

# MARY LARAMORE SMITH:

## Her Story

*On July 24, 1996, Broward County Historian Helen Landers, along with Barbara Poleo and Rodney Dillon of the Broward County Historical Commission staff, conducted an oral history interview with Mary Laramore Smith, Fort Lauderdale pioneer, community leader, teacher, Broward County Historical Commissioner, and founder and long-time president of the Black Historical Society of Broward County. The topics discussed ranged from Mrs. Smith's personal and family background and extensive community service to the history of Fort Lauderdale's northwest section and the struggle for civil rights in Broward County.*

*Mary Smith passed away November 19, 1996, less than four months after this interview was completed. This annotated and edited transcript captures her recollections of a lifetime of dedication and service, as someone who helped make, as well as document and preserve, Broward County's history.*

**HL:** Let's go back in time to when you were a little girl. Why don't you begin by telling us about where you were born and what your parents told you about your earliest years, and maybe something about your mother and father.

**MS:** I should start out with I'm Mary Laramore Smith. I was born in Fort Lauderdale August 21, 1935, on Second Street, delivered by a Bahamian midwife who delivered most of the babies in Broward County before we had Dr. Sistrunk.<sup>1</sup>

Later my family moved on Andrews Avenue, where we were the only black family. We lived right across the street from the Richardson Golf Course, on the Charles Henderson property. They had one daughter, Mila Henderson. Later, her [Mrs. Henderson's] brother came, and he and his wife, Sybil, built a home on the property. We were one big family. Although it was segregated, we didn't know the difference! I think, as children, we got along well, and although we went our separate ways to our different schools and our dif-

ferent churches, we had to obey our parents and live as one family. I recall one time we learned the words that we shouldn't have learned and we called each other the names that we shouldn't have. Our parents whipped all of us, and we had to go back and play and forgive each other.

**HL:** Did you have big Sunday dinners at your house?

**MS:** Mama [Bernice (Major) Laramore] always cooked a big meal on Sundays. You know, it was different during those days. People have chicken every day now, and, you know, you have your sweets. We didn't do that. She would bake on Sundays, then have your Sunday dinner, and you'd have that for the week. You know, what's left over. During the week, she boiled beans and stuff like that. We were on the farm where we got all the fresh vegetables we wanted because my daddy was the farmer there.

You see, the Hendersons had a big chicken farm and they sold the eggs. So Mila's job — his daughter's job — and mine was to inspect the eggs. We put them through the machine, and



*Mary Laramore Smith (courtesy of Vincent Smith).*

if we saw a spot then we put that in a basket.<sup>2</sup>

**HL: How old were you when you were doing that?**

MS: We were about eight and nine, ten years old. That was our job. He'd sell those white legged chickens and those . . . what do they call those other chickens?

**HL: The little tiny chickens? The fryers?**

MS: And we had goats. Then he sold goat milk, goat meat, so it was really nice. We learned how to make cottage cheese, though I've forgotten now, but we made it. Mila and I would put it in little bottles and roll it, and then

we got cottage cheese and butter and stuff.

And we stayed there until I was about thirteen years old, when we moved into our permanent home on Eighth Avenue — 417 Northwest Eighth Avenue.<sup>3</sup> We had trying times. First of all, we weren't used to playing with a lot of black children. They called us "Nassaus," and that created another problem, because at that time Fort Lauderdale's black area was predominantly people from west Florida and Georgia. Our way of life, our Bahamian culture, was quite different. Most of the people who came from the islands lived within their culture and had certain rules and

regulations. They were very strict people, more so than people from the other parts of Florida and Georgia.

**HL: Mary, was part of the Bahamian culture the Episcopalian church?**

MS: Most of the Bahamians who came here were from the Church of England, and this is where we got our roots. When they came here, there were no black Anglican churches, and so these men got together, and Mr. Bain gave the land and they had a single frame house on it that [in 1916] they made into a church, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church.<sup>4</sup> Then, later on [in 1926], my father [David Nathaniel Laramore] made all the bricks for the present church now that we have on [Northwest] Fourth Street and Sixth Avenue.

