



Minnie Sampson Maynor Oral History Interview

Ashley Minner Jones

October 8, 2024

Baltimore, Maryland

This oral history was recorded for *Beyond Baltimore Street: Living Lumbee Legacies*, a project of Ashley Minner Art, LLC, with support from a 2024 Library of Congress American Folklife Center Community Collections Grant.

Field Notes

Interviewee: Minnie Sampson Maynor (MSM)

Age: 85

Sex: Female

Occupation: Retired Paraeducator, Baltimore City Public Schools

Residence: Baltimore, Maryland

Tribal Affiliation: Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Interviewer: Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]

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Transcriber: Emily Minner

Key Words

Robeson County, North Carolina, Lumbee, Broadway, Coharie, Sampson County, Maynor, Sampson, farming, work, school, cotton, belonging, college, dark skin, Fayette St., home, family, Patterson Park, walking, community, kids, friends, style, seafood, books, church, flowers, Baltimore American Indian Center, culture, connection

Abstract

Minnie Sampson Maynor (Lumbee) is originally from Lumberton, North Carolina. She migrated to Baltimore after graduating high school. She met her husband, Solomon Maynor (Coharie) when they both lived on Broadway. She has always kept her maiden name because her Sampson people are important to her.

Minnie currently lives by Patterson Park. She likes to walk Eastpoint mall with friends and meet people from other places. She loves to read and loves looking at flowers. She attributes her amazing fashion sense to “Being Minnie” and the fact that she has endless clothing choices in Baltimore where she had none in North Carolina. She just celebrated her 85th birthday.

Minnie wonders if there will still be an Indian community in Baltimore in 10 or 20 years. She would like to see Baltimore's Indian people have more things that bring them together and the young folks have a deeper interest in who they are.

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[00:35:25] Minnie shares that recently she hasn't gone to church but intends to.

[00:36:32] Minnie shares her love for flowers and nurseries.

[00:38:02] Minnie explains that she worries about the existence of the Indian community in Baltimore and recalls the larger population from her past.

[00:39:53] Minnie shares her hopes for Indian people to come together and wants young people to have more interest in their culture.

Transcript

Ashley Minner Jones [AMJ]: [00:00:00] Hello, my name is Ashley Minner Jones. It's October 8th, 2024 and I have come to interview an amazing person for *Beyond Baltimore Street*, our oral history and photo documentary project that celebrates the vibrant, fascinating everyday lives of Baltimore Lumbee elders. What is your name, ma'am, please?

[MSM]: Minnie Sampson Maynor.

[AMJ]: And where are you from?

[MSM]: Lumberton, North Carolina.

[AMJ]: And how would you explain who you are to someone who doesn't know you?

[MSM]: Oh, wow. Well, I, uh [00:00:39] if the person was familiar with Native Americans, I would say I'm an American Indian from Robeson County in North Carolina, who moved to Baltimore years ago after graduating high school because no jobs were available, uh, [00:00:54] in our area and I had heard that in Baltimore jobs were plentiful. And I also had friends who had

Minnie Sampson Maynor (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina), interview by Ashley Minner Jones, October 8, 2024, for *Beyond Baltimore Street: Living Lumbee Legacies*, Community Collections Program, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress. AFC 2024/002

moved to Baltimore, so I decided to go to Baltimore, come to Baltimore. [00:01:10] Uh, I was born in Lumberton, North Carolina, uh, September 1939.

[AMJ]: [00:01:18] Which means you just had a very big birthday.

[MSM]: I did. And I, my family had a big celebration that I didn't know was happening. And I saw people from several different places that I never expected to see, at this time of the year.
[laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:01:39] Where was the party?

[MSM]: It was held at our church. [00:01:44] I had no idea what was going on. And when I walked in there, saw these people I thought, oh my soul. [00:01:54] I-I was just shocked, I was shocked, I couldn't believe it. Of course, I think other things were happening besides, just my party, I think. [00:02:03] I can't remember now what all was going on, but I, but I was really, I was blown away.

[AMJ]: Well, you look beautiful in your pictures. I mean, you always do, but you look very happy.

