



City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria
Alexandria Legacies
Oral History Program



Project Name: *Alexandria Legacies*

Title: *Interview with Betty Jean Ward*

Date of Interview: *April 26, 2011*

Location of Interview: *Alexandria, VA.*

Interviewer: *Molly Kerr*

Transcriber: *Maura Robinson*

Abstract: Betty Ward was born in 1933 and has lived in the Del Ray area of Alexandria since she was seven years old. Mrs. Ward was nominated as an Alexandria Living Legend in 2011. In this interview, she recalls her childhood in Alexandria; working at the Harding House Home with her grandmother, and for the Federal Railroad Administration. She currently works with her brother in his tour company giving tours of Alexandria. They have filmed a documentary about historic Alexandria.

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Betty Ward, 2011
(credit: Molly Kerr for Alexandria Archaeology)

Introductions	
Molly Kerr:	Today is April 26, 2011. This is an oral history interview on behalf of Alexandria Living Legends 2011. The interviewer today is Molly Kerr and being interviewed is?
Betty Ward:	Betty Ward.
M.K.:	Ms. Ward, to get started, what is your full name?
Betty Ward:	Betty Jean Ward.
M.K.:	And is there an address, other than the one to which I originally sent the letter that we should have on file for you?
Betty Ward:	No.
M.K.:	Where were you born?
Betty Ward:	Alta Vista, Virginia.
M.K.:	And if you don't mind my asking, when?
Betty Ward:	1933, September.
M.K.:	And outside of Alta Vista and Alexandria, where else have you lived?
Betty Ward:	I haven't. I moved to Alexandria when I was seven years old and have lived here since then. And that was a long time ago.
Family	
M.K.:	[Laughs.] And I assume that you moved to Alexandria because of something your parents were up to.
Betty Ward:	Exactly.
M.K.:	So, what were their names?

Betty Ward:	My dad was Oscar Doss, D-O-S-S and my mom was Lucille. We moved here because he was going to work for the old R.F.& P Railroad. We lived out in Del Ray.
M.K.:	And did you have any brothers and sisters?
Betty Ward:	I did not. I was an only child until I was 20 years and I was fortunate in that my mom and dad adopted a little baby boy who was 13 months old at the time.
M.K.:	What is his name?
Betty Ward:	Steve.
M.K.:	And is he nearby?
Betty Ward:	He lives with me. We live together.
M.K.:	Oh, very good. That's wonderful, and what was it like to find yourself as a--
Betty Ward:	It was wonderful.
M.K.:	--as a sister?
Betty Ward:	It was wonderful.
M.K.:	At twenty?
Betty Ward:	I felt like a mama.
M.K.:	Indeed. Now are you married?
Betty Ward:	My husband's deceased. I have one daughter.
M.K.:	And what is her name?
Betty Ward:	Marcella.
M.K.:	And how do you spell that?
Betty Ward:	M-A-R-C-E-L-L-A.
M.K.:	And where might we find Marcella?
Betty Ward:	She lives out in Fairfax Station.
M.K.:	That's nice to have everyone close by.
Betty Ward:	That's right. And I have two wonderful granddaughters. The older one is a student down at TCU, Jessica; and the younger is Sara and she is a sophomore at Robinson.
M.K.:	Just so that I can get it for the record, your husband's name was?
Betty Ward:	Edward. We had a son who was killed in Vietnam.
School	
M.K.:	It seems like your children, your daughter and your son, all went to school here. Where did you go to school?
Betty Ward:	I went to Mount Vernon Elementary out in Del Ray. We lived on Oxford Avenue and then went to George Washington High School ['G.W.'], which was the only high school in Alexandria at that time.
M.K.:	And just out of curiosity, your children?
Betty Ward:	My daughter went to MacArthur, my brother went to Maury and then later to MacArthur. Both graduated from T.C. [Williams].
M.K.:	And did you go on beyond high school too?
Betty Ward:	I did not -- I had a wonderful history teacher at G.W., Dr. Dorothy

