

UNION CHURCH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
INTERVIEW WITH JAN HAMILTON  
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**Begin UC-CT-022-002 Side A**

J: The doctor said something about having enough children. So, I said, "Donat, do you understand what she's saying? She's saying you don't need anymore children. Tell Susanne that." He wouldn't tell her.

H: He was the husband?

J: Yes, and he wouldn't tell Susanne

H: And he understood English better than she?

J: And he wouldn't tell her.

H: How do you think the process worked? Was a good thing for them to move on into their various places? Was it good that they got their start here?

J: Yes, I think. Gwynne was talking with Donat and Suzanne just last week or so. They said they like Lexington because there's work and transportation. But, it's not the same as Berea. They loved Berea. More people were in touch with them and involved in their lives, whereas in Lexington, they are more on their own. Although last summer, Gwynne, Kenneth, and I met them in Lexington at Masterson Park and had a picnic. They did singing and the African chants. It was wonderful. Then, Donat does have a church. He's a preacher, he says. He had a church. We took him by the church as we were leaving for Sunday evening service. So, they are involved in a church. But, I don't think it's like it was in Berea. And their children are having a harder time adjusting to school. And they were so precious. Just lovely children. Gwynne did say that they were moving from this condo they had because Donat's father is coming to live with them. But, then, there may be a way that they can have a separate house. It was a wonderful experience, and we'll always keep in touch with them.

H: Was there a family that moved to Eastern Kentucky?

J: Yes, way up there. I haven't been up there, but Gwynne Griffith has. It's up past Pikeville, way out in the boonies. But, they-Obed and Angel-moved there because their church-they went to a church over in Nicholasville or Wilmore-and that person was able to get him a job through this church. Something with water utilities or water engineer something. That's why he went up there.

Getting jobs was the problem. They just hire them for three months or

something and let them go. And then, they didn't have transportation. But, Gwynne said that Donat did get a car, so he can get around a little better in Lexington. But, we really did give them tender, loving care while they were here.

H: Who were other folks in Union Church and the community who were particularly involved?

J: Ellie Workman. Charlene Pullins (?) and Linda Wagers were in the Christian church. There were two other men I don't know. The Catholic church was involved a lot. Pat Hickey and her friend had gone to see the couple-they're from the Catholic church-had gone to see the family in eastern Kentucky, and they've been down to visit them when they've had to come down for events or memorial service. There are several, but there are some that are just more involved than others. Of course, everybody can't be involved in the same thing.

H: Would you do it again? Should the church do it again.

J: Oh, I think so. Yes. It was an undertaking, [wind blows door open] but that door just came open! I had fixed some coffee. Would you like some? Do you take it black?

H: Will you tell me about being baptized now?

J: I was twelve, had gone through the series of lessons with the other group of young people-confirmation class. I remember Tommy Ambrose was in that class.

H: Do you remember...

J: No, I can't remember anybody else in that class, but I remember him.

H: You were how old?

J: I was about twelve, and he was about thirteen or fourteen. And I remember being baptized in the church.

H: In the church?

J: In the baptistry, uh-huh. I felt very good about it and all. But, we had to go to class for about four or five sessions.

H: Do you remember anything about that class? The teacher? The preacher?

J: No. I can remember the room. It was in where the Bible study class meets now. That was the pastor's study at one time. I can't remember who that pastor was.

H: Do you remember any other...Was the baptistry used often?

J: Yes, quite a lot. I don't whether it leaked or whatever. They just never did use it anymore.

H: I just wondered if it was a matter of convenience or if there was a leak, such as if it leaked, somebody just said, well, we can't fix it now, we'll do without it. Is there anybody worried that we don't baptize

J: or do immersion there anymore, I don't know, I don't know about that! But that was an important part of my life. Union Church has always been. I

said to Kent, of course, I don't ever have to worry about it, but I said to Kent, if I move to another town, where in the world will I go? To what church? He said that I probably would like United Church of Christ. He uses a lot of their lectionary materials and things. Probably writes some of it, too. I'm sorry I can't remember more things.

H: You will!

J: Yes, I know. I started to write it down to help me, but....

**End UC-CT-022-002 Side A**