[MSM]: And some of the people that I saw there, I thought, oh my gosh, I haven't seen them like, Peace and Lovie. I don't know when I've seen them out of the house and to be at my party. Oh my. [laughter] [00:02:28] You know, I have been knowing Peace. [00:02:34] Almost, [00:02:36] from not quite from the beginning of when I came to Baltimore. But when we had this little church on-on Fairmont Avenue, Peace was there, way back then. And uh, sometimes he was the only man in our group, uh, that uh. [00:02:54] Now his family, no one else in this family came, but Peace was there. So, I've been knowing him for years.

[AMJ]: Wow, and that was back in the 60s?

[MSM]: Yeah, late 50s. I came here, 57, [00:03:11] and this would probably been 58.

[AMJ]: [00:03:15] Long time.

[MSM]: Yeah, yeah. I'm not good with numbers but yeah, that's a long time. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:03:22] Were you already married at the time?

[MSM]: No, mm-mm.

[AMJ]: Did you meet your husband in Baltimore?

[MSM]: Mhm, yeah.

[AMJ]: How did you two meet?

[MSM]: [00:03:33] Uh, hmm. [00:03:36] I want to think that we both lived on Broadway.
[00:03:42] He and his cousin lived together. [00:03:49] Um, I can't remember now who I was
living with on Broadway, but I think we both were living on Broadway when we met.

[AMJ]: And he was Coharie, right?

[MSM]: Yeah, mhm.

[AMJ]: Who are those Coharie people?

[MSM]: [00:04:03] They live up in Sampson County. [00:04:08] Uh, and you know what? They're just like us, you know just have different tribal name but when you look at them you see, you see Lumbees. [laughter] [00:04:19] And they have names, you're like Maynor, you know they have similar names. Just like ours from Robeson County and they're, they're just another group of Indians.

[AMJ]: [00:04:34] How long did it take you to get used to being Minnie Maynor instead of Minnie Sampson?

[MSM]: Oh my, wow. [00:04:43] I know six months or more and probably longer than six months, I'd probably walked around sometimes calling myself Minnie Sampson. When I should have been saying Minnie Maynor.

[AMJ]: Well, I noticed you never dropped the Sampson, you always include that S.

[MSM]: Well, [00:05:00] I felt like that was important. Um, we have a large group of Sampson's in Robeson County. [00:05:11] And my people my, the Sampson people, were important to me. So, I just, you know, I'm still Minnie Sampson.

[AMJ]: That's right Miss Minnie, represent.

[MSM]: Yeah. [laughter] [00:05:27]

[AMJ]: Um, how did you grow up?

[MSM]: [00:05:30] Um, hmm I - my father was a farmer. [00:05:37] And we, in fact, all my childhood days was spent on the farm. [00:05:44] I came from a family of six. [00:05:49] And uh, I was my father's oldest son in some aspects [laughter] because there wasn't a boy older than me. And uh, and so, my father taught me how to farm, how to do farm work. We never owned a tractor, [00:06:07] so I was one of those people out there behind the mule. [laughter] [00:06:14]

And uh, and in all my father's farming days, he never owned a tractor and I didn't, I never understood that. I thought all these families around here getting, buying tractors, getting tractors. When's dad gonna get one? Because I knew it would [00:06:30] um, alleviate some of the things that I had to do on the farm, but it never happened. Dad never owned a tractor.

[AMJ]: Was he just old-fashioned, you think?

[MSM]: Yeah, he didn't want to spend money, not that he had any money. He wasn't one of these, he was, um, who was, he wasn't very thrifty, but he didn't, that was a lot of money in his eyesight. So he didn't, we had a mule.

[AMJ]: Well, what was your house like? Did you always live in the same place?

[MSM]: No. [00:07:05] Um, we might live in one house, maybe 4 or 5 years, maybe longer. It-my father was a farmer, and that's how we, that's how we lived was by working on the farm. And [00:07:20] if he liked where we live, liked the-the owner of the farm and if things went well, and we made a little bit of money on the farm then we might stay there for a long time. If not, my father would be looking for a new place to stay next, next year. [00:07:38] And uh, although I don't know all the details since I was a child, you know, but I just know that we moved several times during my childhood. I went to at least uh, four different schools when I was growing up. That's-that's what, as my father would say, that's what farm life is like.

[AMJ]: [00:07:58] And you loved school?

