



City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria

Alexandria Legacies

Oral History Program



Project Name: *Alexandria Legacies*

Title: *Interview with Kathryn Collins.*
Len Collins, Ms. Collins's son, also participated in the interview.

Date of Interview: *July 25, 2012*

Location of Interview: *Ms. Collins's home in Alexandria, VA*

Interviewer: *Barbara Murray*

Transcriber: *Barbara Murray*

Abstract: Kathryn Collins moved to Alexandria from Massachusetts in the early 1940s with her husband and young son when her husband got a job with Pennsylvania Central Airlines. She reminisces about: life in Alexandria neighborhoods --Del Ray, Dominion Gardens, and ParkFairfax -- where the family lived through the 1950s; her education in Pharmacy in the 1930s, when it was rare for a woman to choose that field; her volunteer work in Alexandria schools and at Alexandria Hospital when it was on Duke Street; and her other employment.

Ms. Collins's son, Len Collins, who was present for this interview, has also been interviewed by Alexandria Archaeology.

This transcript has been edited by Len Collins in September, 2012 and may not reflect the audio/digital recording exactly.

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Introductions	
Barbara Murray:	My name is Barbara Murray and I'm with Alexandria Archaeology and I'm here on July 25, 2012. I'm here at the home of Kathryn Collins to interview her for the Oral History program. And her son, Len Collins, is also here with us. And can I ask you first, Ms. Collins, if I have your permission to record this interview?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, you do.
B.M.:	And Mr. Collins?
Len Collins:	Yes.
Move to Virginia in 1940s	
B.M.:	With that, we will proceed. So, I understand that you first moved to Virginia when your husband got a job on the Pennsylvania Central Airlines?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes.
B.M.:	That was in 1942?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. January 1942.
B.M.:	And the Pennsylvania Central Airlines, I read, had just moved its base to National Airport the previous year. Would that have had anything to do with this decision, or do you know?
Kathryn Collins:	No. Simply looking for a better job, that's why we made the change.
B.M.:	Was there a reason prompting looking in Virginia or the DC area?
Kathryn Collins:	No. At the time we had been married about two—about four years. And our son was born in 1940. And so my husband applied with the, with the airline for a better job, which is why we moved to Virginia.
B.M.:	So, your son was a toddler when you moved here.
Kathryn Collins:	He was two. Well, he was two in January and that's when we moved. 1942.
B.M.:	And how did you feel about this move?
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, we were excited and pleased, and it was a far better job with a good prospect for the future.
B.M.:	Excellent. And did you notice anything different about living in Virginia, than when you lived in Massachusetts?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, I was born in Massachusetts and grew up there. And, well, yes. It was a big move, and an important one for us because of the better prospects. And my husband remained with the airlines until he died.
B.M.:	Interesting.
Move to Del Ray in 1940s	
B.M.:	And how about Del Ray? When did you move to Del Ray? What years?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, that was our first house. It was Randolph Avenue in Del Ray. And we had a New England style house in that there were four bedrooms, and a sleeping porch, and a big rambling house for the three of us. And we lived there for—I think—at least 8 or 9 years.
B.M.:	So, was, I'm sorry, nineteen forty —?
Kathryn Collins:	Nineteen forty—.
B.M.:	Nineteen forty—?
Kathryn Collins:	Around--no, it was 1942.

Len Collins:	Till about 19—.
B.M.:	1942 you moved to Del Ray.
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, and we lived there ...I don't remember how many years, but it was ...
B.M.:	Early 50s, something like that? Early 50s, late forties or early 50s, something like that?
Len Collins:	I think we moved to Dominion Gardens in 1950.
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. Mm-hmm.
B.M.:	I was just going to try to find that on the map, if we could.
Kathryn Collins:	That would be about right, because my son started school from where we lived, at that time.
B.M.:	He started while you were still in Del Ray.
Len Collins:	No. Oh no.
Kathryn Collins:	Yes—no, he start—around four years after—well anyway, I guess when he was six.
Len Collins: :	I started at the original Mt. Vernon Elementary in September 1946.
B.M.:	I'm looking at a map here, and so I see Randolph Avenue; today, it runs from Mount Vernon, and then it makes a turn, and it goes all the way down to, almost to Route 1. Is that...Do you remember...? I know you probably can't see this. You probably can't see this.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, I know. The area where we lived—it was directly, it was Randolph Avenue on the corner of DeWitt.
B.M.:	Oh, yes. I can see that exactly on the map.
Kathryn Collins:	And the school was...
Len Collins:	Oh, yeah.
B.M.:	Very close to the school.
Kathryn Collins:	Not far from the school.
B.M.:	And now there's a small park there too, over--
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Del Ray Home and Neighbors	
B.M.:	So, this was—was this a new house that you moved into, or was it--
Kathryn Collins:	No, no, it was a big rambling house, 120 Randolph Avenue... And it was one in from the corner. On DeWitt, there was a house on the corner owned by the man who owned my house, so there were two. What was the name? Mister...
Len Collins:	Denburger.
Kathryn Collins:	No, that was the man on the other side.
Len Collins:	...other side.
Kathryn Collins:	He had a granddaughter, Mary Ellen. Mr. ...I think...(laughter) I haven't thought of his name in years, but his house was on the corner, and then ours was the second house. I know I have several pictures...Weinburger was the one on the other side and ...
Len Collins:	Weinburger? Not Mr. Weinburger...
Kathryn Collins:	I think his name will come to me. I haven't thought of him in years.
B.M.:	But it was an older house? I'm asking the question because I know Del Ray was built over, you know, a period of time and there were some that were

