so these are just pictures with that where were all together. These are some of their children. This is Irene's two children and they didn't have a lot of kids. They said they weren't going to be like their mama. This is Jesse's son and this is what's the baby baby's name? My young sister is always calling you? No, my sister in Mississippi is always calling you.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Sam.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So she kept his name.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Anne. Anne Maryanne.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So she kept his name.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Maryanne has never been married.

JACQUELINE CARTER: No, but she's carrying a Carter name.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Because she is a Carter. See, all the early kids are Carter. She married a Carter. Remember I told you she married a man. His last name was Carter. [00:35:00] So all those kids' names are Carter.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: My name is Culberson, but I just stick to Carter name.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I keep getting Leslie confused with --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Leslie is my mother.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I keep getting her confused with the woman that married the Wheeler man.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: That married the who?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Wheeler was married to --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Wheeler was married. That's all their fathers.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Fathers. So the baby's carrying this -- this child is carrying a maiden name. This a maiden name, not a married name.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah, she's carrying her mother's name.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Name, maiden name.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So I don't know who her dad is.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Right, but you just give them this, the mother's baby name.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: She gave them that name. That's right. Yeah. I don't know who the father is. And this is Tommy. He wrote a book and so I just have a copy of his book and you know it's all about food. And they live up there. Their trailers are all around like that. And so they have a big space and every time somebody come they just put out the table [00:36:00] and do food. But anyway, that's now.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah, because when they started, that's when I lost track when I was younger. When you start talking about Carter and Culberson, I can keep them straight for a long time. And then as far as I go back, then that's when I can't keep it straight. That's why it is good to hear it.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I sure hate you didn't have time to go see Aunt Annie.

RATIBU JACOBS: When I first talked to you that first day you kind of mentioned that you were a Culberson or related to Culberson. You were a Culberson. I had that in my mind.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Right, because I've already associated my -- yeah, because my grandmother, all I know is everybody on my grandmother's side was a Culberson. It was connected.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: See your grandmother is [Hosley?] in Cleveland.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Right. But didn't know that when you younger because that's when only they just --

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Called them Culberson--

JACQUELINE CARTER: Right. Keep it straight that that way.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: But I'm the only one of all of my cousins that's related to all of them.

JACQUELINE CARTER: That's what he said.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: They're Carters, or they're Culberson [00:37:00] or they're Culberson and something else or they're Carter and Hosley or they're something else. But the reason that I am, because my grandparents are Charlie Culberson and Liz Cleveland and Hosley. So that makes me related to all of them. Carter, Culberson, Cleveland and Hosley. Yeah, because of Aunt Liz.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Right.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And so I don't have a lot of pictures from the Hosleys but somebody had those pictures.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Maddie had them. But they got messed up.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah remember when --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Her daughter took them and they got lost in storage.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And remember Aunt Liz had all those pictures on the wall. Her whole wall. She had all those pictures.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Now where did Aunt Liz live last?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Aunt Liz? Here in San Bernardino?

JACQUELINE CARTER: So everybody was out here.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Pretty much.

JACQUELINE CARTER: And that's [00:38:00] why I said when we would have a family reunions and people would come from everywhere, it still was all I could keep track was the Carter's and the Culbersons. That means if you were a Carter, most of them were in Mississippi. But if you was a Culberson, there's no telling where you might be. That's how I kept it straight as a kid.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I guess since it was a Hosley that started a reunion it always was a puzzle. So then they got into whose name was going to be first.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I remember that too.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I remember that we had decided whoever was hosting the reunion would put their name first. But then everybody got mad and said no, it's always going to be Hosley, Culberson and Carter.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Carter was the last, but it could have been Hosley, Carter, Culberson.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: But I remember that became a big topic of discussion all the time and then I don't know any of our -- Tessie and all of them, they all passed away.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: They all passed [00:39:00] away. I think the last one too

--

RATIBU JACOCKS: The daughter used to bring her around to the family reunion.