He had a single-brick machine, and he mixed the mortar and put it in the machine, and it sat for a time. Then he'd take them out and set them out till they dried.

**HL: What color were they?**

MS: Just gray. And he also made the bricks for St. Ann's Church in Hallandale.

**HL: When you were living on Northwest Eighth Avenue did you go to school?**

MS: Oh yes, I went to Dillard High School on Fourth Street. They called it Dillard High School, but it was first grade on up through twelfth grade.

**HL: Who were your teachers? Do you remember them?**

MS: Yes, my first grade teacher was Miss [Adel R.] Lovett, my second grade teacher was Miss [Merle] Curry, my third grade teacher was Mrs. [Edna J.] Wade, my fourth grade teacher was Mrs. Evelyn Roach, and my fifth grade teacher was Mrs. Bessie Mingo. Oh yes, she beat us to death about our times tables!

**HL: When you were in the seventh grade, did you have more than one teacher?**

MS: Oh yes, we started changing classes.

**HL: Who were some of the principals of the school?**

MS: When I first started it was Mr.



*The Old Dillard School, 1001 Northwest Fourth Street, Fort Lauderdale, 1942.*

Walker.<sup>5</sup> Then Mr. Moseley came after Mr. Walker died (in 1942), and he was the principal there until I finished high school.<sup>6</sup>

**HL:** When you were in high school, besides studying and taking the regular curriculum, were you involved in any plays or any clubs?

**MS:** Well, I wasn't involved in too many extracurricular activities because our parents were strict and they believed in you being home and not being involved in all kinds of things. But at one time, when I got up in maybe tenth grade, I started working for the Hunt family. James Stone Hunt — you know the school is named after Mr. Hunt, who was the developer of Coral Ridge Properties. I worked for his son, James Hunt, Jr. The little police officer that died — that was my baby, Rocky, that they killed in Deerfield.<sup>7</sup> I looked after the children, cleaned the house, and cooked the dinner. I started working with them in Coral Ridge. Then they moved to another subdivision.

**RD:** Mary, please tell us about an event from this period that made a big impression on you.

**MS:** The leak at People's gas plant.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Hunt brought me home, and it was late, ten o'clock. He'd always see



*Clarence C. Walker*

me get in the house, so when I got in and he had pulled off and gone back home, there was not a soul in the house. My aunt lived two houses from us, and I went to her house. She wasn't at home, and I couldn't see one person in the street. So then I got very upset, and I called back to the Hunts. I said, "There's no one here, and there's no one next door, and there's no one nowhere." Mr. Hunt said, "Well you stay in the house and

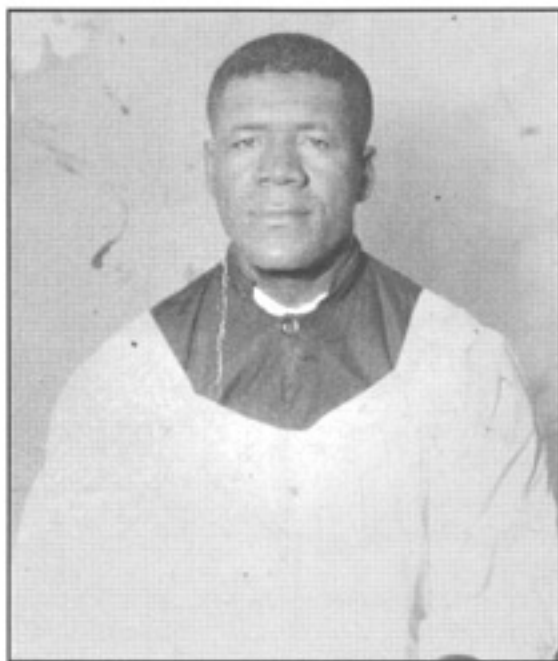


*S. Meredith Moseley*

then call back later."

So it was real late. I think Daddy came back, and I was just crying. Mama said, "Well, we didn't think about you!" Oh Lord, I had to laugh. She said, "We were getting out of here." People went as far as West Palm Beach [to get away] from the gas leak. It was right in the heart of the northwest section.

