

Harold Paulk Henderson, Sr. Oral History Collection
OH Vandiver 32
Louise King Aiken Interviewed by Dr. Harold Paulk Henderson
Date: 09-15-93
Cassette #485 (5 Minutes)

EDITED BY DR. HENDERSON

Side One

Henderson: This is an interview with Mrs. Louise King Aiken in Governor Vandiver's home in Lavonia, September 15, 1994. My name is Hal Henderson. Good afternoon, Mrs. Aiken.

Aiken: Good afternoon, Mr. Henderson.

Henderson: Glad to have you with us this afternoon.

Aiken: I'm delighted to be here.

Henderson: I understand that you taught Governor [Samuel Ernest] Vandiver [Jr.] in the fourth grade. Would you tell us about that experience?

Aiken: Well, it was a great experience. Ernie was always a fine little boy. I don't remember having any discipline problems with him--at all. He was smart and just a good round person.

Henderson: Well, was he a good student? Did he like to study?

Aiken: Yes, he did. He was interested in everything and very active in all parts of schoolwork.

Henderson: Is there anything that stands out in your mind about Ernest Vandiver?

Aiken: Well, he always impressed me, even as little as he was, that he had the traits to develop into a wonderful man.

Henderson: Now, what were these traits that impressed you?

Aiken: Well, as I've said, he was so . . . he was a good student, and he was good with other people with his friends. He was just an all-around fine person, even as a little boy.

Henderson: Was there one particular subject that maybe he liked better than something else? [Did] he like math better than history or did he like everything?

Aiken: [Whisper] I don't remember about that.

Henderson: Do you remember his parents? Would you describe them?

Aiken: Yes, I knew his parents and they were a fine, fine couple. Of course, I knew Ms. [Vanna Bowers Osborne] Vandiver better than I did his father, but I liked him very much and I was very fond of Ms. Vandiver. She was a lovely person. We used to go to the same clubs.

Henderson: Was she a leader in the community?

Aiken: Yes.

Henderson: What were some of her activities in the community?

Aiken: [Whisper] I don't know. I don't remember.

Henderson: Anything else you would like to say about Governor Vandiver?

Aiken: Well, I remember that, when they'd take trips, you know, he'd always want me to go with `em. I thought that was great. [Laughter]

Henderson: Well, did you go with them?

Aiken: No. No, I never did, but I appreciated him wanting me to.

Henderson: Now what school is this that he's attending? Is it Lavonia . . .?

Aiken: Lavonia Grammar School.

Henderson: Grammar School. Now, how many students attended that school?

Aiken: [Whisper] I don't know.

Henderson: Okay, but it was a relatively small school?

Aiken: Well, yes. Smaller than it is now.

Henderson: Did the children have a lunchroom, or did they bring their own lunches from home or . . .? You don't remember. Okay, all right.

Aiken: I don't remember. It's been 66 years . . .

Henderson: I can understand.

Aiken: . . . And I don't remember everything.

Henderson: I can understand. Anything else you'd like to say?

Aiken: Well I'll tell you this that I told `em that I was going to get married, you know, my class, [and] after class Ernest begged me not to. [Laughter]

Henderson: Why was that?

Aiken: I don't know. [Laughter]

Henderson: He just didn't want his teacher to be married.

Aiken: I'm afraid not. [Laughter]

Henderson: Well, I want to thank you for this interview. It's been most informative.

Aiken: Well, I'm sorry I couldn't tell you anymore, but, you know, you don't remember everything that long.

Henderson: That's right. I think you did remarkably well.

Aiken: Do you?

Henderson: I do.

Aiken: Well, I hope so. I hope I did all right.

Henderson: Thank you ma'am.

End of Side One

END OF INTERVIEW

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