Younger lady. It was the older Hosley daughter.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I know she got a son up in Maryland or something. One of them got a son up in near Washington.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Was it name Aunt Velma?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No, one of the Hosleys. She got a son.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Aunt Velma was a Hosley.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No, but one of the two that used to come to the reunion all the time. Aunt Tessie.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: [Porter?] Son, daughter?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No, Uncle [Porter?]. Not her.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Isn't that who you talking about?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: When we'd go back east --

RATIBU JACOCKS: I don't remember the name.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: -- one of them had either a daughter or granddaughter that used to come and help them when they couldn't go up the steps. They'd come to the reunion all the time. I can't remember her name. It may have been one of those Hosleys. The one that lived in, I think she lived in Haiti.

JACQUELINE CARTER: [00:40:00] Yeah. See daddy talks about them now. Daddy talks about them.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: What is that woman's name?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: See they came --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Was it Annie?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: She's passed away too.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

WILMER AMINA CARTER: There was two of them.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Daddy talked about --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: There was two of them and they always came to -  
-

SHIRLEY BARRETT: One with Annie. I can't think of the other one's name,  
but one of them was Annie.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Daddy talks about them all the time. (inaudible)

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, because they lived, that's where they lived.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: If you look her straight in the face, don't she look  
like Alberta around the eyes turn around.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, yeah.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I noticed it the other day when I was looking at  
her straight in the face. You have to look straight in the face though to see this.  
Yeah, she looks like Alberta.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: She looks like Alberta across here.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah. Yeah. But anyway, so she's getting her  
PhD. So we are going to have somebody in the family with a PhD. Because that's  
what Dorothy told me when I told her you were coming out here. She said, "Did that  
girl finish school yet?"

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah, because I was in school. So then I must've  
visited her [00:41:00] when I was in Bible College. I must have been --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Didn't you go overseas or somewhere?

JACQUELINE CARTER: I went to Africa too. So I'm saying I had went to school  
in 2005 right after mom died, I must have come. She must have seen me during  
that time. I didn't start school until 2005, but I moved here remember in 2002 I  
wasn't in school. So it had to be after 2005 when she knew.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, I knew you went overseas. Went somewhere.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I went to Africa in 2006.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I didn't know if it was Germany or where you went.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I went to Africa for a mission trip.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, I knew that you went there.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I thought you were getting your degree in religious studies because somebody told me.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I did. My undergraduate is a bible college degree.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Okay.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Isn't that what you went to Africa for?

JACQUELINE CARTER: I went on a mission trip for five weeks to South Africa, 2006 that summer. So I have been going for decade, so I went straight through.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I know how that going to school.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: (inaudible) daughter. What she got a doctorate?

[00:42:00]

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah, that's right. Because she teaches college, right?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah, we were trying to figure it out. See I don't know her.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Helen's daughter, Lisa.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Lisa. She was just out here.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Here. What did she get a master's or a PhD?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And she got her PhD.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Where does she live?

JACQUELINE CARTER: In Texas.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: In Texas. And she work as a university, some University of Texas. She teaches. Yeah, she was just here.



JACQUELINE CARTER: So who is Helen?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: My niece.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: You know Helen is Annie's daughter.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Oh yeah, yeah, yes I do.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Helen was just here?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: No, her daughter Lisa.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Who did I meet? Let me see who I met.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: When did Lisa come?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: She must have come one day last week and she gone back. I guess she leaving this week sometime. But they had a family reunion on her dad's side here.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: On her dad's side.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: So she came here.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: What's his last name?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Lamar.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Lamar. When I went to stay with Annie, one of them daughters came over to the house [00:43:00] when I would stay with Annie that weekend. I'm trying to figure out who I saw that, I don't know who I saw. But somebody came over and spent some time.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Must have been Helen. Yeah, Helen's daughter got a PhD doctorate in something.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Oh wow. Yeah, we were trying to definitely keep track of that. I know on my mother's side --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: The family reunion just died out a year that Jean had it. And where's [Jean?], in Ohio?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Jean is in Gary.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah. Nobody went.