	added after the war but many were built much earlier than that, so I wonder if you remembered.
Kathryn Collins:	It was one house in from the corner, and as I said, the landlord lived next door. And it was a big square house, and later on it was stuccoed. It was not, at the time we moved in, but as the years went by, it was stuccoed.
B.M.:	When you lived there was it frame, or...
Kathryn Collins:	It was not stucco. Just a plain house. And it was a big square house, with four bedrooms, and sleeping porch, and quite a good sized yard, back yard.
B.M.:	How big would you say? Like...
Kathryn Collins:	Well, it had four bedrooms upstairs, so it was a pretty big...
B.M.:	For the yard, though.
Len Collins:	(Our yard was about the size of a house lot.)
Kathryn Collins:	And there was a good sized back yard and I think it went down to another street. And the whole lot, it was this... That Don Burger's in my mind...oh! Jelloff! His name was Mr. Jelloff.
Len Collins:	I was just down there a little while ago.
Kathryn Collins:	It was J-E-L-L or J-O-L-L. Jolloff, or Jelloff. He was the owner.
B.M.:	The owner of the house?
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah.
B.M.:	And your neighbor.
Kathryn Collins:	And his house was just like ours—a big, square house.
B.M.:	Do you know if those houses are still there, by any chance?
Kathryn Collins:	I think they are.
Len Collins:	It is, yes.
B.M.:	I'll have to go down there and look at it.
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	They were large houses, because there were two, it was like two living rooms, but it was all one house. The entrance was in the middle and it was like two...
Len Collins:	Oh yeah, it was Stuart Avenue.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, Stuart ...that doesn't register with me.
Len Collins:	Well, let's see.
B.M.:	Would you remember the address by any chance? I know this is going way back.
Kathryn Collins:	[laughs]
Len Collins:	120 Randolph Avenue.
B.M.:	Good! Thank you. [laughter]
Len Collins:	Yeah, it was Stuart Avenue I think. That was the street right behind our house.
Kathryn Collins:	Where was DeWitt?
B.M.:	DeWitt meets with it.
Len Collins:	DeWitt ran...
Kathryn Collins:	Jelloff lived on DeWitt.
Len Collins:	What?
Kathryn Collins:	Mr. Jelloff. Who owned our house. He lived on the corner of DeWitt and

	Randolph Avenue.
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	And we were the second house in.
Len Collins:	DeWitt runs north and south as opposed to east and west...What's his name - Jelloff?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, Jelloff or Jolloff. I don't remember...J-O-L-L or J-E. But it was [pronounced] 'Jelloff.'
Len Collins:	Yeah. But the houses are still there.
B.M.:	Will check that out.
Kathryn Collins:	Still looks very much the same, except now it's stucco.
B.M.:	Now it's stucco.
Kathryn Collins:	There's entrance in the middle and there's two big bay windows. Like almost two living rooms.
B.M.:	And those were there when you were there. The bay windows.
Kathryn Collins:	..First we lived upstairs and then we had the downstairs.
B.M.:	Did someone else live in this house also?
Kathryn Collins:	No.
B.M.:	No.
Kathryn Collins:	We had just one child, so there were three of us.
B.M.:	Three of you, and you had a lot of space.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. And later on, after we moved away, I believe he [Jelloff] subdivided the upstairs into big squares.
B.M.:	When you lived there, were there more than one bathroom in the house?
Kathryn Collins:	There was one bathroom on the main floor and there was one in the basement. Only two. And then, as years went by, there was one upstairs. So there were three at that time.
Heating with Coal – and a Prescription for Coal	
B.M.:	Do you remember how the house was heated?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. Coal. My husband was with Capital. With the Airlines. I don't know whether they were Capital Airlines. They eventually became Capital Airlines. And at one point the doctor for Capital Airlines, gave—my son was, well he was two when we moved there. And the company doctor—the airline doctor—gave my husband a prescription for coal. Coal was rationed in those days. [laughter] So he gave--our child—our child was only two years old and he actually wrote a prescription to get some extra coal. [laughter]
B.M.:	[laughs] That's marvelous. So there was a company doctor, and he would...
Kathryn Collins:	Yes.
B.M.:	So, he would take care of the whole family, come take care of the whole family.
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, and...
B.M.:	Did the company pay for that at all?
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, no.
B.M.:	Oh, you paid for it yourself, but you still had...
Kathryn Collins:	No. This was completely personal. He had become personal friends over the

	years. He was not everyone's doctor, he was our doctor. But nothing to do with the company. But he was the company doctor.
B.M.:	Oh, so the coal, you had--
Kathryn Collins:	And it was Fannon. [NOTE: Ms. Collins worked for Fannon at one point—this is mentioned later in the interview.] Who else?
B.M.:	It was Fannon! [laughter] Oh, so they were doing coal at that time. They later they switched to oil, I think. Coal was the ...
Kathryn Collins:	Probably. This was coal...yes, it was coal.
Len Collins:	And I recall...there was a coal chute. And the truck would drive up and they'd pour the coal down the chute. And I remember that you wouldn't let me go downstairs in the basement because of all the coal dust swirling all around [laughter]. And I thought that was terribly unfair! [laughter]
Kathryn Collins:	And you wanted to help!
Len Collins:	Yes.
B.M.:	That much coal...I can't envision. It goes in your basement through a...
Kathryn Collins:	They put the bags on their back, and they would, you know, tip the coal—the bag's about this big, and then they put it up to the chute, and dump the coal, and then they go back and fill another bag, and then they put it in the chute.
B.M.:	So the chute leads to the basement...
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah.
B.M.:	Is there a thing that collects—like some kind of a trough or something that collects--that the coal falls into when it comes down, or how did, how was that...?
Kathryn Collins:	No. It was just a regular cellar window, and then there was the chute, that he—that the coal deliverer—Fannon--carried on the truck. And he'd open the window and put the chute down, lean it into the bin, in the basement...
B.M.:	Oh, so there's a bin down there...
Kathryn Collins:	And then he'd take this thing on their back, and dump it down the chute. [pause] And that was a big thing! [laughter] All the children had to be around to watch that! They loved the noise!
B.M.:	I'm sure! [pause] So then, when you wanted to use the coal, you'd just go take it out, shovel it out of the bin or something, and put it where...
Len Collins:	...in the furnace which was beside the coal bin.
Kathryn Collins:	From upstairs. You had, you had coal bins. You know they were about this big [NOTE: Ms. Collins is signaling something maybe about 2 feet long, 1 foot wide, and 1 foot deep] and you just picked them up and carried them.
Cooling the Home in the 1940s	
B.M.:	How about cooling? How would you stay cool on hot days like today?
Kathryn Collins:	There was a circ—there was a system. It was not air conditioning, but there was an air system throughout the house with air ducts. And that's where we got crickets [laughter] inside of this because there was all that raw earth. And they didn't sod, they just seeded for grass, because this whole village was new.
Len Collins:	That's the house...that was up in Dominion Gardens...we're talking about the house in Del Ray.