[MSM]: Oh, Lord. Yes, I love school. My father would want me to stay home. Now, weren't no boys in the family, so, I was his oldest son. Minnie, I want you to stay home tomorrow, and help me plow that field of cotton out there. [00:08:17] And I didn't, I wouldn't say anything because you didn't talk back to Daddy, you didn't confront father and I'd go to Mama and I say, mom asked Daddy Kane I go to school with at least a half a day and he can come get me at lunchtime. [00:08:35] And she would, she'd go to him and most times he would let me go to school a half a day and come get me at lunch time and then I'd work all afternoon till dinnertime that night, supertime. [00:08:49] But uh, [00:08:52] life for me, life on the farm was hard because I had no

brothers. [00:09:01] I had to take the place of that boy. [laughter] I had an older sister and she was bigger than me, but [00:09:10] she was not, [00:09:13] um, I don't know what the right word is. Daddy would say, uh Eva tomorrow morning I want you to plow that field of cotton over yonder and my sister would start fussing with my father. [00:09:28] And he knew that she would not do the right thing. She might go to that field, but she wouldn't plow it. She might plow up the cotton, if it was the cotton field. So, you know, that wasn't good, going to plow up the cotton [00:09:45] So, he knew that that was not the right move and he would, he would say Minnie, [00:09:54] I'm going to come get you noontime tomorrow at school. This was when I was in high school, he'd come get me at lunchtime. He said I need-I need somebody to help me plow that field over there.

[AMJ]: [00:10:06] How would he come get you?

[MSM]: We had a pickup truck.

[AMJ]: [00:10:10] What kind of truck was it?

[MSM]: I think it was a Ford. I think [00:10:15] it was so long ago but I think it was a Ford truck [00:10:21] and uh, and he [00:10:24] and we were a big family with, there were six kids in our family, but we had a Ford truck, [laughter] we didn't have a car and of course, that truck. Daddy could do things on the farm with that truck that he couldn't do with the car. So I guess that was his reasoning, probably, of having a truck rather than buying a car. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:10:44] I guess, that made it hard to do what you had to do for school then? You kept getting pulled out?

[MSM]: Yes. And-and there were times I thought, Lord have mercy. I would pray that I would pass my grades or our-our tests when we would have tests in school, because I thought, Lord, I probably didn't spend as much time studying for this test as I should have, because when you've worked in the fields you were tired. [00:11:13] And all I thought about doing was taking a bath and going to bed, but I knew somewhere along the line, I had to study for my class. [00:11:24] And it was rough, it was rough growing up on the farm and being the oldest son. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:11:34] But you graduated.

[MSM]: I did. Thank the Lord. I weren't the top-I weren't the top three of the class, but I graduated.

[AMJ]: Was everybody so proud?

[MSM]: Yes, yes, yes. Even my daddy who-who-who would have loved to kept me home more often [00:11:53] but he was, he was happy with my graduation.

[AMJ]: [00:11:57] And then I know shortly after you graduated you came up here, what happened?

[MSM]: [00:12:04] Well, number one, I was, I was tired of the field. [00:12:10] My father had worked me [laughter] [00:12:15] like I-I used to say like a mule. [00:12:18] And, you know, it's still having no brothers, big enough to work. [00:12:25] And-and I had two uncles and their families that lived in Maryland, in Baltimore and um, [00:12:34] I decided [00:12:36] if they can make it in Baltimore, I can make it in Baltimore. [00:12:41] I really wanted to go to college, but when I asked my father, [00:12:47] if he was going to send me to college, [00:12:51] And he was-he was a very quiet person, but he raised his voice and says, you know, I don't have any money to send you to school. [00:13:04] I cried like a little girl, I was so hurt even if he had just said in a calm manner that he didn't have any money, that would've been one thing but to raise his voice and tell me that I-I it was really upsetting [00:13:20] and of course my mother and I were very close and Mom knew if I couldn't go to college I was coming to Baltimore because her two brothers and their families lived here. [00:13:36] And uh, and she didn't want me to come, although she wouldn't tell me that she didn't want me to leave her and I didn't want to leave my mother. My mother and I were very close and I didn't want to leave Mama, but I was not going to work the farm. I weren't going to be daddy's, his oldest son. [00:13:55] So I came to Baltimore and as they say, never looked back.

[AMJ]: [00:14:03] What was it like here when you got here?