JACQUELINE CARTER: My dad was kind of disturbed by that. He brought it up because he's so used to having it, but what I was trying to explain to him, because everybody's getting older --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: If the younger kids don't --

JACQUELINE CARTER: And there's not enough collaboration with us our age and it is not like it used to be where you could get everybody together and cook food. You need somebody with that [00:44:00] \$5,000 on the credit card. It can secure the facility. You need the money to spend for the food. And at that point in time people are just not economically able. I think that's more of it. I don't think it's so much of hosting it. I think that what it costs now to have one is tremendously changed.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: A lot costlier than it was.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: People don't pay, like you said.

JACQUELINE CARTER: You need that front money.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: You need that front money and people --

RATIBU JACOBS: Hotels are expensive.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And hotels are expensive. Flights are expensive.

JACQUELINE CARTER: People are not driving like they used to.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No, we can't get around like we used to. It's different. And see, the thing that we made a mistake is we didn't bring the young people along and to get them involved in planning it and all of that. And then that way they could have planned and we could have just shown up. The older people could have just shown up.

RATIBU JACOBS: They can still do that.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: But you got too many young people that not going to do it.

JACQUELINE CARTER: They're not exposed to it. [00:45:00]

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Because they don't understand the --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Importance of it.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: They don't know it. They don't know it and they don't have jobs and they, they're just not ready to do it. There's just so many of them just not.

JACQUELINE CARTER: The Ebony years ago when they started talking about black families having a family reunion, I'll never forget they gave an outline of how to do it. It's a how to do. You got to know what to do. And I think if you don't know what to do and you don't have the finances.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And see these young kids now with computers and stuff, I mean they can just go online and see how do you do a family reunion and do it. But it's still, they don't have the connection because they probably wouldn't even be able to find the addresses of all the families and stuff. So they don't have the connection like we did.

RATIBU JACOBS: So why don't your family have a master list? Because you've got a lot of information.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: [00:46:00] I have list. Yes I have.

JACQUELINE CARTER: They had to have a list because it's what they used to send out stuff.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: The list always went to the next person.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: To the next person. I have a list but I don't know any young person can take RATIBU JACOBS: ho it take it on.

RATIBU JACOBS: You got one right there.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I'm getting a PhD. No. The problem is again, just like you're saying, long as it's archived, as long as we can get access to it, then that's the difference because the roots are there.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: See there's not enough people in St. Louis to help her. See, because --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: They've passed away or they --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, they passed away.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Dad's -- there's only three of them. It's only three. My dad's family. There's only two sisters and a brother. So that's the St. Louis family.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: They're not in St. Louis.

RATIBU JACOBS: And there's no children?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Well, from my grandfather, he has three children left from the Carter's.

RATIBU JACOBS: That's what I talking about.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah. So the only thing, and then everybody above him is older. [00:47:00] So unless it branches off till --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And see is nobody sitting right there that can help her put it together because everybody is gone. Her two aunties is in Gary, Indiana. They're not right there.

JACQUELINE CARTER: They're not right.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And see, so there's nobody to help her.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: See Hazel and all them passed away.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Passed away is gone. And so you need help.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Hazel, Alberta. What's the brother?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Clyde. Dewey Long.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: All them passed away.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Well, what I witnessed, what I witnessed that whenever the family reunions, I remember and listening to the organization, like you said when what you 70, daddy 70, you're talking about when everybody was 40. That's a different group of people. Where's the 40-year-old? You were 40 when you were 40 was no big deal. Thirty and 40.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And then there was people there to, okay, you do this, you do this, we got to write up this and write up that. You need more than one person to do that.

JACQUELINE CARTER: [00:48:00] And all you guys are working together. I remember that.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: You all get together, get the list and you start out with front money, buy the paper, stamps and get somebody to run it off and all that stuff.

RATIBU JACOBS: But you did it here when it was here. Wasn't you in charge of doing it?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, but I had Marie, I had Jeanette, I had Anthony, Timmy.

JACQUELINE CARTER: A team.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Had a lot people.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: It was about six or seven of us.

RATIBU JACOBS: And it still was a lot of work.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And yes.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: See, when Aunt Annie did it, she had me, Helen, she had all of us work. Everybody worked on it.