	Torpee and she was a fascinating lady. She was the first teacher in Alexandria to have a Ph. D. in history and at the end of the school year, the spring school year, the teachers knew that she was coming and there was a bit of jealousy on their parts, so word quickly spread that there was this horrible woman who is coming to G.W. and she is going to be very difficult and you don't want to get her --
M.K.:	[Laughs.]
Betty Ward:	--and it just mushroomed. First day, first class, guess who? Dr. Dorothy Torpee, and in three days, she had me wrapped in the palm of her hand. She was fantastic. She started me out loving history and I studied history on my own and helped my brother with his tour company and she was a marvelous lady. She was from New York, and she died just a few years ago. Had suffered a stroke, but we would see each other in the grocery store. She was confined to a wheelchair, and she would always hold up those wonderful, little arms for a kiss – she couldn't speak, but we recognized each other. And that's what got me started working with my brother and giving tours.
Working at the Federal Railroad Administration	
M.K.:	Very good. So outside of helping your brother with giving tours, what other occupations did you have?
Betty Ward:	I worked for the Federal Railroad Administration. Had 37 and a half years' service with the federal government, the last 25 years being with the Federal Railroad Administration with the Department of Transportation. I was Chief of Administrative Services which covered the ballpark of everything: office space, communications, mail, you name it.
M.K.:	And do you think you got into railroads because of your dad?
Betty Ward:	I think so.
M.K.:	[Laughs.]
Betty Ward:	Trains are a wonderful way to travel.
Harding House Home – Family Business	
M.K.:	They are. So what kinds of community organizations do you work with or are involved in ---?
Betty Ward:	Well, I work with underprivileged children. I will do free tours with them in the evening, especially in the fall, around Halloween. Anything I can do, I do. My grandmother was a nurse, and I guess she started me working with people, really, that needed help. She was a nurse, and she had suffered a really bad injury to her arm and was no longer able to lift patients-- I am talking about in the 1950's--and she loved nursing and she was absolutely miserable, not being able to do what she loved doing. So we opened --at the corner of Windsor and Mount Vernon Avenue-- an assisted living facility. I went to Richmond, and got permission to do that. It was the old

	Harding Home there at that corner. Mr. Harding was one of the first bankers in Alexandria, and he had donated the house to the Del Ray Methodist Church. So we leased the house from the church, and we took care of people that needed help for a very low amount of money. My grandmother did it out of love. And anything my family has been able to do, we do.
M.K.:	And so, when you say “we,” who was “we”?
Betty Ward:	I did the bookkeeping. My grandmother and I -- the license was in both our names -- and she ran the operation. I worked during the day, and helped her during the night quite a bit, and kept the books, and did what I needed to do.
M.K.:	How many folks did you have?
Betty Ward:	She had a total of twelve. One of whom was Maude Calhigg [sp?] who was an old Alexandria resident. She and her husband operated a cleaners over on King Street for years and it was her son who went on to become Commonwealth Attorney. Bill Calhigg [sp?]
M.K.:	So what made you decide to stop doing that and go into the railroads?
Betty Ward:	I was already working for the federal government, and back in those days, if you had a position with the federal government, you were secure and that’s where you should stay. I did take a break in government service and went to work for a firm here in Alexandria, Logitronics [sp] that was manufacturing specialized photographic equipment. X-ray equipment and what have you. And realized after three years, that I really needed to go back to the government for my retirement, so I did. I am glad I did, I enjoyed my FRA days. But I enjoy working with senior citizens and I enjoy working with young people. And whenever I get a phone call saying we have this group, this home, and we need to give a tour, but we don’t have any money, I say, “Come ahead, we’ll do it.” There is nothing any better than having young people show up and they really don’t want to be there – I mean, it is obvious, they don’t want to – and at the end of the tour, get a hug. That is great.
M.K.:	It makes you know that what you are doing is good.
Betty Ward:	Exactly.
Living Legend Nomination	
M.K.:	So that was the bio portion. Now we are going to go on to our basic questions. How do you feel about being nominated as a ‘Living Legend?’
Betty Ward:	I felt it was an honor, I didn’t deserve.
M.K.:	Why is that?
Betty Ward:	Well, I mean, I didn’t see anything special about what I’ve done here. I lived here in Alexandria and was a normal person, a normal