I don't remember when it happened. The People's Gas people knew



*Above are Mary Smith's parents, David N. and Bernice Laramore. At right Mary Smith prepares dinner at a family gathering (photos courtesy of Vincent Smith).*



it happened. It was all in the paper. I was a big girl — I don't know whether I was in college. I think it was during the summer.

**HL:** Do you think that other areas of Fort Lauderdale evacuated?

**MS:** No, it was in the heart of our community. Everybody in that area got out from there, and it got to other

parts of the northwest section. People left. They picked their children up and went out of town.

**HL:** Mary, where did you learn to cook? Did your mother teach you?

**MS:** I forced her to teach me to cook! I wanted to cook so bad, and at first they didn't want me to. So when they went off I cooked, but I forgot to put

the salt in it. My mother, being an excellent cook, seasoned it up and you couldn't tell that I hadn't put any salt in the pot.

**HL:** Tell us how you became such a good cake baker.

**MS:** Well, I watched her, and then she started making me do it, after I got married. The only thing I didn't learn how to do was make fresh



bread, and she did. You could smell her bread, and I mean it. People came from miles and miles just to eat her bread.

**HL:** Mary, tell us about where your mother and father came from.

**MS:** My mother was born in Fort Lauderdale in 1914. Her family was from Long Island in the Bahamas. Her parents — her mother's people, and I think Grandfather's people — were from Nassau. My father came from Cat Island in the Bahamas.

**BP:** Do you know why your father came from the Bahamas? Did he come to farm?

**MS:** No, he came to be a minister, a priest. But they didn't have a seminary for black people at that time, the turn of the century really, and so he never did achieve that. Well, he did in his later life. He became a perpetual deacon, which means that you'll be a deacon forever. And then you would not aspire to be a preacher.

His first family was killed in the '28 storm. He only talked about it once, because somebody had confused me as to saying that my mother was not really my mother. But she was. That happened way before I was born, and the person just didn't understand. And so I went home and I told her, "They told me that you're not my mother." She did not say anything until Daddy came home. And he called us in, and that was the first and last he ever spoke about it. But other people told us about his first family. He almost lost his life, too. They took him back to the islands to recuperate and gain his strength, because he was up in a tree.

He said [that] when the baby slipped from his wife's arms, then she gave up. His father-in-law, mother-in-law, all of them [drowned].

They were on the lake — Lake Okeechobee. They dug trenches to bury those bodies.

**RD:** Didn't you tell me that when you were a child you used to go over to the lake, to Chosen?

**MS:** Chosen, Florida, yeah. We went over there to pick beans, but my daddy never returned. He never went back, and he never talked about

it. We went over with Mama. Sometimes we stayed a month and would leave Mama and come back to Fort Lauderdale to Daddy and my aunt.

**HL:** I can see your mother did a lot of different things.

**MS:** Yeah, she picked beans and stuff like that. She worked on the farm, and then she did maid work. She later was a cook at the school. She worked for a lot of different people. Then she worked at some of the big restaurants here.

**HL:** Did you know about the custom of white people bringing their maids to south Florida?

**MS:** Oh yes, they'd bring them down and they worked over there [eastern Fort Lauderdale], and on Thursdays they'd come over here with their friends. They had big suppers, because I was invited to a lot of their dinners where they really put on the dog, as people would say.

**BP:** They were social occasions.

**MS:** Honey, those people'd dress! You'd think they were not maids. You wouldn't know the difference. And

they'd come, I mean the meals they'd fix!

**HL:** I would also think that many of the women that were maids were probably well educated and did this as an occupation because it was the one that was open to them.

**MS:** Oh yes, because Vincent, my husband, would go up to Michigan. We'd go all the way up to Grayling. They had no black people there. He was the only black man there. During that time we would stay from June until October, and I would come back in August because school would open and I was teaching at that time.

**HL:** What would Vincent be doing?

**MS:** Oh, he'd cook, clean, drive. Then on Sundays he had off up there, but down here he had Thursdays off. And then we would go to Charlevoix, where all the blacks would meet at a restaurant — they had a special restaurant — on Sunday afternoon. And I mean they put on the dog there again. So they cooked and danced and had fun.