JACQUELINE CARTER: It was in Mississippi. Sam.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Had all his kids and he had everybody working.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And you got to go to the hotel, you got to sit down and you got to negotiate. We want 50 rooms and this and that and send all that. It's lot of work. It's lot of work. Like a convention. How about the food?

JACQUELINE CARTER: The food has become super [00:49:00] expensive.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Then you got send the paper and say we need your money by this date.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: And the people don't send money.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: People don't send their -- then the T-shirt. So what we did, the committee paid their money and that's what we had the money to negotiate.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah, you got to have front money.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: You got to have front money. So that's what we did.

And so buy stamps and paper and write and address and all that.

JACQUELINE CARTER: My mom and dad used to pay --

RATIBU JACOCKS: What's going to happen then to the family that don't know each other well and don't have a relationship.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: What Shirley did is start having a family gathering for the people out here, which I thought was good. At least in one section, all these young people, cousins and stuff, they would know each other. So she started calling together --

RATIBU JACOCKS: One day at the park.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. One day.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: I had to work that day, but I did go by.

RATIBU JACOCKS: That's not too expensive because people bought food.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: [00:50:00] Yeah, everybody brought food and donated something.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: That was just with the people out here.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Out here. But that wasn't with nobody nowhere else.

RATIBU JACOCKS: How long ago did you do that?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: A couple years.

RATIBU JACOCKS: When was the last time you did that?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: A couple years ago.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: About two years ago.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Two years ago?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: About two, three --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Was that two or three years ago?

RATIBU JACOCKS: Oh, okay.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Remember [Mama Shaw?] was a hundred then, because remember we left there to -- (inaudible) her birthday.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, because Kay was still living. So that's been about three years ago.

JACQUELINE CARTER: But that's like in Chicago. What's her name, died. (inaudible) wife died. Susie.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Did she?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Susie. Yeah she did.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

SHIRLEY BARRETT: [00:51:00] I didn't know that. That means there's nobody in Chicago.

JACQUELINE CARTER: That's what I'm saying. So what about Rosetta's kids?

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Well one of them is in New York, I believe. And I don't know where the other one is.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Rosetta's boys and girls. I saw them. Where did I see them? (inaudible) Had to be a funeral when I did see them last. But I'm saying in Chicago, that's a little way. But I'm saying there's a few there. It's just a few of us in St. Louis.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Did you know Emory's wife died? Susie's dead.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Nobody told me. I never met her.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: You never met her?

JACQUELINE CARTER: I'm pretty sure she is now. Don't get me, don't get (inaudible).

WILMER AMINA CARTER: What did she die from?

JACQUELINE CARTER: She had gotten sick.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I didn't know that.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: They didn't have any kids though.

JACQUELINE CARTER: She had a daughter and a son.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: She did?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Because Lisa (inaudible).

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So Emory was the only one living. The other brother passed away that passed away. What was the other brother's name?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: What [00:52:00] that boy name?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Alvin.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Alvin, yeah. And then Aunt Lois, she passed away. Then Emory.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Aunt Lois.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And then Emory passed away.



RATIBU JACOCKS: Did you know the joke on her that we talk about all the time since we met her? We were over there and everybody was talking to her. She was --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: In bad shape.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Yeah. She was getting kind of old. And so Aunt Annie, Aunt Annie said, "Do you know who I am?" And she said, "Yeah." And Aunt Annie said, "Who am I?" She said, "You are you."

WILMER AMINA CARTER: We say that all the time.

RATIBU JACOCKS: All the time. Was she a Culberson? She act like one. She said, "You are you."

JACQUELINE CARTER: She's gone.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: She passed away.

JACQUELINE CARTER: She's gone. So that's why I'm saying, so you got in St. Louis, you only have me and my brother. You got [00:53:00] Burt's kids, you got Hazel's boy, Clyde's daughter. And then Jean's daughter's up there and son is up there with her. So Pauline's daughter's gone and Pauline is gone.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Pauline had a daughter?