	citizen.
M.K.:	[Laughs.]
Betty Ward:	I didn't think it was special at all and was very pleased when Elizabeth Fields, one of the guides that works for my brother's company, I found out that she was the kind soul that nominated me and I was, "Oh, no. You shouldn't do that because I not that special." But they insisted, she and some of the other guides got together and submitted the nomination, and I was honored to have it submitted.
M.K.:	Well, it's a good nomination. I was excited to get to meet you because I used to work for Colonial Williamsburg, so presenting the past to the public; I've always been very familiar with. You talked about your grandmother being involved in nursing. Do you think she is the only reason you decided it was important to be active in your community?
Betty Ward:	No. I was raised in a family that – I was fortunate in that my great-grandmother lived until I was a teenager. And unusual circumstances, we all lived together, so in my household, I had my great-grandmother, my grandmother, my mother and my dad. And my great-grandmother said, 'you don't ever turn anyone away from your door' and I think every hobo that rode the tracks knocked on the back door. I am sure there was a mark somewhere, and I think that's what started it. Always share what you have.
Love of History	
M.K.:	Very much so. You talked about your teacher in high school and her inspiring you for your love of history. What perpetuated that as you got older? A lot of times, when folks become adults, they stop reading, they stop being curious. What kept that spark alive for you?
Betty Ward:	There is so much to learn, and history is so important. If you don't know what happened in the past you certainly aren't prepared for what is going to happen in the future and it is very important. The more you read, there is just so much out there to learn. I've been studying history since 1948 and there is still a lot to learn.
M.K.:	Is there a particular time period that you are most – that you are going to pick up the book, no matter what?
Betty Ward:	Our first five Presidents. Anything about them, I will pick up regardless.
M.K.:	So the colonial period and the early federal period are of your greatest interest?
Betty Ward:	Yes.
Meeting President H. Truman, J. F. Dulles, and A. Stevenson	
M.K.:	What would you say is the achievement in your lifetime that you are

	<p>most proud of?</p>
<p>Betty Ward:</p>	<p>Well, when I was working at the Federal Railroad Administration, I was most fortunate in having a wonderful administrator, and in 1986 I was very ill and, as I said, I was Chief of Administrative Services there at the FRA and one of the things I was in charge of was graphics. And we just had that horrible train accident where people had been killed, and pictures were taken and what have you. There were many, many charts and I became ill and when in the hospital and was hospitalized for several months. During that time, he went up on the Hill to testify and before he testified, he said that he wanted to put my name on record, that I had been such a tremendous help to him. I was proud of that. He was a wonderful man. He went on to talk about what I had done in the way of graphics and how I had portrayed the information and that it helped him tremendously.</p> <p>When I was younger and working for the Federal Railroad Administration I was invited – not the Federal Rail, the Foreign Service Institute, initially with the State Department. We were invited to come to the White House and meet Harry and Bess Truman and have lunch with them, and that was quite an honor. When I first started to work for the government, I was involved with the Marshall program which was restoring Europe after World War II and we were doing the training program for those going over to actually do the work and to advise. Mr. Truman and Margaret played the piano for us.</p>
<p>M.K.:</p>	<p>Oh, wow.</p>
<p>Betty Ward:</p>	<p>So, those are two things. A third thing that happened that I have always treasured was that I had the pleasure to work for Adlai Stevenson and he was, believe it or not, a fifty dollar a day consultant to John Foster Dulles and the office I worked in, people would have to rotate. If your boss was on travel, then you worked for the consultant that day. I had not yet had an opportunity to work for him and really didn't want to because of what I had been told. This is awful, you go in a take dictation and do this that and the other One day it was my turn, and I went in and said, "Good morning" and asked him if he would like to have a cup of coffee. He said. "Yes," and I got the coffee and said, "When you are ready, I am ready." I expected to see a desk covered with papers, but not a thing. It was a completely blank desk. I sat down and he was the nicest thing, I mean, he was brilliant.</p> <p>And I am proud of my family. I am proud of what I do. I am patting myself on the back, but I get comments from everyone when I give</p>