*Mary Smith's brothers and sisters. Above are (left to right): James, Achmed, Vangie, George, and "Pops." At right are James and Shirley (photos courtesy of Vincent Smith).*





*Mary McLeod Bethune*

**HL:** Were you an only child?

**MS:** No, there were eleven of us. I was number two.

**HL:** So, who was born first?

**MS:** My brother, but he doesn't know it! He thinks I'm the oldest still! He did that so he could get out of doing anything!

**HL:** Where does he live, Mary?

**MS:** Miami. I have four other brothers, five living brothers. Two sisters died. It was six girls and five boys.

**HL:** Did they all go to school at Dillard too?

**MS:** Oh yes, all of them went there. When I went, in the elementary grades, you know they cut the school out to go harvest the crops. But in high school we didn't. That was passed when Mr. Walker died that night.<sup>9</sup>

**HL:** And so then you had nine regular months of school.

**MS:** Right.

**HL:** When you graduated from high school, what did you decide to do?

**MS:** Go to college. I was accepted right away at Bethune-Cookman and I went. I got two scholarships, one from the Methodist Church — I think through Mrs. Holley and Mrs. Moyer — and one from the All Saints Episcopal Church.<sup>10</sup> I think All Saints gave two hundred dollars a month, and I forgot how much the Methodist Church gave, but they gave monthly tithe. They sent it to the school, and then my mother put in



*Mary and Vincent Smith, with daughter Geseta (courtesy of Vincent Smith).*

the rest. When I went to Bethune-Cookman, my class was the largest number to ever attend. There were six hundred of us, I think.

**HL:** Do you remember what year you entered?

**MS:** 1953. I came out in '57, with a degree in elementary education.

**HL:** Tell us about when Mary McLeod Bethune died.<sup>11</sup>

**MS:** Well, I was supposed to be at a prayer meeting. I don't know what happened to me that night, [but] I couldn't get it together. Then, when I decided to go, before I could cross the street, the ambulance was coming real fast. So I just followed the ambulance to her house, but she was dead already. And then I got into [the] prayer meeting and everybody ran out. That prayer meeting was already over then.

**HL:** So they stayed in the yard?

**MS:** We got ourselves settled, you know, and the president talked to us. Because she [Mary Bethune] was one outstanding woman. I loved when she came to our Sunday programs; she was just a delight. And during the holidays or her birthday we'd go under her window in the morning and

sing to her. She was someone great to know and to cherish.

**HL:** You had your degree in elementary education. How did you get your first job?

**MS:** My first job was a gift from Broward County, and it was brought up to Daytona [by] Dr. Bass and Mr. Roach.<sup>12</sup> Mr. Roach hired me right away, but when my assistant supervisor came she said, "Since you all like Mary so well and she's done such a fine job, why don't you hire her?" I wasn't supposed to be listening, but I heard her. Mr. Roach said, "That's my child, and I'm going to do whatever I want." So I never filled out an application really. They did all of that, everything, all the work.

**HL:** And what was your first school then?

**MS:** Walker Elementary, and I taught there until 1970. The reason for that was integration came in. They integrated the faculty members in 1970 — not the student body, but the faculty. Then I went out to Plantation Park, and I told the principal there, Mr. Joseph Hodges, I was not going around looking for no other school. I said, "I don't know what sent me here, but I'm here." And I said, "When I

come back I want a fourth grade classroom." He said, "Now, Mrs. Smith . . ." And I said, "I am just telling you what I want, and I'm not going to be interviewed," and that was it. And so I was teacher of the year at that school. None of the parents wanted me to leave there, but I came back to Walker after I taught out there about nineteen years.

**HL: So all together how many years did you teach?**

MS: Thirty-seven.

**HL: Don't you think that was enough, Mary?**

MS: Too much!

**HL: How did you meet Vincent?**

MS: Well, I meet him at a drugstore, Sixth Street pharmacy. But he knew all about me, because he asked people about me.