Kathryn Collins:	Oh, yes. That's right. This was a really old house and I believe it's still there.
Len Collins:	And as I recall, we just opened windows if it was hot.
B.M.:	Just let the air come in and probably used fans or something like that too?
Len Collins:	Yeah.
More about the Del Ray Home and Neighborhood	
B.M.:	So were there any other buildings, outbuildings or anything in your yard?
Kathryn Collins:	There was a big backyard, and down in the far corner—a really big back yard. Big square plot. And down in one corner, there was a, like a shack or shed. And I think they might have had chickens at one time in there.
B.M.:	Oh?
Kathryn Collins:	It was a large lot of land, 'cause the back yard was almost as big as the house space. And then Mr. Jelloff... who had the house next store, which was comparable, and I think sold that, eventually—I think both those houses were stuccoed.
B.M.:	And was this neighborhood called Del Ray when you lived there, or did it have another name?
Kathryn Collins:	I think it was...I'm not sure.
B.M.:	You didn't remember hearing anybody call it another name?
Kathryn Collins:	I don't remember that.
B.M.:	And do you think your house was typical of the houses that you saw in Del Ray at that time, or was it...
Kathryn Collins:	Well, the street was...pretty much. There were a couple of small ones, like bungalow style, but I think most of them were two stories. Big square houses, yeah.
B.M.:	I wanted to ask you what you remember about the neighborhood itself? We can do freeform, or I can ask you specific ones. Like, for example, the streets, like what kind of activities would you see, what would people be doing,
Kathryn Collins:	There was no kind of community in terms of socializing. I mean, neighbors we spoke to and so on, but there was no kind of--they didn't celebrate Fourth of July together or anything like that.
B.M.:	Would you see...I guess I'll ask you a little bit about how you spent your days while you were there, while you lived there.
Kathryn Collins:	Say that again?
B.M.:	How did you spend your days while you lived there?
Kathryn Collins:	Oh. Well, didn't work. And we were right opposite the school which was on Mount Vernon Avenue. Right across...
Len Collins:	The school was three blocks away on Mt. Vernon Avenue.
B.M.:	And what was that school called at that time? Was it different, was that George Mason school at that time or was that still called Mount Vernon?
Len Collins:	No, that was Mount Vernon. Actually, this school was further up Mount Vernon, towards Old Town. And we were about four blocks down towards Arlandria section. And I remember on Mount Vernon Avenue, across at the end of our street to the left, there was a Safeway and I think a couple of other stores.

B.M.:	Do you remember any of the other businesses that were around that area at that time?
Kathryn Collins:	There was a Safeway. I'm not sure that was on the corner, but it was to the left on Mount Vernon Avenue. And I think there were things like the ordinary small stores, I'm not sure. I know there was a Safeway.
B.M.:	The Safeway. Did you shop there for groceries?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes.
B.M.:	How did you go? Did you walk there?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. Yeah, we were about one block in from Mount Vernon Avenue. In fact, I think we were on the corner, but one house on DeWitt on the left hand side. Yeah.
B.M.:	Did you consider yourselves as Alexandria residents at that time?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. Definitely.
B.M.:	And you didn't see it—was there kind of a distinction? I know in earlier times there was sort of a distinction between Del Ray and Old Town Alexandria.
Kathryn Collins:	In fact...I'm sure, at that time I wouldn't have even heard "Del Ray." In fact, it was years...
B.M.:	Oh—Alexandria is what you called it.
Kathryn Collins:	It was years later that I understood that that area was Del Ray.
B.M.:	So you just considered it Alexandria.
Kathryn Collins:	I no longer lived there then. But during the time we lived there, I never heard it called "Del Ray."
B.M.:	Did you go to Old Town at all when you lived over there, or the part that we now call Old Town?
Kathryn Collins:	It wasn't called Old Town. Old Town was not a term that I was familiar with. No...Not until years later. Years later.
B.M.:	You just considered it as another part of Alexandria, right?
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah.
B.M.:	Was there any reason for you to go over there for anything?
Kathryn Collins:	No, not really. There was a Safeway nearby, and, no I don't—see, those were terms we didn't use at all at that time.
B.M.:	Yeah, OK. That's interesting. Oh, I know what I didn't ask you about -- washing and drying clothes. Did you have a washer?
Kathryn Collins:	I would do all my—except for groceries, I would take the bus into D.C. Up to Hecht's up the hill on E Street, Hechts and Woodward and Lothrop's, and Lansberghs. And the bus came up and down Mount Vernon Avenue.
B.M.:	Oh, and that went right into D.C., right into downtown?
Kathryn Collins:	I think we were maybe about four houses in from Mount Vernon Avenue...on Randolph.
Entertainment: Movie Theatre and T.V. Serials	
B.M.:	What did your family do for entertainment? What were some of the things you did?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, that was before television [laughter]. We did the ordinary things, like we would go to the parades. And the movie—there was a movie—there

	were movies right across, not far from the school, on the same side as the school.
Len Collins:	Yeah, the Old Glebe Theatre.
B.M.:	Old Glebe Theatre.
Len Collins:	Not the Glebe. The building's still standing. But it's a hat shop now, I think.
B.M.:	Oh, really?
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	And there were Saturday afternoon...
B.M.:	Yeah, there used to be a Palm Theatre, but that was probably earlier. The Palm Theatre, was that still there? That was probably not there anymore.
Kathryn Collins:	No...
Len Collins:	That's what it was. Yeah, Palm Theatre, I think.
Kathryn Collins:	Was that the Palm?
Len Collins:	Yeah. It was the Palm Theatre. Yeah. OK.
Kathryn Collins:	And that wasn't far from the school, on the same side of the street. And that was a big Saturday afternoon thing, where the kids would go and they'd stay for the second show, and you'd have to go down and call their name in the darkened aisles...[laughter] It was continuous. And after the movie was shown, then they would start with the second [movie], and most of the time you would say to the kids before they left, you'd say, "You leave right after the [first] movie's over," but often you'd have to go down and say "Len...Where on earth are you?" [laughter] And, "I wanted to see the first-- I was only going to see the first part of the second film." [laughter]
B.M.:	[to Len Collins] This is probably going to be questions for you when we get to your interview. [laughter] What other things? Did you play games, or what kinds of things do you remember that you did as a family?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, we had just the one child and all of us were great readers so we spent a great deal of time reading. And the radio shows, like Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, and oh, that was a big deal, 'cause all the children on the street—course, the windows were open because we didn't have air conditioning, so, I think Gene Autry started around 4 o'clock, and everybody had their windows open, so the children would disappear from the street [laughter], because Gene Autry or Roy Rogers, or some one of those radio programs, would come on at 5:00, so all the kids would disappear inside to follow the serials on the radio.
Saint Rita's Church in the 1940s	
B.M.:	Let's see, what else. Did you follow any particular religion? Did you go to any church or anything like that?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. Saint Rita's. Saint Rita's?
Len Collins:	Yes, I believe it was Saint Rita's.
Kathryn Collins:	It was at the top of the hill. I've forgotten what street. Mount...
Len Collins:	Well, the street is straight through now, and the old church is gone.