	tour saying, "You did a wonderful job." I did one this morning with military attaché wives and got huge compliments. It makes you feel good, so I am proud of that.
M.K.:	I am definitely going to try to take a tour sometime.
Betty Ward:	Oh, great.
School Tours of Alexandria	
M.K.:	Your nomination talks about, you made a documentary film?
Betty Ward:	Yes.
M.K.:	About Alexandria?
Betty Ward:	Yes.
M.K.:	Why did you do that?
Betty Ward:	You will be amazed. In the evening, we do bus tours. Kids coming in as part of their annual field trip. We never know where they are from. We know the name of the school, the name on the motor coach, the cell phone number for the driver, and the number of people in the group. Other than that we have no information. We assign two guides per bus and it is usually 25, 26 people per guide. I always begin my tour, "Welcome to Alexandria, hometown of our first president, George Washington." That evening, for whatever reason, I said, "Welcome to Alexandria, hometown of George Washington." It was an eighth grade group and this young boy looked at me and said, "Who was he?" You know what I thought, I've got a smart aleck, and I said, "Oh come on now, you know who George Washington is. Look at your quarter. Have you been to Mount Vernon?" "No I haven't." "Well, you know who George Washington is, don't be kidding me." And he said, "No," and I realized that he was serious. I turned to the teacher, and before you and God and anyone else, I said, "Is he kidding me?" and she said, "No, who was he?"
M.K.:	[Gasp.] OK.
Betty Ward:	I said, "Where in the name of the world are you from?" And she said, "Southern California." And I said, "Don't you study American history?" and she said, "Oh no, we study mission history." And I said, "That's very important to your area, but American history is equally important," and she said, "Well, it has no interest to me." Well, at that point, I said something has to be done. There are actually students coming here, eighth graders, who do not know anything about how our country started. It's amazing what they are being taught. I am sure you found that out in Williamsburg.
M.K.:	Yes, very much so. So, how did you get started putting it together?
Making her Documentary Film on Alexandria	

Betty Ward:	Well, we used the information we use on the tours. I went to Mount Vernon. I went to Gunston Hall and filmed. I went to Pohick Church and filmed there and we just put together how Alexandria came about and it's very important and how history really started here. From here it went to Annapolis, and on to Philadelphia, but it started here in Alexandria. And I feel very strongly about that and I think everyone should be aware of it.
M.K.:	Do you ask your school groups to watch it before they come here?
Betty Ward:	No, I don't. [Laughs.]
M.K.:	[Laughs.] So that you don't get that "Who's George Washington?" question.
Betty Ward:	But, they do buy it and watch it. The DVD went on to Kansas City and Los Vegas. There were two conventions, and the DVD went but Miss Betty didn't go. It was selected for distribution to schools in the Midwest and the producer of the film at that time planned to do several films and then put them together as a video game. But, he has had a heart attack, so that's on hold. But initially, that was the plan, and I think eventually it will take place.
M.K.:	Eventually. Very good.
Betty Ward:	He's on the road to recovery. That was something I never thought I could do, stand in front of a camera; but, it worked out.
More on School Tours of Alexandria	
M.K.:	When you are giving tours, especially to schoolchildren, what would you say is the biggest obstacle?
Betty Ward:	<p>Getting their attention to begin with. Once you get that attention, you've got them. But, many of the kids are not interested in history because they are not being subjected to it in school. They have no interest. They would rather be doing cartwheels in Market Square around the fountain. But once you've grabbed that attention -- I can give you an example of that.</p> <p>This particular evening, two buses pulled up and two girls got off the motor coach and they started doing cartwheels on the sidewalk there. The other guides working that evening said, "I think we have a problem," and I said, "No, we don't and I'll take them." We went up on Market Square and they continued their cartwheels and I went over to them and said if you will give me just a couple of minutes, I think you might be interested in what I am going to share with you. Well, they were black students, for the most part, so I didn't do my regular historic tour. I had a lot of black history in that tour. When that tour ended, it took a lot longer because I deviated from the normal script, I got back and the other guides were worried because I was longer than I should have been, and we walked up to the corner with the busses there with two girls on the corner, one on</p>