**HL: And how old were you when you met?**

MS: About twenty. I was still in college. I was out of Bethune-Cookman, and I went to Kent State. I started on my master's [degree]. At the drugstore I thought he was out of order! He kept talking and talking, and I said, "I don't talk to strangers." And he said, "I know all about you." I think one word led to another, and before I knew it, I had slapped him! He just looked.

**HL: And what happened next?**

MS: I left. My girlfriend and I that was eating — she was my cousin — she wanted to talk, and I said, "Come on, let's go." And we left, and he followed, walked behind us. Then he got in his car and he was driving and said, "Come on, I'll give you all a ride." And I said, "I'm not riding with strangers."

**HL: So when did Vincent stop being a stranger so that you could go with him somewhere?**

MS: Oh, he just was so persistent. He never gave up, honey. He talked to Mama. I heard Mama say, "Mary is my child, but I don't understand her." Finally we had a date. We went nowhere.

**HL: He just came to see you?**

MS: Uh huh, then he left. Then he

came back again and we went to the movies.

**HL: And how long was it before you got married?**

MS: Well, then we quit seeing each other because I got mad at him. I don't know why. And then he fixed me—he got a girlfriend near me, and that made me mad. So then we started back dating again. And then we got married. He was thirty-four and I was twenty-four.

**HL: You're ten years younger than he is. What's his background, Mary?**

MS: He's Jamaican.

**HL: So how did you get along in this cross culture?**

MS: Only God knows, because they gave my marriage how many months? Three months. They said Bahamians' and Jamaicans' backgrounds are so different.

**HL: What would be the thing that would pull the two backgrounds in different ways?**

MS: I do not know. I'll be honest with you. It's in people's minds, 'cause if you understand each other and love each other, that shouldn't...you know. They say "rice and peas;" we say "peas and rice," and so what's the difference? We call it peas and rice because we have more peas than they do in their pot. And they call

their's rice and peas, so what's the difference? So I just don't say it. I just say I'm cooking some peas and rice together!

He never insisted that I cook goat and all that, and I never cooked it. So we got along fine.

**HL: How many years have you been married?**

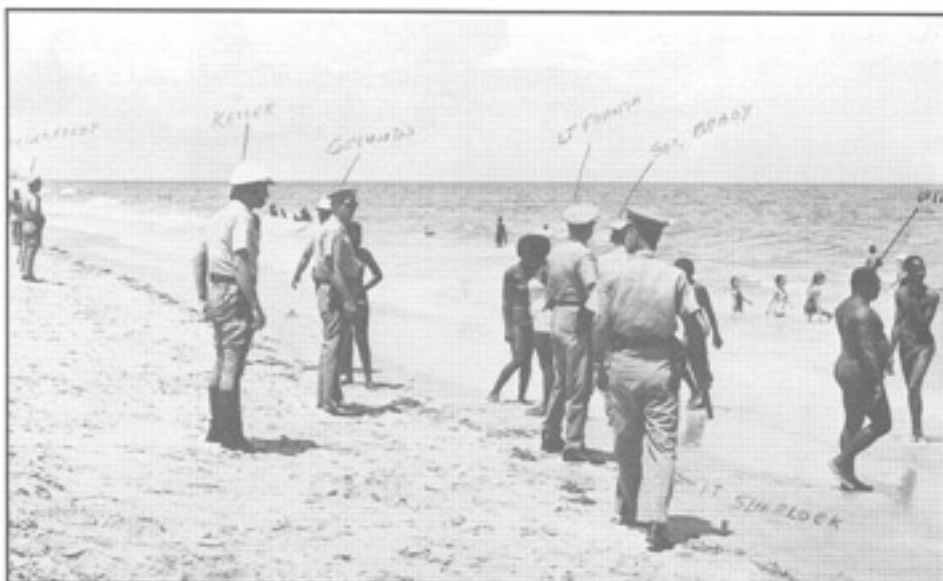
MS: How many years? He says thirty-seven, because he says we're in the thirty-seventh year, so just say thirty-seven. Don't be telling people thirty-six!

**BP: When is your anniversary?**

MS: June 11.