[MSM]: [00:14:06] Wow. [00:14:09] Gosh, I-I really don't know. [00:14:13] It was a quiet place. And of course, I didn't know anybody except my two uncles and their families and they had children, one of them had children my age. [00:14:26] Um, so, as long as I was with them, I didn't have any problem but [00:14:34] Baltimore City knew nothing about Native Americans. [00:14:39] And if you went someplace where you shouldn't be, where you weren't, how can I say this? Where [00:14:49] where uh, where non-whites weren't [00:14:54] welcomed than it-it was, it could be rough. People would tell you in a heartbeat, you don't belong in here. [00:15:05] And, you know, being raised in the country and around a bunch of Indians and I thought, well not just Indians, but, you know, all races lived, where we lived in the country. And-and I thought what do you mean you don't belong in here? I didn't know how to, I didn't know how to, I didn't understand that. And it was frightening because I thought what will they do to me if I don't leave right away? [00:15:32] But as time went along, I-I learned where I could go and where I couldn't go. [laughter] Where I would be welcomed, where I wouldn't be welcomed. So it was, it was an adjustment.

[AMJ]: Will you uh, because, you know, this is just a sound recording. Will you describe for us what you look like, Miss Minnie?

[MSM]: Oh my gracious. I'm short [laughter] [00:15:59] 5 foot tall. And [00:16:04] I'm uh, being Native American, I'm a little on the dark side. Some people might say, you sure you're Native American? You-you must be black [00:16:14] because your skin is dark. No, I'm Native American. My father is Indian. My mother is Indian. So how can I be black? Well, you're dark. [00:16:26] Well, Indians aren't white, you know. They're supposed to be dark, [laughter] [00:16:34] that would be my response [laughter] [00:16:37] and has been my response at-in more times than one.

[AMJ]: Because in Baltimore people mistake us for everything but what we are right?

[MSM]: Yes, yeah. And when I first came we didn't have as many [00:16:53] Um, what's the word I want to use [00:16:57] um, many different nationalities as we have today. [00:17:04] Um, so I didn't see as many people back then that were even close to my color other than Native Americans. But now, when you, as you look around, you see people from all different countries and you don't know what they are. [00:17:24] Uh, and-so that's how it was when I came to

Baltimore. I thought, oh my God, they look at me and what's that black gal doing in here? And-and of course, I've been told more times than one, you can't come in here when I was, you know, when I first came to Baltimore. And as long as they said it in a nice way didn't bother me but some of them were, some people were really ugly and would tell you to get out of here. You don't belong in here, this isn't your place. [00:17:54] And-and I thought, you know, if they only knew where I came from, if they only knew the people that live where I [00:18:03] live [laughter] but it-but it was [00:18:06] it was hurtful and and at times, [00:18:10] depending on where I was and I've even been to churches when I first came here, that were very prejudiced.

[AMJ]: Wow.

[MSM]: And-and I thought man, [00:18:24] where are they from? [00:18:27] Don't they know that everybody belongs to the Lord?

[AMJ]: [00:18:32] Amen.

[MSM]: [00:18:34] I tell you way in the late 50s, it was rough-it was rough and having dark skin. [00:18:45] Uh, it could be-it uh, [00:18:49] ugly and backwards, it-it-it was a lot of things and uh, unless you had someone to-to take you, go with you places and I didn't always have someone to go with me because uh, my cousins that were my age, were, they were working and when they got home they didn't have time for social lives and they wanted to be ready to go to work the next day. And here I am, I'm new in Baltimore, I want to see Baltimore [laughter] [00:19:21] but uh, I learned [00:19:24] uh, how to adjust and I did adjust and-and I did well at it. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:19:35] How are you getting around the city in those days?

[MSM]: [00:19:39] Most times walk, and if you had money, you could ride the city bus. [00:19:46] But uh, I did a lot of walking. I walked from downtown more times than one. The bus station downtown, I think was on Fayette Street way back yonder. [00:20:00] The Trailway Bus Station [laughter] [00:20:05] If I came from North Carolina, I'd walked from down there all the way to this part of Baltimore City.

[AMJ]: Yeah, when you came here for the first time, Miss Minnie, was it on a bus?