	<p>either side, and they said, "Can we have our picture taken with you." I said, "Of course." And then one said, "Can I give you a kiss?" The guides were just standing with their mouths open, asking "What did you do?" And I told them, and it was just very rewarding. One of them got on the bus and stepped back off and said, "We didn't know any of this. We weren't told any of that." That's where the thrill comes from.</p>
Working with Brother's Tour Company	
M.K.:	I agree completely. What would you say was your hope – what did you hope to accomplish when you got started working with your brother with the tour company? Was it initially being attached to history, but not necessarily being a guide?
Betty Ward:	I helped him with the research and that's what I enjoyed doing. But, one day several of the guides were ill and he came to me and said he needed help and I was one of those people who, if I had to talk to a group of more than four, I would get shaky knees and wet hands. I would get very nervous. I said, "I can't do that." And he said, "Yes, you can." And I said, "No, no I can't talk to a group of people." And he said, "You love the town. You grew up here and you can do it." "Well," I said, "I'll try," and I found out -to my amazement- that I could talk about the town because I love it. I went back after that first day and said, "If you absolutely need me, yes, I will help you occasionally." Well, occasionally became daily event, but that's another story. We do a lot of writing and a lot of research. We are working on a CD on what happened here in Alexandria during the Civil War. Then he is going to go around and film various locations and then put me in front of a green screen and we will do a DVD at home without tying up traffic on the street.
Changes in Alexandria	
M.K.:	[Laughs.] That'll work. That'll work. So that is pretty much all I have for the Living Legends element of it. Is there anything else you would like to add before we move on?
Betty Ward:	Well, I think it is wonderful. I look back on those who have been nominated and agree whole heartedly with their nominations. One of my favorite is Mr. Fannon (T. J.), he is a wonderful individual. Alexandria is so fortunate to have not only the history here and the atmosphere, but to have such wonderful people that grew up here in town and are still active in it. It's great to see the changes in it. Down in Archeology were you all are – I mean, when I was a kid, my mother would not have allowed me beyond Royal Street on King Street.
M.K.:	What was beyond Royal Street?
Betty Ward:	Warehouses, drug addicts. Where the Visitors' Center is today was a brothel and that was what was on King Street going towards the