**BP: Now you mentioned Vincent working for people, both in Florida and in Michigan. Do you remember who he worked for? Did they live in Fort Lauderdale?**

MS: No, no. He worked on Golden Beach, one of the richest areas, a private area, you know. First he worked for the Skillmans. If you live on the ocean side you're full of money, and they lived on the ocean side. Mr. Skillman was a founder of ballbearings. His wife was from that Johnny Walker Red liquor family. She was Irene Walker. Vince's friends told him about them. They were looking for a driver and somebody to be their house person, and so the friend took him down there and he got a job.



*Police remove protesters from Fort Lauderdale beach, 1961.*

**BP:** I have some general questions about things that were going on in Fort Lauderdale. Do you remember when the beaches were desegregated, Mary, or do you remember going to the beach before that?

**MS:** Well, I did not go to the beach period, but I remember Miss Eula Johnson, who hardly gets any credit, and Dr. Mizell.<sup>13</sup> Miss Eula Johnson really went through hell, but she stood up and then we got that Dania beach. They gave us a beach. Now you got to pay to go in there and everybody is in there.<sup>14</sup>

**BP:** What about shopping and movies?

**MS:** Well, we had the Victory Theater on [Northwest] Fifth Avenue, and then Dr. [Richard L.] Brown had a drive-in way out there on Twenty-seventh Avenue. Fifth Avenue, Sixth Street, Fourth Street, were our main streets. Fifth Avenue was your beauty places, your clothing, shoes, and your drugstore. Coming down Fourth Street, you had your food stores. Fifth Avenue had your clubs, funeral homes, churches. Fourth Street had your churches too, major churches, then your grocery stores, filling stations.

**HL:** When Burdines first came to Fort Lauderdale about 1950, did the black community begin to shop there?

**MS:** Well, some went in Burdines, but we couldn't try on anything.

**HL:** You had to just buy it. But would they let you bring it back?

**MS:** Well, I don't know about that, because I never was in there [laughing]. I know they were going to try and arrest two of our teachers—said they were stealing—and they pulled up and they had to turn them loose because it wasn't true. The woman just put on the hat, she wasn't stealing it.

**BP:** Talking about the police, you once told me something about Sheriff Walter Clark.<sup>15</sup> He used to give barbecues.

**MS:** When it was time for elections, they had fish fries and barbecues on

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*Advertisements from the July 28, 1939 issue of the Fort Lauderdale Colored Bulletin document a variety of businesses in the northwest community.*

Fifth Avenue, but I never went to them.

**BP:** Do you think a lot of people voted for Walter?

**MS:** Oh yes, they voted for him. I guess he helped do a lot of favors for

them, I don't know. Because he was in office for years.

**BP:** Do you remember the first blacks to be elected to the city government or the county government?



MS: Nathaniel Wilkerson. I know he ran for something.<sup>16</sup>

BP: Did you know Robert McCullough? He was supposed to have been the first black resident of what is today Broward County. He came with Frank Stranahan in the 1890s. He used to live behind the old ice house.<sup>17</sup>

MS: That's on [Northwest] Third [Avenue]. 'Cause up in there Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Lovett, all of them lived there.<sup>18</sup> I don't know which house he could have lived in.

BP: He was single and evidently never married.

MS: Well, he must have lived with somebody over there. Because there was Miss Sylvia, and coming down, Mrs. Hill[s], and on the other side Robinsons, Mrs. Lovett.<sup>19</sup> He might have lived with Mercy Lee Mims and them, because they had rooming houses that people lived in, single.

HL: A lot of the property in the black community was owned by...

MS: Bahamians.

HL: Yes, and also white people. For instance, the Dyes and the Byrds owned a lot of property there.

MS: Oh yes, and Mr. Snyder. He had a lot of shacks over there.<sup>20</sup>

HL: I knew this boy when he was in high school — Bob Byrd — he collected for his grandfather, Mr. Dye, and his job was to go over there every Friday night and collect from those small tenement houses.<sup>21</sup>

How do you feel about the things that you wanted to accomplish in your life, Mary? And please tell us a little bit about your accomplishments.