B.M.:	Oh, it was called Saint Rita's.
Len Collins:	Yeah, it was Saint Rita's. And they moved up to...
Kathryn Collins:	Now, wait a minute, wait a minute. Saint Rita's moved. Saint Rita's is now down where Presidential Gardens is.
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	But the church we went to when we lived on Randolph Avenue
Len Collins:	...was Saint Rita's...
Kathryn Collins:	...was up the hill.
Len Collins:	Yeah. Yeah, it was on the top of a hill.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. It was way on top of the hill. That steep hill. It was there for a lot of years. Then they built a new building.
Len Collins:	OK [sound of unfolding map]
B.M.:	But not on Russell Road?
Len Collins:	No. [pause] Let's see.
Kathryn Collins:	I think that's where the church still is, isn't it? At the top of the hill?
Len Collins:	--They tore down the church and built the street straight through. It was on... It was on Mt. Ida Avenue.
B.M.:	Alright. Mt Ida.
Len Collins:	If you went straight ahead, you'd run into it.
B.M.:	Do you remember where on Mt Ida?
Len Collins:	It was at the very...let's see.
Kathryn Collins:	Very top of the hill.
B.M.:	Was that a Catholic church?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, it was a Catholic church. Saint Rita's.
Len Collins:	It would probably be Mt. Ida and Sycamore Street.
B.M.:	Thank you.
Kathryn Collins:	And now it's down in the Presidential Gardens area on the corner. It's still Saint Rita's. But it's moved down the hill.
Len Collins:	On Old Dominion Boulevard, presently.
B.M.:	And, were there any activities with the church or anything that you participated in?
Kathryn Collins:	Whatever would be going on. My husband was not Catholic, but we all went to that church.
Family Life: Travel	
B.M.:	I'm going to ask a little bit about family life—were there particular values you stressed as parents—and if so—I'm sure you did, but were they kind of the values of the times, or just if there was anything in particular at all that you were trying to...
Kathryn Collins:	No, not in particular, no. We didn't belong to associations like the Elks or anything like that. No.—Both of our families, both my husband's family and mine, both lived and remained in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, so that's where we would go on vacations and trips and that sort of thing. None of them...
B.M.:	That sounds lovely. How would you go? Did you drive?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, yeah. And in the early years, when Len was small, we used to go by

	train. And our parents and siblings would come down here.
B.M.:	Would you take the train from Alexandria?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes.
B.M.:	And you could take it all the way up to—what, Boston?
Kathryn Collins:	I don't remember that that was the same depot. I don't remember, when you were little, [NOTE: Ms. Collins is talking to Len Collins] if the depot was in the same place. I suppose it was.
Len Collins:	I think it was, because I remember there's a picture of me...
Kathryn Collins:	On the calendar.
Len Collins:	...when I was about one or two, I'm in front of a depot. That's when they had the World War I Renault tank down there.
B.M.:	Oh! That's interesting. That's another thing I'm going to ask about, if there are any pictures or anything that you want to share with us. I can take a picture...
Kathryn Collins:	I have tons of 'em.
B.M.:	I'm going to change this tape, just so we can stop worrying about it, and turn it over. We still have a little bit of time, but I've got another tape, so... [Tape 1: Side B begins]
Volunteer Work at School and in Cub Scouts	
Kathryn Collins:	I know Len started at the Mount Vernon school right there.
B.M.:	Oh, so while you were still living there ...
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, we lived there for a long time while he was in school, and I was very active in the school.
B.M.:	Oh, you were.
Kathryn Collins:	I was the Cub Scout den mother, and supervised the dental checks and the eye checks with Dr. Tannenbaum--was the school doctor--
Len Collins:	Was the dentist--
Kathryn Collins:	He was the dentist. I didn't work, so I was the mother, the class mother, for the dentist visits and the eye visits and, you know, that sort of thing. I volunteered.
B.M.:	Were you still there when they came up with those polio vaccines that were on the cubs?
Kathryn Collins:	I suppose...I think so... Yeah.
B.M.:	Do you remember that?
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah.
B.M.:	That was a very vivid memory from when I went to school.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah, Yeah. Well, I have a degree in Pharmacy--
B.M.:	...yes, that's right—I want to ask you about that...
Kathryn Collins:	--and I guess that's one reason why I was active in the school, but any of those drives, and so on, I was—hearing, when they'd come for hearing aids, and teeth, and eyesight, and so on, so I would work at, be at the school for those things. You know—"Does anybody's mother not work? Does anybody's mother not have a little one at home? So Len volunteered me!" [laughter]
B.M.:	Sounds like something you enjoyed doing, as well. So, you said a den

	mother, did you mean like in Cub Scouts?
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, Cub Scouts. I did Cub Scouts. Yes. We did. We were very active. And my husband was, too. He was active as the, he was a troop, he was part of the adults. Len was very active in the scouts as he was growing older. Yeah.
Other Aspects of Home Life and Life in Del Ray	
B.M.:	Let me ask a couple more things about your home life. Was music a part of your life in any way during that time?
Kathryn Collins:	No, I don't have musical talent! [laughing]
B.M.:	Oh, but just even listening to music or something like that, was it something that was important or not?
Kathryn Collins:	No, not particularly. We had radio, of course. Yeah. My husband at one time when he was in college played the saxophone. We didn't have a piano. Len and I didn't turn up with any musical talent.
B.M.:	Is there anything else you'd like to share about either your experience at that time, or living in Del Ray—any memories that you wanted to let us know about?
Kathryn Collins:	I don't think there was anything very spectacular or unusual... We didn't have any other relatives down here. But it was a nice, friendly neighborhood. We did the ordinary things and we were still very close to our families, and my parents in particular came down and stayed often for two or three weeks once my father had retired. So they were there often. And also, my husband was with the airlines, so we had opportunity to travel.
B.M.:	Oh, that's very nice.
Kathryn Collins:	On passes, and my father had retired. So often, during those younger years, when Len was small, my parents would come down and stay for as much as a month. My husband and I would take a couple weeks and go to Europe. Even when he was younger we were able to travel quite a lot.
B.M.:	Lovely, that's very nice.
Len Collins:	I don't remember that. Mom's first visit to Europe was in 1965 when I was in the Army.
Florence Drive – Dominion Gardens	
B.M.:	I think we can move on to... ParkFairfax is the next neighborhood that I have down here. Do you remember when you lived in ParkFairfax? Approximately what years?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. That was the longest place we lived. And I think Len was probably in Cub Scouts at that time...or was that Boy Scouts?
Len Collins:	Yeah, I guess...
Kathryn Collins:	Len was probably ten-ish. No, no. We moved from Randolph Avenue to ParkFairfax when you were young, because you went to the ParkFairfax school.
Len Collins:	No, we went to, we went from Randolph Avenue up to Moncure Drive, I mean up to Florence Drive.
Kathryn Collins:	Yes.
Len Collins:	And then from Florence Drive up to ParkFairfax.
Kathryn Collins:	ParkFairfax.

