

**StoryCorps Interview at Cumberland County Library**  
**Arletha Campbell and Ginny Powers**

Arletha: The thing I like about the Local and State History Room, there's a vast amount of information located there . . .

Ginny: Yes.

Arletha: . . . you just have to look.

Ginny: Yeah.

Arletha: I know one day I was looking at old *Faithful Observers*, which we have the *Faithful Observers* back from, ah, 1860 . . .

Ginny: And they're wonderful!

Arletha: Right. And I was looking for a question for a customer. And, as I was looking for this question, to find something, I ran across this picture. And on this picture, under the capture it was talking about this black church that was sponsored by a white church in the Grace Creek area, for vacation bible school. And the black church was Baptist Union. Well, ding!, the bell when off. Well my mom was raised in the Baptist Union area and it talked about four generations being at that church for vacation bible school that year. And it happened to be my aunt, my grandmother, my great-grandmother, and my aunt's child.

Ginny: Oh, wow.

Arletha: There they were, in front of me, on a picture. Four generations. And I thought that was the greatest finding I could have found . . .

Ginny: That was a blessing.

Arletha: . . . in a room that I worked in for twenty years!

Ginny: Yeah.

Arletha: Tell me something about the research that you've done on your family, Gin.

Ginny: Well, I started out doing my mother and daddy—I was adopted—

Arletha: Mmmhmm.

Ginny: And, umm, I thought, well, I'll never know who had me. Well, one night I was here, at the library, and, umm, this man came in and he said, "You look like your mother." I said, "Are you speaking to me?" And he said, "Yes." And I said, "Oh, you knew Whit?" And he said, "Oh, yes, I knew Whit and Walter," he said, "No, I'm talking about your real mother."

Arletha: Oh!

Ginny: Well I just about fell on the floor. But, my parents had prepared me when I was very young that, one day, someone may come up to me and say something.

Arletha: Mmmhmm.

Ginny: So, he did give me a name; it was just a last name, Clarke. So I thus got on a mission. And my birth certificate was still in the courthouse and, from that, when I found that birth certificate, it had “baby girl Clarke” . . . you know, I, I just sat there because my next door neighbor was Rusty Clarke . . .

Arletha: Yeah.

Ginny: . . . Heman Clarke was on the other side of us, a judge. And, I’ll never forget, Heman came by that afternoon and I said, “Would you sit with me for one minute before you die . . . “

Arletha: Right.

Ginny: “. . . tell me?” And he said, “What’ve you got?” And I handed him the birth certificate; I didn’t even speak. He said, “Oh my gosh, I was supposed to tell you.”

Arletha: Mmmhmm.

Ginny: He said, “Well, honey, I’m your second cousin.” [laughing] But, you know, it’s been fun. I have met people that I’ve known all my life . . .

Arletha: Right.

Ginny: . . . never knew . . .

Arletha: Didn’t know they were relatives, right.

Ginny: No.

Arletha: That’s interesting.

Ginny: And, so thus I started my genealogy mission. My birth father—I found out who he was.

Arletha: I remember.

Ginny: I met him.

Arletha: I remember.

Ginny: I met him.

Arletha: Mmmhmm, I remember.

Ginny: And, umm, with that I have opened nine lines that no one’s opened.

Arletha: Alright.

Ginny: I've now found my birth brother who lives here in town.

Arletha: Okay!

Ginny: We have met and been together. We were together for Thanksgiving for the first time.

Arletha: Very good, very good.

Ginny: That was very nice and I thoroughly enjoyed that. He said, "How did you do this?" And I said, "Andy, I did it through wanting to find you—I knew you existed—and wanting to know who I was."

Arletha: Alright.

Ginny: And now we see each other. He's my size.

Arletha: Mmmhmm.

Ginny: My height. Little thing.

Arletha: Yeah . . . People always wanna know, "Where'd I get these color eyes?"

Ginny: That's right.

Arletha: "Why am I short and everybody else is tall?" So we tell people, if you wanna find out who you are, and you're from the state of North Carolina...

Ginny: That's right.

Arletha: Well, come up to the Locum State History Room.

Ginny: You might meet your kinfolk.

Arletha: Absolutely.