[MSM]: No, the first time I came I had two uncles and their families that lived here. And they had come down to North Carolina for the week or the weekend. And I rode back with them to Baltimore and stayed a few days, maybe a week and then I took the bus back to North Carolina.

[AMJ]: You had enough?

[MSM]: Yeah, well I had to go back to school. I hadn't graduated high school yet.

[AMJ]: Oh you came to check it out?

[MSM]: [laughter] Yeah, yeah I came to come up here to see where my uncles were living and their families [laughter] [00:20:56] but then I took the bus back, but then when I came to stay, I think I came by bus. With my little suitcase hopped on the-uh [00:21:09]

[AMJ]: Trailways?

[MSM] Trailways. [00:21:12] And come to Baltimore. [00:21:15] And-and I can't remember if my anybody in my uncle's, family met me at the bus station, or if I got on the city bus and come to the came out here to their house, because they live right up on Fayette Street near Patterson Park Avenue.

[AMJ]: And at the time, Miss Minnie, were there lots of Indians here?

[MSM]: Quite a few. They lived in like I, what I call pockets, you know, the group here and a group there. And-and then when I look back at that, I think to myself, I don't blame them. I would have been living in-in a [00:21:53] pocket too. [00:21:56] Uh, where my uncle lived, I think he was the only person on that block that was Native American. [00:22:03] But because

they lived there, and he had, I think six children and uh, a couple of them were near my age. So, I feel right at home with them, but I didn't uh, [00:22:20] I didn't get too far away except when I got a job, got a job at a hospital on the west side of town. [00:22:28] And uh, that was sometimes that was rough. [laughter] [00:22:34] You know, being all alone and-and you're not knowing what to expect [00:22:39] and uh, and who you could trust. [00:22:44] Um, but [00:22:46] with the help of the Lord, I made it through.

[AMJ]: [00:22:50] Do you remember what your reaction was the first time you saw the city?

[MSM]: [00:22:59] No. [00:23:03] I really can't.

[AMJ]: When you go home now, does the quiet strike you?

[MSM]: [00:23:13] I don't think so, because [00:23:17] hm, I think of where I am here as being a quiet place. [00:23:23] Um, so, it-it doesn't uh change things when I go to Carolina.

[AMJ]: Where are we today?

[MSM]: [00:23:32] East Baltimore, Patterson Park. And even though there's a huge park right there, it doesn't affect me. Now sometimes, there are you might see a lot of people walking to the park. [00:23:50] But in the last couple of years, it don't, it doesn't seem as [00:23:56] busy. Or maybe I'm just not seeing you know what's happening, but I don't see as many people going up to the park. [00:24:06] Um, and there used to be a lot of children in this community. And so those children would go to the park. Parents would take their children to the park, but we don't have a lot of children in our communities, more adults, right here, now, than there used to be.

[AMJ]: Is this where your kids grew up?

[MSM]: Yeah. [laughter] [00:24:30] Uh, not at-at this house. I-we lived in an apartment, couple of doors back that way. But uh, yeah, we lived here on this street.

[AMJ]: How many kids do you have, Miss Minnie?

[MSM]: I have two. I have a girl and a boy. The Lord blessed me with two and he didn't say that was all. But I wanted to say that was, [laughter] [00:24:55] that uh, that I didn't, you know, I didn't say two is all I'm going to have and that's it. That's all the lord gave me, and-and I'm and I'm thankful.

[AMJ]: [00:25:08] Yeah, they're pretty great.

[MSM]: Yes, yeah, yeah.

[AMJ]: [00:25:14] You kind of already talked about this a little bit, but I'm going to ask. How is it different from how you lived when you were growing up here? [00:25:24] Like, what's different about life in Baltimore?

[MSM]: Oh, my gracious. [00:25:30] Wow. [00:25:32] I-I don't know where to begin. [laughter] [00:25:38] Um, well, I like the fact that we have a um, [00:25:42] a park, a public park that you can go to and relax and walk around and visit. You see people and I don't have to worry about [00:25:54] uh, getting in the car and driving [00:25:58] two or three miles. Although, everybody can't say that because everybody don't live by the park [laughter] like I do, but uh. [00:26:10] And I-I think the fact that [00:26:14] we have uh, bus services wherever you want to go, you can get on the bus and-and go. If you don't have a car. And in North Carolina, that weren't-that weren't possible. Uh, If you don't have a car and you can't get anyone to take you someplace, then well, you just don't go. So.