JACQUELINE CARTER: Paulette. Pauline and Paulette. Paulette's dead.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: What she die from?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I knew she was gone.

JACQUELINE CARTER: She'd been gone too. But I'm saying there's a gap right there in St. Louis. We all are connected. Something happens, we all come together. So we are in contact with each other. But that's just a generation that, again, nobody's situated to just say, well, I want to take on a family reunion. Now Burt's daughter, I mean, not Burt's daughter, Pearl's daughter. Pam.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, yeah.

JACQUELINE CARTER: When Burt died, her daughter was talking about that we need to go south more because that's the only connection we really have. And we know that in St. Louis, [00:54:00] there's no connection in St. Louis.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: A couple of years ago, they said whenever we have a reunion, it should always be in Mississippi. Instead of going around.

JACQUELINE CARTER: It should.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Because that's where it all started from.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I think it should. But then there is again --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Shaking your head?

RATIBU JACOCKS:Huh?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Why are you shaking your head?

RATIBU JACOCKS:Because that's the way.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Oh, I thought you were saying.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, but who's there to, unless somebody go there to help. Because there's nobody there for Dorothy Lee, Sam's wife and his daughter.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So again --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Nobody there.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

WILMER AMINA CARTER: But there's only four or five of them. They didn't have a lot of kids.

RATIBU JACOCKS:But then you got 10 sisters there.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah. But getting them to get out, they have a little circle as their own. They don't hardly associate to the rest of them. They said they don't talk to us. So we don't talk to them.

JACQUELINE CARTER: See, that's why I was trying to --

RATIBU JACOCKS:Are they first cousins?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: But they said they don't talk to them.

JACQUELINE CARTER: They're not close. They're [00:55:00] not close.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: They're not close. They're like a clan among themselves. They're like you and your sisters and brothers. But we don't, they meet together. They have their own thing together.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Immediate family.

RATIBU JACOCKS: When we go there, they invite everybody in one of those yards and they deep fried the fish and they put the, what you call French fries all in the same hot water.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Yeah. We eat all that grease.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: See Doris and Nate.

RATIBU JACOCKS: They're in Michigan, right?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, they're in Michigan. So it's nobody but them. Well, they got a sister, what's her name, Faith.

JACQUELINE CARTER: But they don't --

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Still, they don't --

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Uncle [Rube?] was a Hosley.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Culberson.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Oh, he was a Culberson.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, he was.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Everybody's just scattered out.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Scatter out. So it's just nobody really to sit down and put it back

JACQUELINE CARTER: Together. Well, that's why I came here to just say the importance of when we went to Flint, [00:56:00] and I'll never forget it, we was outdoors the picnic that day. And there was some young people there. I didn't

know them. They were Culbersons and there was about four or five of them. They were cumbersome. They were so excited to just see people that they didn't know.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: That was [Rayshon?]. There was [Connish?]

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Connish, is he the one that's up there now?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Michigan? He in Michigan. What's his name?

RATIBU JACOBS: He's a Polack.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: He's a Polack, right?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah. He's a Polack. And there was somebody else's kids.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: He seems like he was a really good family man.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, there was Rayshon, there was Connish and who else? It was a few more boys there that they had, they were Charlene kids, I think.

JACQUELINE CARTER: And they were younger than [Arlene?].

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Charlene's two boys and Rayshon and Connish. And it was, yeah.

JACQUELINE CARTER: It was a group. And so for me, that's the reunion that I understood. It finally clicked. Now I'm in grieving because Mama had just died. So [00:57:00] it finally clicked that there's a group of us that we don't even know each other that's around the same age because we didn't grow up with them. Now I know all of your names. I know name only, maybe not relationship but names, but it was an entire generation that we didn't know each other.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: It was Ray and Connish and Rayshon.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: That's why I had Shirley come over here. See, Shirley knows all the young ones past me. And so she went through and listed all the kids of these people. We got that whole box all that, where they are. And so at

this point, we pretty much know who they are, where their kids are, even the off kids.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Well, I'm going to do St. Louis. That's why I told her I'll do everybody in St. Louis. That way I can get daddy's sisters and brothers and then get all the kids and their kids. The ones who had children.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And that's what Nate, I mean Doris was supposed to be doing, but then her husband died and

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah, but I'll do ours.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: We just haven't gotten back into it.