Len Collins:	ParkFairfax. Yeah.
B.M.:	Florence Drive, that was in Alex...
Len Collins:	In Del Ray.
B.M.:	Well, I found a Florence Drive on this map.
Len Collins:	Yeah.
B.M.:	But it may not be the same place—this one up here on West Glebe, is that it? Is it a different one?
Len Collins:	It's ...let's see... <i>[checking map: some confusion here while trying to locate on map]</i>
B.M.:	This is ParkFairfax over here...
Len Collins:	Here we go...where were we...
Kathryn Collins:	It was about a block from Presidential Gardens.
B.M.:	Presidential Gardens...isn't that closer to King, Russell Road?
Len Collins:	It would be...
Kathryn Collins:	I don't think that was Del Ray, Len.
Len Collins:	Yeah, it was.
Kathryn Collins:	Dominion Gardens.
Len Collins:	Oh, here it is,..No, wait a minute...Randolph Avenue...
B.M.:	You moved just another street?
Len Collins:	<i>[still consulting map]</i> Oh, no. We moved up to... this is Russell...
B.M.:	Yeah, Russell is...
Kathryn Collins:	Not far from the electric company.
B.M.:	Yeah, this is Russell, right here.
Len Collins:	Yeah, OK. So we would be...
B.M.:	There's a Florence here, off of Glebe.
Len Collins:	Yeah. That's it.
B.M.:	I couldn't identify a neighborhood. It's that one that looks like it's not that far from ParkFairfax.
Len Collins:	I don't know what it is, because these places were new along here.
B.M.:	So you moved to a new home over on Florence Drive.
Len Collins:	A new condo, yeah.
B.M.:	And do you have any memories you wanted to share about that one? Because otherwise we'll move on to ParkFairfax.
Kathryn Collins:	I'm not quite with you! Florence Drive...I remember...
Len Collins:	Yeah, those are the condominiums, and remember there was a creek at the end of the street that I used to fall into.
Kathryn Collins:	Four Mile Run...
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	And we were at the top of a hill.
Len Collins:	Yeah, we were at the top of the hill.
Kathryn Collins:	Now I'm with you.
B.M.:	Is there anything you'd like to share about living there? What prompted you, you moved because it was new?
Kathryn Collins:	I can't remember anything very memorable.
B.M.:	We'll move on to ParkFairfax. If you think of something you want to share

	about that, we could come back to that.
Move to Parkfairfax and Work at Alexandria Hospital	
B.M.:	So ParkFairfax, do you remember again when you lived there, what years approximately that was?
Kathryn Collins:	What address are we right now?
Len Collins: & B.M.:	ParkFairfax.
Len Collins:	On Greenway Place.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, Greenway Place. That's the place we lived the longest. And, let's see, during that time...
B.M.:	<i>[looking on map]</i> I don't think they have a Greenway now. Greenway...
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. While we were there, I don't remember which period, but I took a job. At Alexandria... Well, I volunteered at Alexandria Hospital, way back.
B.M.:	Do you think that would have been in the [19]50s? Or maybe the '60s?
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	I think so, yeah. It was the '50s.
B.M.:	Where was Alexandria Hospital at that time?
Kathryn Collins:	On Duke Street.
B.M.:	Do you remember where on Duke Street, because there...
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. It was on—you know the soldier? The Confederate soldier in the middle of the road?
B.M.:	That's on Duke and Washington, I think.
Kathryn Collins:	The soldier was here, and the hospital was back on the side.
Len Collins:	—Do you know where the new restaurant Society Fair is?
B.M.:	No...
Len Collins:	Where the Lyceum is? It's that same block and it's the other side of the block. You know, the Lyceum's here, and the old hospital would be on Duke Street about here. That's the old Civil War hospital.
B.M.:	I have a really small history here of Alexandria Hospital. It says they were breaking ground for the Seminary Road location in [19]59. So it definitely must have been the]50s then we're talking about I think.
Kathryn Collins:	And I volunteered at the hospital.
Len Collins:	That's the old hospital <i>[pointing to picture on printout]</i>
B.M.:	...this is a 1917 picture, but that's probably the same building. That's what it looked like at that time? <i>[NOTE: The printout the group is looking at: "INOVA Alexandria Hospital--A History of Healthcare Excellence 1872-Today," printed from the Web. In the printout, the 1917 photo has the following related information: "Spurred by lack of space and the growing demand for health care, the hospital moves to a new, larger building at the corner of Duke and Washington streets on land donated by Edward Daingerfield."]</i>
Kathryn Collins:	I have a degree...
Len Collins:	Actually, though, yeah, but I think there was an earlier hospital there too, because it's...
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, there was.