[AMJ]: [00:26:34] How about your um, your daily routine? Which obviously you're all grown up now, but um, I noticed this morning you're just kind of taking it easy, right?

[MSM]: Yes, although [00:26:50] um, my plans was [00:26:54] to uh, join up with a friend of mine and go to the mall and walk. [00:27:02] Uh, there's a group of people who-who walk every day out there. And since we're old people. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:27:09] No.

[MSM]: I'd rather do, I'd rather walk than to go to the gym and do exercises. [00:27:19] Um, I just think, you know, you get to see more people and you can communicate with those people and if you're at the gym you know, you just I think talk to those that are right around you. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:27:33] Yeah, and uh, most of these people that you walk with are also Native American, aren't they?

[MSM]: There's uh, quite a few that are Native American but-but we get to meet all kinds. And uh, and that's interesting too, you know, you might meet somebody from who, from who grew up in Hawaii [laughter] [00:27:55] and I like meeting people. I like getting to know people from other places. Um.

[AMJ]: [00:28:01] Are they still often curious about you and ask where you're from?

[MSM]: Not as much as it used to be. I guess, I guess people are and not just our people, but people in general are just so mixed until you don't know who you're looking at, you don't know where they're from, have no idea. Oh, you're from Jamaica? Your folks are from Jamaica? [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:28:31] Miss Minnie, one thing I have always admired about you and remembered and noticed is your impeccable sense of style. You're always decked out. Can you tell me a little bit about how you pick what you're going to wear every day?

[MSM]: [00:28:49] Gosh, sometimes I look at-at the clothes and say oh, that's more comfortable, [00:28:56] than that. So what, you're going to be walking today? So you, so you got to think about how comfortable is that shirt and pants. [00:29:08] Or if you're not walking. Oh, you're going to wear a dress today. Hmm, [00:29:16] I better think about that. [00:29:20] Because I like, I want to be comfortable, you know, I like being comfortable. And if-if I'm not going to church, I'm subject to be wearing a pair of pants about every day because they're comfortable.

[AMJ]: But you always look fancy. Like, could you tell us about your outfit today?

[MSM]: [00:29:42] [laughter] I don't know where I got these pants from, I'm-I probably bought them but because of their color, black, red, white, just a little bit of green in there with these dots. I'd sometimes, I guess I'm just a little on the nutty side and when I saw these pants, I thought hmm, I think I'll buy them, they're different. [00:30:05] And-and every once in a while, I think. And even on going to church on Sunday, I think, today I'm going to be different. I'm going to be Minnie.

[AMJ]: [00:30:17] When do you think Minnie's um, fashion really came out? Was it in Baltimore, or North Carolina?

[MSM]: It had to be Baltimore because in North Carolina choices were very few. You didn't have a whole lot. So, after I came to Baltimore and uh, [00:30:36] got a job, [00:30:39] and realized that I, you know, you can buy that dress over there, [00:30:47] if you, uh, save a few dollars. [00:30:51] And that's how I made it. Clothes-wise, furniture, whatever I wanted. If I, If I wanted it bad enough, I'd find a way to get it. I-I just, I just quit eating out and save some money [00:31:06] and-and buy whatever it was I had my eyes locked onto. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:31:11] Yeah. Do you notice anything else about yourself that you picked up since you moved to Baltimore or things that you do differently or eat that you didn't eat in North Carolina or?

[MSM]: Well, I eat different food here because, well, things I didn't see in North Carolina. [00:31:32] Uh, and like seafood, I love seafood. [00:31:35] And the only thing I ate in North

Carolina, my father loved to fish. And uh, [00:31:42] but he didn't, he didn't, he didn't uh, catch all kinds of fish. Uh, usually it is one or two kinds that he would catch, but in Baltimore, you can get just about anything in the seafood line [laughter] And like shrimp, I'd never had shrimp. I never heard of shrimp when I lived in Carolina, uh, [00:32:02] but, you know, shrimp. I love, I love seafood, [00:32:07] all kinds.

[AMJ]: [00:32:09] Are there any holidays or special occasions you observe now since you've been living in Baltimore that you didn't in North Carolina?

