

## **Student Mary Carey Née Timbers**

I was born in 1940 and began attending the LCPS one room Hillsboro Elementary school for Blacks in 1946. We lived across the road from the school then, so it wasn't far and I walked. Even after my family moved into Hillsboro, the school was within walking distance (a mile). I attended Hillsboro Elementary for the first grade only. It closed when Carver opened in 1948. Then I started to ride the bus to Carver. Mr. Henry Reid was the driver (bus # 30). My family didn't own a car and the very fact that I was riding was a thrill in itself. I really didn't pay much attention to the condition of the bus. I cannot remember the bus ever having a mechanical failure or getting stuck in mud or snow, so I don't have any bad memories of my bus rides. We'd leave Hillsboro where I'd get on at Glen Roberts' store. We'd pick up Black students living in tenant housing on farms in the area as the bus route went from Hillsboro to Woodgrove to Round Hill and finally to Purcellville and Carver Elementary. Young children don't necessarily have a good concept of time passing. It seemed like a long trip to me, but may only have been about 20 - 25 miles and lasted 45 minutes to an hour. There were places along the primarily dirt road route where the road was very narrow. Mr. Reid would have to steer the bus over to the side of the road on the grass to let oncoming traffic go by. A cherry tree grew where route 719 comes out in Round Hill near Thompson's. In the spring the tree would be full of ripe cherries and we'd hope that Mr. Reid would let us off long enough to get a few. The birds always seemed to get the cherries before we had a chance, so Mr. Reid never stopped. The bus was 3/4 full by the time we reached Carver. I attended Carver through the 8th grade (1954/1955) That was the last year Carver had an 8th grade. After that, Black students started attending the 8th grade at Douglass High in Leesburg. I attended Douglass High from 1955 and graduated in 1959 (grades 9 - 12). By then, my family had moved to Purcellville and was living in tenant housing on Hoops Dairy farm. I'd ride the # 34 bus driven by O. Ray Stewart to Carver with my younger brother, Howard. We'd pick up other students living in tenant housing on the farms around Purcellville. Once again the bus was about 3/4 full and the route around 20 miles. The trip from the pickup at Hoops Dairy farm to Carver would take about 45 minutes to an hour. At Carver I'd transfer to bus # 16 driven by Reverend Sulva Warner. From there, the bus made its way to Douglass High in Leesburg. Reverend Warner would pick up more students between Purcellville and Leesburg, with the bus being about 80% full by the time we reached Douglass. As it turns out, most of my family has stayed in Loudoun county all their lives. My mother (Gertrude Furr) and her brother also attended the Hillsboro Elementary school. She was born in 1916 and her brother (my uncle) was born in 1918. Her mother (my grandmother) died while she and her brother were still toddlers. Her father (my grandfather) moved the family to New Jersey where family members helped him raise my mother and uncle until we became older. Then he moved us back to Hillsboro, where my mother and uncle attended Hillsboro Elementary. They didn't live far from the school and walked to it. They were both older than other students in their grades. My mother was probably 16 when she was in the 4th grade and my uncle 14 when he was in the 4th. My mother would have graduated from the one room Hillsboro Elementary in 1935/1936 and my uncle in 1937/1938, but neither would get more than a 7th grade education in LCPS<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> From November 7, 2020 interview with former LCPS Student Mary Carey Née Timbers conducted by Nathan Bailey