	<p>river, initially. I remember the Mansion House Hotel being torn down in the seventies that blocked the view of the Carlyle House. There have been so many changes. Most of them are good; a few I don't agree with, but that's normal.</p>
M.K.:	<p>What would you say was some of the biggest changes? You've alluded to a few just now, but if you were to pick your top three changes in Alexandria, good or bad?</p>
Betty Ward:	<p>The good is that they worked very hard to make it a beautiful place to live. On the other hand, some living there do not want tourists to come and view their properties. That's something I don't understand. They buy these very expensive houses and go to great effort to have plaques put on the walls saying that so-and-so lived here, but then don't want you to stand in front of their house saying, "This is the home of –whoever. " That's not good, but for the most part, I agree with what's been done down there.</p> <p>I don't agree with the waterfront plan. [Laughs.] I want to put that on record. I think more could be done to help small businesses downtown. It's upsetting to ride down King Street and see vacant storefronts, and I do think the City could do more about that. Some incentives to open businesses and some help along the way. I was glad to see the DASH bus come into being. When I was a kid growing up, we had the AB&W Company owned by a family that lived out in Bel Haven. It was a family-owned bus company. Each of the drivers had their own buses assigned to them. It was the driver's duty to maintain the bus to make sure the oil was changed, that they had the grease jobs the way they were supposed to, that they had gas in the tank. They drove the same bus every day. You had the same driver every day. You could go into the District for a dime. You could ride the trolley system, you could go all over. They had a better transit system back in that time period than they could ever have again. Unfortunately, they did away with the street cars. If I had my druthers, I would close King Street to automobiles, and I would have trolley cars going up and down just taking the people back and forth. And I would have busses travelling on Cameron and Prince. But that would never happen. [Laughs.]</p>
<p>Transportation in Alexandria</p>	
M.K.:	<p>What was it before? Was it just trolleys on King Street before?</p>
Betty Ward:	<p>The trolley actually ran on Prince Street. I think that stopped in about 1930. I've done a lot of research on it and I bet you didn't know that Robert E. Lee's daughter actually was the first to do a sit in -- Did you know that? – On Prince Street, yes. Mary got on the trolley car and went to the back and sat down with a suitcase. The conductor went back and said you can't sit there and she said, "Well I am not moving." So he went back to the front of the car and in a</p>

	few minute he went back and said, “You can’t sit there.” And she said, “Well, I am not moving,” and so the next thing she knew there was police at the next stop and she was arrested. And when they learned who she was they dropped the charges and it was quickly hushed.
M.K.:	Do you remember what year that was?
Betty Ward:	1908.
M.K.:	And here in Alexandria, no less.
Betty Ward:	Alexandria on Prince Street.
Women Working during her Childhood	
M.K.:	What do you remember about Alexandria when you moved here when you were seven?
Betty Ward:	We lived out in Del Ray. We lived at the corner of Oxford and DeWitt. What I remember most was how the ladies were dressed, how they were dressed going to work. Everyone wore a little hat. Everyone wore little gloves and little black patent leather pumps and they rode the busses going off to D.C.
M.K.:	How many ladies in the neighborhood worked, do you think?
Betty Ward:	Well, within a square block area, I can think of ten that went to work every day. Of course, World War II was ongoing and the men – my Dad went away – the men were going away in service and then, as you know, Del Ray went down, and people moved away, and the railroad relocated and everything changed. But I am delighted to see it coming back the way it should be. It’s a great place to go.
M.K.:	Did your mom work?
Betty Ward:	My mom did. She worked at the -- what today would be CVS; but, it was the People’s Drug Store at the corner of Columbus and King. She did it out of boredom. My dad was in service and she just went and worked a couple of days a week there. And came home complaining about the stinky cigars the men [bought] – [Laughs].
M.K.:	So between Del Ray and here on Braxton Avenue --
Neighbors and Businesses near Braxton Place	
Betty Ward:	I’m on Braxton Place, that’s one block off the 2500 block of King, behind the temple.
M.K.:	How many other places in Alexandria have you lived?
Betty Ward:	Would you believe, those are the only two? I grew up on Oxford Avenue, went to G.W. High School, got married, moved to Braxton Place and have been there since 1954 --
M.K.:	Wow!
Betty Ward:	Same house.
M.K.:	That’s impressive. That’s a wonderful accomplishment in and of itself in today’s world.
Betty Ward:	The house is built on Braxton Place. When I moved there, there was