[MSM]: [00:32:20] Mmm. [laughter] Yes, [laughter] living on the farm, you didn't do too much [00:32:27] uh, uh, taking breaks on holidays or not my family. My father was a being a farmer. It was like, you know, this has to be done, this, you've got to do this, you've got to do that. And [00:32:42] and we had to do whatever, whatever daddy said tomorrow, we're going to do. That's what we did. Except now Sunday, [00:32:52] he-he observed Sunday as a special day, but most every other day it was just another day of the week. Uh, didn't matter whether it was. Now I'll- I'll take that back, Christmas, we didn't do, we wouldn't go out there working to field on Christmas day or Thanksgiving day, but any other special day. It was just another day of the week. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:33:19] When you've been home to visit since you moved to Baltimore, does anybody ever notice anything like different about you? Did you pick up anything that they comment on?

[MSM]: [laughter] Yeah, you don't, you don't sound like you did when you left North Carolina. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:33:35] Did you pick up an accent, Miss Minnie?

[MSM]: [00:33:38] [laughter] Not intentionally. [00:33:41] Um, I've never tried to change how I talk but when you are away from the south. [00:33:48] Away from something that you've been doing for a long time. I think, sometimes you-you might gravitate to it without even being aware that you've, [00:33:59] you're gravitating to something. That uh, I haven't tried to change myself,

but people say, well, you don't act like it did when you wasn't North. Well, I'm not the same person. I'm Minnie Maynor, now.

[AMJ]: [laughter] Yeah, you have a whole new name.

[MSM]: [00:34:15] [laughter] Yeah. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:34:17] What kinds of things did you used to do in North Carolina that you brought with you to Baltimore?

[MSM]: Reading. [00:34:27] I love to read. [00:34:30] And I don't know where I got it from. But I remember in elementary school, I loved to read and I still love to read.

[AMJ]: What do you like to read?

[MSM]: Anything and everything. I like, you know, uh, story books, books that have a story and it's going to take me a couple of weeks to read it out, you know? I-I just love to read. Sometimes, sometimes I read a comic book. [laughter] I know that sounds ridiculous but every once in a while I pick up, I say oh, this is different. I like religious articles, church things, but I-I just love to read.

[AMJ]: And uh, church is a big part of Lumbee life in North Carolina, right?

[MSM]: Mhm. Yes. Yeah.

[AMJ]: That practice of going to church, you never really left behind.

[MSM]: No, until recently. [00:35:29] I think, what did Linda to say? I miss three Sundays and I don't know why. I guess I'm old and I just didn't want to get up. Did not want to get out of bed and I didn't. [00:35:45] And I don't know when that has ever happened to me before. [00:35:52] But uh, and when I think about it, it makes me sad that I lost three Sundays from church. I mean, [00:36:00] if I had been sick now that would have been a different story, but I weren't sick. I just didn't want to get out of bed. [00:36:09] I-I didn't.

[AMJ]: Do you think you'll go this Sunday?

[MSM]: I intend to. Yeah, I intend to.

[AMJ]: So we know you like to walk the mall. Um, what else do you like to do for fun these days?

[MSM]: Wow. [00:36:25] For fun. [00:36:28] Hmm. [00:36:31] You know what, I like looking at flowers. [00:36:35] I just think flowers are some of the most beautiful things in the world. And I, if I could walk down through um, what are they called? [00:36:47] Where flowers and vegetables are grown?

[AMJ]: A garden?

[MSM]: Well, that, I'm thinking about a.

[AMJ]: A nursery?

[MSM]: Yeah. Isn't it terrible? I couldn't think of the term. I would be tickled just to walk down through a nursery, to see the different kinds of flowers, the different colors of flowers. I just think it's fascinating. [00:37:12] Although I can't raise, I can't raise them. I-I, [00:37:16] not much grow for Minnie [laughter] [00:37:19] and I don't know what it is I don't do right. That uh, the flowers don't live long for me.

[AMJ]: Maybe we can find a nursery to visit? It's kind of autumn, but there's got to be something to see out there.

[MSM]: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[AMJ]: [00:37:35] If not we'll wait till springtime.

[MSM]: [00:37:39] Mhm [laughter] Yeah. That, that would be interesting, yeah.

[AMJ]: I have just a couple more questions, Miss Minnie. Thank you for letting me ask you so many. What do you think the Indian community in Baltimore is going to be like in another 10 years?