MS: I feel good, I really do, for many things. I feel good about the church and the things that I have accomplished. I've felt that I've done well with the Episcopal churchwomen in that they have [developed] guides. My biggest project with them was to get an Episcopal Church handbook, because they had no direction from



*Looking west on Northwest Sixth Street at Ninth Avenue, 1966. Note the 6th Street Pharmacy, where Vincent and Mary Smith first met, on the left.*

1962 to the '90s. That's when we were "South Florida." Now there are eighty-four churches, and we are "Southeast Florida." People did not have any direction, [as to] what they were doing and how to do it. So when my term ended this year I compiled an eight-color coordinated book of everything women should know in the Episcopal Church.

HL: Mary, the Episcopalian Church is well integrated today, wouldn't you say?

MS: Yes it is, but they have very few black leaders. I'm the third woman to serve, the third black person to serve as Episcopal president of eighty-four churches in southeast Florida. I was not just a president, we worked. We developed a scholarship for the next two years that has helped students. This is the first time the bishop has really recognized a president. I'm the first president to get a standing ovation from the executive board, and then they bought a brick for me this May down there [on Riverwalk in Fort Lauderdale], and they gave me a plaque. The bishop gave me a special award — I get my cross for life anyway — but the day before he gave me a special cross with angels. And I paved the way for the new president. The

women were really getting on terrible and they were breaking off, but I brought them together. Now that was one of the things that I wanted to do, to bring the women back together to do what they should do, and that's the work of the Lord.

HL: Now, besides the church, you have great accomplishments within the whole community of Broward County. What would you think would be your greatest accomplishment?

MS: Well, getting that Walker building on the historic record, I think that was one of the greatest.<sup>22</sup> When we flew to Tallahassee they [the Florida Department of State] had two agendas, one with us on and one with us off. When I brought it to their attention, they quickly snatched that and gave us the one with us on.

HL: Who would you say were the ones that worked the hardest on that project?

MS: I would say Ed Leuchs [senior planner with the Broward County Planning Council]. That man and I met every Wednesday, the two of us together. We wrote it up, and he would take oral history from me. I think Ben Williams would be the second person. Cato Roach falls in third,

Johnnie Barnes fourth. Those are the people that counted.

I am sad at the Old Dillard, I really am. I am sad that what we wrote up was not carried out, and that's to get the history of Broward County. [For example] we had radiators in that old building; we didn't have no coal-burning stove. I never remember, even as a child, burning any coal.

Our anthropologist was Gloria Marshall — she is known as Niara Sudarkasa — from Lincoln University.<sup>23</sup> She came and spent a half a day with me this June, and we talked about it and she too is disappointed.

**HL:** Did Gloria grow up in Fort

Lauderdale?

**MS:** Yes, she was my next door neighbor. Her grandparents raised her. We called them Aunt Fina and Uncle Ben.

**HL:** How about the organization of the Black Historical Society? How did that come about?

**MS:** That came about [in 1974] with [Broward County Historian] Cooper Kirk visiting me at Plantation Park. He'd tried to get someone else to organize it, and then he asked me, and I did. And we started from there. We've recognized nine [black pioneers] each year [at Broward County Pioneer Days].

**HL:** How do you feel about the change in the segregation issue among the schools, Mary? Do you think that this is going to work in the long run? Do you want to go on record as saying something?

**MS:** I don't want to go on record as saying nothing! But I feel that they really need to train both races, and I think the children are being short-changed in many instances. They need to go back to the table and look at these things realistically, because in the end both races will be hurt.