	a house on the corner. Dr. Dreyfus, who was a dentist, was about to move into a new house he was building on the opposite corner. Ruth Lincoln Kay was a neighbor, she still is. Do you know Ruth?
M.K.:	Uhn-uh.
Betty Ward:	She's ninety-two, a wonder. We were the only ones on the street.
M.K.:	Were there other houses on the street? Were they empty?
Betty Ward:	They were not yet built. We had a doctor on the west corner. We had Dr. Dreyfus, the dentist, on the east corner and Miss Kay across the street in the house on the end and the other houses sort of popped up along the way.
M.K.:	So, were you allowed to go down King Street past Royal by the time you moved to Braxton?
Betty Ward:	Oh, yes. [Laughs.] But until in the seventies, you really didn't want to go down there. There was Bradshaw's Shoe Store, Shuman's Bakery and that is about as far as you wanted to go on King Street. Of course, you had the hat shop. Miss Richardson ran the hat shop and she lived there on – not at the corner – but behind the parking lot at Cameron and St. Asaph's. She lived there and had a wonderful little hat shop, but beyond there, you just didn't venture on down towards the river.
M.K.:	Where did you go grocery shopping?
Betty Ward:	Well, we had in Del Ray, the Acme which was where the Del Ray Flooring facility is today – midway to [inaudible]. We had what became the IGA grocery across from the Mount Vernon Elementary School. And we had a Safeway at the corner of Monroe and Mount Vernon, so when you needed to go grocery shopping that's where you went. Then the next store was the Safeway on Royal Street – South Royal.
M.K.:	And out of curiosity, how did you get to the grocery store?
Betty Ward:	You rode the bus, because gas, you didn't have it in World War II initially. Or you walked.
M.K.:	And did you, thinking environmentally, did you have canvas sacks or paper sacks? How did you carry your groceries home?
Betty Ward:	That is a good point. My granny, my great-grandmother... We were not a wealthy family, money was scarce. She would take balls of twine that you would tie a package with. I have in my house, two bedspreads that she crocheted it with. I have a table cloth that she crocheted from twine and she also crocheted what she called her sacks. When you went grocery shopping, you carried Granny's crocheted sacks. Made out of twine.
M.K.:	The original recycling.
Betty Ward:	That's right.
Memories Growing up in Del Ray	

M.K.:	What would you say are some of your fondest memories of Alexandria?
Betty Ward:	Growing up in Del Ray. It was an unusual situation. My girlfriend, Harriet – she lived two doors down – and I, we were the only girls in a six-block area. Other kids were boys. We had loads of fun. We did things that kids wouldn't think – I mean, sit on the front porch playing Monopoly, playing checkers – I still have contact with several of those people, several of those boys that I grew up with. One lives over in Arlington, one lives over in Maryland.
M.K.:	Just being a child.
Betty Ward:	Just being a child, yes.
What Makes Alexandria Home	
M.K.:	We are getting close to the end here. You have been in Alexandria a very long time. Why was it important to you to stay in Alexandria?
Betty Ward:	It is a wonderful place to be. I don't know how anyone can get up in the morning and walk downtown, and see the river and look up at the sky and see the beautiful trees and not be happy and know that there is something bigger than all of us that prepared this beautiful place for us to be. I just thoroughly love it and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.
M.K.:	What makes Alexandria a home? What are its characteristics that make it a home for you aside from the fact that you've lived here a very long time?
Betty Ward:	I guess it's my love of history. I feel when I walk downtown, I am still in awe. You look at what the founders of our town did, and you think of them actually moving the river a bit and building the beautiful Carlyle House, absolutely beautiful. You feel honored to be a part of this area, to be a part of the neighborhood. And I just thoroughly enjoy it.
M.K.:	That's all the questions I have for you. Is there anything else you would like to add?
Betty Ward:	I don't think so; I think I have rambled on enough.
M.K.:	No, you've done wonderful, all kinds of neat little insights. I thank you very much for your time.
Betty Ward:	I thank you for having me do it, and I appreciate the nomination very much. [END]