[MSM]: [00:37:56] Wow.

[AMJ]: Or 20 years?

[MSM]: Hm. Will there be an Indian community? [00:38:06] Um, when I think about [00:38:08] the past 20 years, [00:38:12] where did the people go? That used to live down on Baltimore Street when over the years when people would come new people [00:38:23] uh, from North Carolina would come to Baltimore. I would say if it was people that I knew I'd say, but we-we have to ride down Baltimore Street. Why? So we can see some more Indians [laughter] [00:38:38] or Ann Street, or-or Broadway [00:38:43] because at one time there were more room Indians on Broadway than there are now. And I remember a time when I would just walk down Baltimore Street, [00:38:53] going nowhere in particular because there were some people on that street that look like me. [00:39:01] There are no Native Americans on this block. [00:39:05] I don't know any around here. Of course, it doesn't affect me the way it did years ago, but when I first came to Baltimore, I wanted to see some people that look like me. And of course, back then Broadway, [00:39:21] and-and uh, a part of Baltimore Street was the place to go, but now the people are, people are so scattered. Until, you know, you have to have a search light [laughter]

[00:39:36] or you have to know somebody who knows somebody who knows somebody
[laughter] to find some Native Americans.

[AMJ]: [00:39:44] Well look, let me ask you this, what do you hope for the Indian Community of Baltimore?

[MSM]: [00:39:51] Well, I-I would like to see [00:39:57] the Indian people have more things that bring them together. [00:40:04] I know we, you know we, we do some things but [00:40:10] of course, maybe it's maybe it's not as important to some people as-as it is to others. But I don't want to see our people get all scattered out and we don't know where anybody lives and you can't see anybody without uh, [00:40:24] driving 50 miles, you know? But I'd like to see our people [00:40:31] uh, maybe do more things that would bring us together.

[AMJ]: [00:40:36] Is there anything you'd like the young people of our community in particular to hear from you?

[MSM]: Hmm. Wow. [00:40:46] Hmm. [00:40:48] I think I-I would like to see our young folk have a-a deeper interest in-in [00:40:57] who we are. [00:41:01] I just think about, uh, of course, you know, I-I know I'm not going to be here another 50 years, but 50 years from now, where will you find some Indians in Baltimore City? [00:41:16] Um, I know that we have the Indian Center, we have the church. [00:41:22] But, and-and maybe it's me, but I don't hear things about uh, our folks. You know, what's something big happening at the Indian Center? I mean, I-I know about the Pow Wow, you know, it's stuff like that. But I don't, it's not, they don't make a big to-do of it, like they used to. [00:41:46] Um, and even with our church when I look around in our church. [00:41:52] Uh, that at one point was ninety nine and nine-tenths percent Indian. [laughter]
[00:41:58] It isn't that way anymore and uh, I mean, not that I think people shouldn't come. That if you're not a Native American, you shouldn't be there. No, I don't, I don't feel that way but, but uh, but I wouldn't want it to, wouldn't want to walk in there one day and where's all the Indians? [00:42:20] I don't see any Indians. That would be heartbreaking.

[AMJ]: [00:42:25] So you want the young people to take an interest in their culture by going to church and?

[MSM]: Yeah, and being who we are, [laughter] just being who we are. Yeah, that would be great.

[AMJ]: It's so good, Miss Minnie, you did great.

[MSM]: Thank you. Thank you. I always appreciate you. [00:42:44] You, you're so kind and you know how to do things. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:42:49] Well, I stumble through like the rest of us, but I really love you, Miss Minnie and I always have and it's just such an honor to be able to spend time with you again today.

[MSM]: Thank you. Thank you. When uh, when you call me out the oasis coming [00:43:05] ashley [00:43:07] and uh, and I the best part for me is [00:43:10] you and I are connected. [00:43:13] In the sense that a lot of people aren't because Sampson.

[AMJ]: Yeah. Samson cousins unite.

[MSM]: Yeah, we have a connection that everybody can't have. [laughter]

[AMJ][00:43:28] Very proud of that, Miss Minnie.

[MSM]: Yes. Yes. Yeah. [laughter]

[AMJ]: [00:43:33] Okay, I think we did it.

[MSM]: Thank you.

[AMJ]: Thank you.