RATIBU JACOBS:[00:58:00] How far are you, because you did a lot of work here. Who is your mama? Who is your dad? How many children? I used to hear you asking these questions.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. I was calling these people and getting their kids' name and their birthday and whatever or whatever.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: For right now. But somebody probably had a kid by the time Shirley got through. Because see, I didn't know Swamp had another daughter somewhere down in Atlanta. And so Shirley knows where she

RATIBU JACOBS: So where's that story?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: It's all --

RATIBU JACOBS: To be written.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: It is out there in the shed just waiting to be archived until you get the money to archive it. And then Willie's daughter, Rachel.

RATIBU JACOBS: Who's Willie?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: My brother.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Rachel. In St. Louis. In St. Louis? Culberson?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah.

JACQUELINE CARTER: What's she doing?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: That's what she did. She sent me all of her brothers  
[00:59:00] and sisters because kids --

JACQUELINE CARTER: Kids. Okay, wait a minute. Now, who is Rachel? Who is  
Rachel to Willie Earl? Sister, right?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Sister.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Right. Who's her mama?

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Claudia. Claudia,

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah. Now is she a Young?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah. Right. Young.

JACQUELINE CARTER: That's the young you was talking about.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Yeah.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: You got that new information.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I got it when I was working over here. It's up there. You  
put it with --

JACQUELINE CARTER: She's a Young, that had a baby by a Carter, which is  
my daddy's oldest brother. That's Willie Earl's daddy.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I didn't know Willie Earl's daddy. All I know is that he  
was a Culberson because she married my brother.

JACQUELINE CARTER: And that's a maiden name she took.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah.

JACQUELINE CARTER: See you don't think about maiden names because see, I  
didn't think about, that's another throw off.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Well see I guess back in the day, if you had a baby out  
of wedlock or whatever, you had to put in the mother's name.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Right? But when I think about Culberson for her, for Willie Earl's [01:00:00] mother, I'm thinking of true bloodline Culberson. But she's not.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: No. She's not.

JACQUELINE CARTER: It's not a bloodline. It's a married Culberson. So he's a Carter though. But Willie Earl is a Carter. And see that's what that Carter/Culberson married went together.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Went together. That's what Rachel did for me, is she sent me two or three pages of all her sisters and brothers and their kids.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Because Uncle Willie had a lot of kids.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: He had 12 kids.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So Claudia and [Edibelle?], and Pearl. What are these connections. These sisters?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I don't know none of her sisters. I have to get --

JACQUELINE CARTER: You know Pearl?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: No, I didn't know Pearl. I didn't know nobody but Kitty. They called her Kitty, but her name was Claudia.

JACQUELINE CARTER: So Edibelle and Pearl? Sledges?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: No.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Sledges? I know Pearl Sledge.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Sledge, right? She got a sister named Edibelle. Edibelle [01:01:00] has got some kids by Culberson, Buddy, who's I'm trying to say looks like, yeah. See, I can't connect that. That's a missing piece.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: You got to find that out.

JACQUELINE CARTER: That's a missing piece of me because she's -- they're Culbersons.

RATIBU JACOCKS: But what I wanted to say, the story, The Great Migration. I don't know if you've all read that book, but Isabelle Wilkerson and she talks about people leaving the South, like Mississippi and coming to California and coming to St. Louis. She told the story, but we all fit in the story. We're parts of it. So what's happened at the end of her story is what y'all talking about. Now that you have moved, you have scattered, you didn't maintain the connection like you should from home base. And you had children that didn't know each other from other cousins. And I don't know what can happen, but that's the story. That's the result of the story. If you read that story, it's a good story. [01:02:00] But it doesn't talk about us and y'all talking about us. Now that this story, now that we moved there and we've been in St. Louis to have children 50-something years old. They have children and their children have children. I'm saying St. Louis, but it could be California because in your family you got, was it Aunt Liz? Aunt Liz had children, Aunt Liz' children had children.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Lots of them.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Aunt Liz's children children has children. And I bet you that does another group of generation. Children. Children. Children, children that don't know the first thing out of San Bernardino.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Well we found that out, that's what I was saying, we went to Flint.