Len Collins:	Used during the Civil War.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah.
Education in Pharmacy	
Kathryn Collins:	I have a degree in Pharmacy, and I didn't work in the Pharmacy, but I volunteered at the hospital.
B.M.:	That's very interesting. You got the degree in Pharmacy while you were still in Massachusetts, right?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, before I was married.
B.M.:	So you postponed, that, because you got married or had children, or because you moved...
Kathryn Collins:	...Let's see. I was married in [19]36, and Len was born in [19]40, and during that interim...well, I didn't...
Len Collins:	Weren't you too young at the time ...to go to work?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, I got my degree in New Hampshire because right when I was ready to graduate and get my degree, I wasn't 21, so I took the exam and my first license was in New Hampshire because I was not 21; I could get it before I was 21 there. Then eventually I was licensed in three states. New Hampshire, Massachusetts when I was...and then, when we came to Virginia in 1942, Virginia reciprocated with my Massachusetts license. So I was licensed at one point in three states. And I didn't have to take the exam in either Massachusetts or Virginia because they reciprocated.
B.M.:	Was it unusual for a woman to be in that field at that time?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, it was. I was the only girl in Pharmacy at that time.
B.M.:	Wow, interesting.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. And how I ended up in Pharmacy, which was a big mistake actually, because I wanted to—I weighed about eighty pounds when I got out of high school and I started early in school. So, I weighed about eighty pounds, I think, and I wanted desperately to be a nurse, and my father said, “You'll never make it, they work too hard.” [laughing] So, he's the one who came up with Pharmacy, which sounds fine, so I became a pharmacist. And then all of a sudden I'm a pharmacist and I found out they work on Sundays and holidays and evenings...so it was the wrong choice. [laughing] So, I never really used it.
B.M.:	Yeah. But it sounds like it helped you, it was a good...
Kathryn Collins:	Of course, I got jobs related with that degree. I mean, it helped in that way. But not as a pharmacist.
More on Working at Alexandria Hospital	
B.M.:	So you worked at Alexandria Hospital.
Kathryn Collins:	Not as a pharmacist.
B.M.:	What did you do there?
Kathryn Collins:	That was volunteer work. Oh, I guess, and also in the [inaudible]. Within the last 20 years I worked there as a volunteer.
Len Collins:	Weren't you in the business office at Alexandria Hospital?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. Yeah. No, in the insurance department.
B.M.:	In the insurance department.
Kathryn Collins:	I worked there, I worked there probably was, what...?

Len Collins:	I was in junior high school at that time, I think.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh yeah, that would be about right. Yeah. Just doing billing. Insurance.
B.M.:	And were you doing this with paper and pen, or were you using typewriters? What kind of technology did you use?
Kathryn Collins:	No, I never typed. And just insurance building. I didn't work as a pharmacist.
B.M.:	So did you do everything with paper and pen, it was all done at that time at the hospital?
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. I never even learned to type.
B.M.:	Do you remember anything else about the hospital that you'd like to share? About working there?
Kathryn Collins:	No, not especially. I remember there was a lady who was the manager, the business manager. And I think a couple [clerks]...I was one of the clerks. And I think probably I didn't work there very long. Maybe I think just about a couple of years. You were in high school then, weren't you?
Len Collins:	Yes. Junior high school and high school.
Kathryn Collins:	But as a pharmacist, I never actually worked as a pharmacist. I could have made a much bigger salary...
B.M.:	Yeah...
Kathryn Collins:	But I didn't do those hours.
B.M.:	Yeah. Wasn't feasible, I guess, while you were raising a family.
Kathryn Collins:	Nobody told me. My father was just looking for a less arduous job for me. [laughing]
Parkfairfax Neighborhood	
B.M.:	I don't want to take too much of your time, but I do want to go into ParkFairfax. Let's talk about ParkFairfax a little bit, what you may remember about living there. You said that was Greenway? Greenway Street?
Len Collins:	Greenway Place. If it isn't on the map, I'm surprised.
B.M.:	Oh, maybe they've just changed the name of the street.
Len Collins:	No, because I was up there this weekend. It's still Greenway Place.
B.M.:	Oh. I just walked around the whole place...I walked on the streets...
Kathryn Collins:	It was a cul-de-sac. A circle. And we even had...
B.M.:	Yeah. It is here. It is here.
Kathryn Collins:	And it was a very sociable place. It even had a mayor!
Len Collins:	Oh, yeah! He was the oldest resident and we called him 'The Mayor.'
Kathryn Collins:	The Mayor of Greenway Place. It was halfway up the hill. And that was a nice—we enjoyed living there.
Len Collins:	Yeah, it was a nice little cul-de-sac. And had maybe you know about 20-25 families on it.
Kathryn Collins:	Admiral Burke lived across the street, and the congressman from Wisconsin lived next door to us (on the right). Hayes – his name was Hayes. And, Hines (he was something or other, something in the government), and across [from] where MaryEllen lived was Admiral...Admiral what?
Len Collins:	I remember at one time prior to us moving there, Richard Nixon lived on

	the street.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh yes.
B.M.:	And Gerald Ford lived there too at some point as well. Gerald Ford lived up there as well, and some...
Len Collins:	Yes. No, Ford lived...up by... the other part of the school.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh yeah. Gerald Ford. Mount Eagle. Is that Mount Eagle?
B.M.:	Mount Eagle is the address I have...
Len Collins:	No, that was Dean Rusk who lived up on Mount Eagle.
B.M.:	Did he live there when you lived there, do you know?
Kathryn Collins:, Len Collins:	Yes.
B.M.:	I'm trying to picture this. I still don't have the exact years you lived there.
Len Collins:	1950-1968.
Kathryn Collins:	...We lived there a long time. During that period...I've forgotten the point I was going to make. During that period...Well, we had the Mayor. Greenway Place...
Len Collins:	He was the longest resident. Everyone called him the Mayor.
B.M.:	He was not the mayor, the actual mayor! [laughing]
Len Collins:	Oh, no.
Kathryn Collins:	But he was the Mayor of Greenway Place. It was a cul-de-sac of about, oh, how many houses?
Len Collins:	There were about 20 residences in that cul-de-sac.
Kathryn Collins:	And there was a great deal of activity, socializing with that circle, with our neighbors. That was a very social group.
Len Collins:	And there were a whole variety of people there from all different backgrounds. That was interesting. You could find an expert pretty much on anything on the street, it seemed like.
B.M.:	That sounds fascinating.
Kathryn Collins:	And Hine was something in the government, I have forgotten, but he was the unofficial Mayor of Greenway Place. So there was a lot in that circle...it's quite a wide circle with a big grassy place in the middle. So we had a lot of socializing of that whole group.
B.M.:	Do you remember any specific occasions?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, like the Fourth of July and all that. We got together. And often we had buffets, you know, in the circle, and everybody brought food, and so on. There was a good deal of socializing.
Len Collins:	I remember one time, you and Dad were planning a party, and you'd been cooking all day, and you had all of this food, and it started snowing....
Kathryn Collins:	It was spaghetti...
Len Collins:	And people started calling in from further out. So it ended up where you all went around and invited all of the neighbors in...
Kathryn Collins:	And it was the kind of snow where nobody could move, so everybody had to walk. And I had a recipe for spaghetti and meatballs, and it was the kind of recipe where you cooked the meatballs in the sauce eight hours or something, so I had all this food ahead of stuff in the morning, and the snow