**HL:** That's a good statement to end a good interview. Thank you.

## NOTES

1. Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk, pioneer black physician, arrived in Fort Lauderdale from Dunnellon in 1922. At the time he was the county's only black doctor. During his long career in Broward County, he is believed to have delivered over 5,000 babies.
2. Apparently a light apparatus with which to detect and separate fertilized eggs.
3. Mary Smith's parents, David N. and Bernice A. Laramore, lived out their lives at the "homeplace" at 417 Northwest Eighth Avenue.
4. "Mr. Bain" was apparently Fred Bain, a Bahamian immigrant who came to the United States in 1910, and is listed, with his wife Maude and family in the 1918 City Directory and 1920 census in Fort Lauderdale.
5. Educator Clarence C. Walker served as principal of the Dillard School from 1937 until his death in 1942. He worked to enlarge the curriculum and improve teacher qualifications. He also fought for a standard nine-month school year, rather than the seven-month term which allowed black children to work in the fields. After the new Dillard High School opened in 1954, the old building was renamed Walker Elementary School in his honor.
6. Principal of Dillard High School from 1942 until his death in 1969, S. Meredith Moseley continued Clarence Walker's efforts to establish a nine-month term for black schools and to enlarge the school's curriculum. Under his leadership, the new Dillard High School was constructed, beginning in 1952.
7. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant James Stone "Rocky" Hunt was killed in the line of duty at Lantana on February 25, 1993.
8. The People's Water & Gas Company plant was located at 320 Northwest Seventh Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.
9. Clarence Walker died suddenly from a heart attack early on the morning of July 8, 1942, hours after arguing unsuccessfully before the school board for a nine-month school year for his students. The school board policy was overturned by a 1946 federal court decision, *Clarence C. Walker Civic League et al. v. Board of Public Instruction for Broward County, Fla., et al.*
10. Dr. Susie C. Holley was a longtime church, educational, and community leader in Fort Lauderdale.
11. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder and former president of Bethune Cookman College, died May 18, 1955.
12. Dr. James Lynnwood Bass was Broward County's only black dentist when he arrived in 1938. During his long career in Fort Lauderdale, he was involved in many health, educational and community activities. Educator Cato Roach, Jr. came to Fort Lauderdale to teach at Dillard High School in 1946. He served as assistant principal of the school before becoming principal of Walker Elementary School, a position he held from 1954 to 1965.
13. Eula Johnson, a Fort Lauderdale resident since 1935, became president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1959. Dr. Von D. Mizell, member of one of Broward County's earliest pioneer families, established Provident Hospital with Dr. James F. Sistrunk in 1938, and helped form the Fort Lauderdale NAACP chapter in 1945. Both Mrs. Johnson and Dr. Mizell were leaders of the civil rights movement in Broward County.
14. A strip of land at the northern boundary of Fort Lauderdale was designated as the city's Negro beach in 1927. Sale of the property to Coral Ridge Properties for development of the Galt Ocean Mile in 1953 prompted calls for a new beach from both black leaders as well as whites wishing to keep the beaches segregated. An undeveloped tract of land south of Port Everglades was proposed by Broward County for use as a black beach, but no access across the Intracoastal Waterway was provided. A "wade-in" led by Dr. Von Mizell and Eula Johnson at Fort Lauderdale beach in 1961 encouraged the establishment of ferry service from Port Everglades to the black beach in the early 1960s and the completion of Dania Beach Boulevard to the beach in 1964 and eventually led to the desegregation of Fort Lauderdale beach. The Dania site became John U. Lloyd State Park in 1970.
15. Walter Clark served as Sheriff of Broward County from 1933 to 1951.
16. Nathaniel Wilkerson, Jr. ran for Fort Lauderdale City Commission in 1956.
17. Robert McCullough died in November 1937, and his obituary appeared in the *Fort Lauderdale Daily News* November 27, 1937.
18. William T. and Eliza Robinson, Annie Hills, and Eleazar and Adel Lovett are shown living in the 200 and 300 blocks of Northwest Third Avenue, behind the City Ice plant, in Fort Lauderdale city directories for the 1940s and early 1950s.
19. "Miss Sylvia" is Sylvia Alridge, pioneer black businesswoman and community leader, who lived at 301 Northwest Second Street.
20. Byron F. Snyder, pioneer Fort Lauderdale road and cemetery builder.
21. Robert E. Dye was a long-time Fort Lauderdale real estate man with offices in the Bryan Arcade in the 1930s and 1940s.
22. The Old Dillard School building, which was also formerly Walker Elementary School, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.
23. Dillard High School graduate Gloria Marshall, known professionally as Niara Sudarkasa, conducted groundbreaking anthropological studies in Nigeria and Ghana in the 1960s and 1970s, later serving as president of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.