RATIBU JACOCKS: That's what I'm saying -- that's the story.

JACQUELINE CARTER: That's when I found out there were five sections. That was when I found there were five clans of Culbersons, that threw me totally off. I had everybody come together.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: And it's probably more than that now [01:03:00] with the kids, kids, kids.



RATIBU JACOCKS:Right. I said five.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: (inaudible) Mama was probably about a seventh generation.

RATIBU JACOCKS:Yeah. From Aunt Liz?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Her kids, kids, kids, kids', kids. Kids', kids like me. I got seven grandkids and seven great grandkids.

RATIBU JACOCKS:Wow. So Aunt Liz is their great, great, great grandmother. Any of them kids got kids from that generation and your family?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah.

RATIBU JACOCKS:They do?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: My son that wrote that book, he got two kids, next son got three kids.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: So the generations can go like that. (snaps fingers)

RATIBU JACOCKS:It's over. The story of the great migration.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

WILMER AMINA CARTER: The thing is didn't write it down, write it down.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible) [01:04:00]

JACQUELINE CARTER: And I know all your sisters and brothers. Isn't that funny?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, but I don't know. You know Uncle [Lawrence's?] kids.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: See, I don't either. Aunt Velma's kids?

WILMER AMINA CARTER: No, but Dorothy does.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, but that's what I'm saying.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Can't get Dorothy to write them down though.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: That's what I'm saying.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I'll ask Daddy. Because Daddy'll know.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: That's what I was just telling her. I don't know Aunt Velma's child. I don't know Uncle Lawrence's child.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Daddy was close to Aunt Velma and Uncle Lawrence. So he would know.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Promise me that you're going to write that down when you get it.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I will. [01:05:00] Because I'll debrief with him because he's been talking about it and we've been -- what he, we and him and I have been doing is holding the photos and he is the person that collects the obituaries. So we've been keeping it like that. So I'll write it down.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: The generations. Then you know whose kids are who.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Do the work from St. Louis.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: I got pretty much got Maddie's kids and Maddie's grandkids because see, I know them. I know Maddie's kids and Maddie's grandkids and the other kids see. So I kind of got them.

RATIBU JACOCKS: It's a lot of them?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, because Maddie had eight kids.

RATIBU JACOCKS: She did?

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Four girls and four boys. And there's only three left. And Greg got kids like, Greg got about 13 kids his self.

RATIBU JACOCKS: All over the place.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: All over the place. And they got kids.

JACQUELINE CARTER: We have a huge family.

RATIBU JACOCKS: The story is over from Great Migration. It's a new story. Once you [01:06:00] finish the --

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RATIBU JACOCKS: It's a new story. It's new. What you are telling about the Culbersons. That's a new story. These people you were talking about.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Then Greg's brother Connish, he got kids.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: (inaudible) have time to take her to see Aunt Annie.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Yeah, I'm going to get ready to go back home too. But anyway, Connish got kids.

RATIBU JACOCKS: I'm turning it off.

JACQUELINE CARTER: It's a large project that has to be done. My brother had a daughter. That lineage stops with my brother's daughter that's 10. So I'm trying to get some stuff so we'll be dead and gone and she'll have it.

RATIBU JACOCKS: You can tell I closed it.

WILMER AMINA CARTER: Oh, I didn't realize it was still on.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Yeah, it's been on.

JACQUELINE CARTER: I thought you said we was through.

RATIBU JACOCKS: I said we were through with the interview.

JACQUELINE CARTER: He tricked us. He tricked us.

RATIBU JACOCKS: That's what I told you I did. I'm a trickster. Turn it off.

JACQUELINE CARTER: Good bye.

RATIBU JACOCKS: Thank you.

SHIRLEY BARRETT: Anyway, they are run up on --

**End of Interview:**

[01:06:53]