	continued and continued. And it was a great party. Everybody plowed through the snow. And so we had a neighborhood -- a neighborhood spaghetti.
Len Collins:	Potluck dinner.
B.M.:	That sounds lovely. What caused you to move over there? You just wanted to be in a different place, or why did you choose ParkFairfax at that time? Do you remember?
Kathryn Collins:	About what year did we move? I guess...
Len Collins:	'50, '51...well, when was the assassination attempt on Truman?
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, I don't...
Len Collins:	It was that year.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, really?
Len Collins:	Or the year before that. Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, I didn't remember that. But you had not started college then?
Len Collins:	No.
B.M.:	I think ParkFairfax was new in the early '40s.
Len Collins:	1942. Yeah. It was a Metropolitan Life Insurance development.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, I know why we moved. We moved because we didn't—we wanted air conditioning.
B.M.:	Oh, so they had air conditioning already, did they?
Len Collins:	...but it didn't have air conditioning.
Kathryn Collins:	That's why we moved.
Len Collins:	They moved because Parkfairfax was more upscale than Dominion Gardens.
B.M.:	But they said they were going to have it, is [that] what you're saying...?
Kathryn Collins:	It was the era when people started blocking the windows and putting in those fans that fill up the whole window. You close the windows downstairs and open them upstairs and you have a big fan in the window to bring in the air...
B.M.:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	But that was the reason we moved, for air conditioning.
B.M.:	To make things cooler. But these were rentals... I'm sorry, go ahead.
Len Collins:	No, they didn't have air conditioning in ParkFairfax until they went condominium.
B.M.:	A lot of them still have those window air conditioners today, they don't have the... through-the-wall type.
Len Collins:	Yeah. But I remember we had a big old exhaust fan up in the attic, and we sent the air out of the house.
B.M.:	Were you still there when they went condominium, or had you left by then? That was in the late [19]70s I think.
Kathryn Collins:	No. We went seeking air conditioning.
B.M.:	Let's see, let's talk a little bit more about ParkFairfax. It sounds like the social environment was quite different than when you lived in Del Ray. It sounds like the social environment was different? You had more of a neighborhood camaraderie there, something like that?

Kathryn Collins:	On Greenway Place we did, yeah.
B.M.:	On Greenway Place.
Kathryn Collins:	In the cul-de-sac.
B.M.:	Did that change as far as where you shopped or went to?
Kathryn Collins:	No. Not really.
B.M.:	You still shopped back at the same places where you went to before?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, no. We'd go to a different Safeway. Because at the beginning we lived right around the corner from a Safeway.
B.M.:	Right.
Len Collins:	I don't remember where we shopped when we were in ParkFairfax.
Kathryn Collins:	I would think on Mount Vernon Avenue.
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah, it must have been there. Oh, wait a minute. Or would it be back...I would think, in Del Ray. Yeah, that would be the closest place.
Len Collins:	Yeah, probably. It probably was Del Ray. Oh, I know where we shopped.
Kathryn Collins:	Because you were still in school.
Len Collins:	I know where we shopped. There was a Safeway right on the Arlington county line—there's a Slavin's Fish Market there now
Kathryn Collins:	Right by the bridge.
Len Collins:	Yeah. Right by the bridge.
Kathryn Collins:	'Cause you went to the ParkFairfax school. When it, first when it opened.
Len Collins:	Yeah. The Charles Barrett school.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah, the Barrett.
Len Collins:	Yeah. The Charles Barrett school.
B.M.:	I'm going to change this tape quickly...I guess we'll try to wrap up in the next couple minutes. We have a little tape on there, but I'd just rather not let it run out, because you lose something when you do that.
Kathryn Collins:	I think we didn't have a very exciting life, but...
B.M.:	Well, it's interesting to hear about...
Kathryn Collins:	And we'd make at least two trips a year up to New Hampshire and Massachusetts. <i>[Tape 2: Side A begins]</i>
Work While Living in Parkfairfax and Later	
B.M.:	So basically you're saying you had a family life there. You did family things.
Kathryn Collins:	Yes.
B.M.:	And you did some volunteer work as well, as I understand. Were you an ESL teacher at some point—did you teach English as a second language at some point?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. I did that for a while for adults. And then I moved into reading—reading [inaudible] at the school...and during Len's younger years, I did the—not school nurse, but if the eye doctor was coming or the dentist then I supervised, and that type of thing. 'Cause I didn't work during that period.
B.M.:	So in the younger years you volunteered at the schools in these various capacities, and then later at Alexandria Hospital. And then later—how about Fannon? We didn't talk about Fannon Heating and Cooling. You

	worked there for a while.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah, not very long, was I?
Len Collins:	No. I remember you hated it.
Kathryn Collins:	[laughing]That's right, it wasn't my thing! I did, I hated it.
B.M.:	When you worked there, do you remember if they were still doing coal, or had they switched to oil at that point?
Kathryn Collins:	I think they had both.
B.M.:	They had both at that time.
Kathryn Collins:	I'm quite sure.
B.M.:	You were, like an office worker there or something like that? The phones?
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. I didn't care for it. Then...I was credit manager at the hospital in Washington.
Len Collins:	Oh, yeah, I forgot... Doctors Hospital.
Kathryn Collins:	Doctors Hospital. And I hated that too! Couldn't type a thing... In fact, I never even learned to type. It's something you pick up, I guess. And I did that for a short time.
B.M.:	The work you enjoyed more was this work at the schools, the hospitals—the teaching, the tutoring you called it, the teaching of the second language...and the helping with the...
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. And I never did work as a pharmacist! Because of the hours. Nobody told me! Because the salary was good. Much better salary.
B.M.:	Is there anything else you want to share about your life here in Alexandria or work in Alexandria?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, I've been very lucky, in that my health was good, my family was good. We didn't have any crisis or that sort of thing, for which I'm very grateful.
B.M.:	That's good. I'll just ask a couple of closing questions. How has Alexandria changed? That's a big question because you've been here a long time! [laughing] How has Alexandria changed since you first moved here? What do you think of that has changed?
Kathryn Collins:	Well, actually, the City itself—I mean, I was never that involved in the actual everyday life of what was going on in the City. So speaking of the City—like I never got involved in politics, for instance. Who was running for mayor, or that sort of thing. So about the City itself...
B.M.:	Well, just things you might remember about any of these neighborhoods or anything that you might remember, or think of, that changed, and you don't have to think of anything. If nothing comes to mind, don't worry about it!
Flooring in Four Mile Run/ Arlandria	
Kathryn Collins:	I remember Four Mile Run every time it rained...it was a new place that was completely inundated, from thunderstorms and so on. There were lots and lots of floods.
B.M.:	You had...flooding at that time.
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. A lot of flooding.
B.M.:	In the Arlandria area.
Kathryn Collins:	And that was before they did a big project someplace (I don't know what year) in Four Mile Run. Widened it. But until that time, every time you had

	a heavy rain, often we'd walk up to look down towards Four Mile Run because it would be over its banks. You know, even with a small storm.
Moncure Drive/Taylor Run in the Early 1940s	
Len Collins:	I remember when we were living over on Moncure Drive that we'd go shopping at the old A&P...
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, yes.
Len Collins:	...which was where the Whole Foods, across to where the Whole Foods is now. Up on top of the hill.
Kathryn Collins:	Oh, yes.
B.M.:	...did you walk over there, or took a bus? Or drive?
Len Collins:	Both, I think, because Moncure Drive is just on the other side of that Telegraph Road bridge over Duke Street.
Kathryn Collins:	And you spent some time in the creek that's back there.
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	In trouble.
B.M.:	Oh, the creek...Cameron Run?
Kathryn Collins:	There's a creek and...
Len Collins:	There was a creek there along Moncure Drive. It's now, what, Circleton, no... <i>[pulling out the map again]</i>
B.M.:	Map is always helpful...
Len Collins:	There's Telegraph Road, so...here's Moncure Drive. And it was this little creek here.
B.M.:	Oh, Taylor Run.
Len Collins:	Yeah, Taylor Run.
Kathryn Collins:	Taylor Run, yes.
B.M.:	So how was that? I'm curious how that was—I live on Taylor Run. How was that when you lived there?
Kathryn Collins:	When we lived on Moncure Drive, our house was here, and then there was the creek.
Len Collins:	Yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	And the creek flooded often, it flooded, and then...did they put it underground, or what did they do? They did something.
Len Collins:	I don't know. Actually, no, I think it's still there.
B.M.:	The creek is there.
Len Collins:	There's a park there.
B.M.:	There's a park -- Angel Park.
Kathryn Collins:	They did something...and also, adjacent with the creek, there apparently years ago had been a farm, because there was a windmill back there.
B.M.:	Oh, was there?
Kathryn Collins:	Yes, and when we moved there, there was a windmill there. And along --I don't know when it was after we lived there awhile and just inactive, just sitting there, somebody started the windmill. And it was decrepit! So it'd go 'bro-i-ng,' 'bro-i-ng,' -- just drove everybody crazy! But it didn't run very long. The city came in and removed it. <i>[laughter by all]</i> But I remember when it started and it ran for, I guess several days, until somebody said

	[inaudible].
B.M.:	So, we're talking about, probably the [19]50s at this time?
Len Collins:	Yeah. Oh yeah.
Kathryn Collins:	And more than one time you went into that creek.
Len Collins:	No, late '40s, early '50s. Yeah, late 4'0s. No, actually the early '40s. Because...
B.M.:	Well, were there houses across from the creek at that time?
Len Collins:	I don't believe so.
B.M.:	Because I think those houses, those duplexes that are there now, were probably built in the [19]40s. I think they were built at some point in the '40s.
Kathryn Collins:	No, they were not. In that, I think that probably was only farmland...I think there was not much there at all.
Len Collins:	Yeah, because we lived there, then we moved over to Randolph Avenue. And from Randolph we moved into Dominion Gardens and then at ParkFairfax and that. So, let's see, we probably lived on Moncure Drive up to early 1943, something like that, '43, '44...
Kathryn Collins:	I would think so.
B.M.:	1943...
Kathryn Collins:	Yeah. 'Cause you didn't start school there.
B.M.:	What kind of housing was over there? <i>[speaking to Len Collins]</i> I'll probably go into this more with you on your interview, but...
Len Collins:	They were all bungalows.
Kathryn Collins:	Yes. And it was War buildings. It was during...Metropolitan Life...no, that was ParkFairfax. I think it was called 'something Village,' and they were nice brick two-bedroom bungalows. They were two bedrooms on one floor. And they were built -- it was one of the projects during the War, because Washington was flooded with people, and nobody could find a place, so this was sponsored by the Government, I think, and they were two-bedroom bungalows. But they were built—a whole village of them, like maybe 60, [on] two or three streets, and they were built with a staircase, two bedrooms, and a dining room and so on, and on this end, on all of them, they were all alike, there was a staircase out to an unfinished attic. So I'll bet you nowadays, and I'm sure every single one of those houses, and there were at least 60 of them, has two bedrooms, a bathroom. And that's how they built them, with those improvements already taken care of. So eventually, as you bought one, or rented one, well, as you bought one, then eventually you'd put in the two bedrooms. The staircase was there which was pretty clever. Good thinking. Because they're probably all two bedrooms now.
B.M.:	That's very interesting. I'm wondering. They're still all over there. I'll go over and take a look.
Kathryn Collins:	I mean, four-bedroom. They were all two bedroom at the beginning. They were nice houses.
Closing Thoughts	
B.M.:	Well, let me just close up and see if there's anything else that I haven't

	asked you that you wanted to share, that you think is important to share.
Kathryn Collins:	I can't think of anything spectacular...
B.M.:	It doesn't have to be spectacular, but if you think of anything else you want to say, it's fine. And also if you wanted to share anything you would tell the people who are moving to Alexandria, new people who are coming here, if there was something you might want to say about Alexandria itself. That's two closing questions.
Len Collins:	I can't believe you're at a loss for words! [all laugh]
B.M.:	Well, she's already given a lot. This is a lot. We've gone a little bit long.
Kathryn Collins:	Nothing very notable, really. I have found Alexandria a very, very pleasant place that I'm always happy to live in. I've gone back and forth to my roots in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.
B.M.:	Is there anything more you'd want to say about the differences between those places and here?
Kathryn Collins:	I think I always felt that I was living in a smaller town. When I was first married I lived in Lawrence, Mass, which was a medium-sized city. This was more rural years ago than it is now. But it's a place that I was very happy to remain in.
B.M.:	I'd like to thank you very much for your time. This has been fascinating.
Kathryn Collins:	I don't think it was anything very notable I was able to...
B.M.:	It was very interesting.
Kathryn Collins:	Alexandria was Len's hometown. Because he was only two when we came down here And I've always felt it was my hometown, too. My parents—my father had retired—and they came often and stayed several weeks at a time. And so it's really been home. Home town.
B.M.:	Is there anything else you want to share?
Kathryn Collins:	No, I can't think of anything ...
B.M.:	At that point, then, I'll stop the tape. Thank you once again. I thank both of you for taking the time to do this. [End]