

Interviewee: **Linda Moore – Garoute**  
Interviewers: **Ernest Demby, Julie Hawkins Ennis, Noah Waters, Ryan Craun**  
Date of Interview: **January 15, 2020**  
Location of Interview: **Eagle Harbor Community Center, Eagle Harbor, MD**  
List of Acronyms: **LG= Linda Moore-Garoute, ED=Ernest Demby, JE=Julie Hawkins Ennis  
NW=Noah Waters, RC=Ryan Craun**

[Begin Transcription: 00:23]

ED: Alright, let's start. Can we first start by stating your name for me?

LG: Yes. My name is Linda Moore – Garoute.

ED: Okay. What is your surname, Linda?

LG: My surname is Moore.

ED: Okay. When did your family come to this area?

LG: My family came to Prince Georgie's County around I think it was, maybe, 1850?

ED: Okay. Who were your parents?

LG: My parents was Joseph and Ida Moore.

ED: Were they from the Aquasco area?

LG: My mom's parents were from Aquasco and my father's parent's was from Brandywine.

ED: Okay. What did they do for living?

LG: My mother was a computer consultant, business owner and my father was a, oh god, what was he, a social worker from Howard.

ED: What were you like as a child?

LG: I was a middle child. Always inquisitive. And I just start loving history. I used to read a lot. So, I fell in love with history. Maybe in my fifth grade, when I was learning about different countries and the explorers that traveled around the world. I had always good history teachers.

ED: Do you have any memories. Any childhood memories from this area?

LG: Pretty much I was born on a farm or a stayed on the farm. So, country girl who enjoyed being in outside in nature, by the water.

ED: Do you have any responsibilities on the farm?

LG: No. I make sure I didn't. I didn't like labor. Didn't like hard work. I just used to ride the animals most. So doing any labor, hard work, it was not my forte.

ED: Have a lot of friends?

LG: Not really, but do have close family friends. And the friends I do have, like college friends, I've had them forever.

ED: Did you go to school around here?

LG: Oh, yes. I've been to high school.

ED: What was that like?

LG: It was kind mixed up because we were the first class that was integrated in high school. We left the all black school in Douglas. I mean in Croom, Maryland which is up the street. I call it Douglas and we had to go to Gwynn Park which was a white school and so we weren't integrated properly, I should say.

ED: And what was the experience like?

LG: Oh it was very hectic. We didn't learn anything because we were just getting used to one another so it was like we were thrown into an institution that we knew nothing about and we really did have those teachers that really care and nurture our learning. So I missed that, because I have a lot my cousins who were my teachers. So I had to go a strange school and didn't have that love and that understanding family connection so, I missed out a lot.

ED: Did you end up having to work around here or anything?

LG: No. Most of the jobs were not around here. My first summer job was a Goddard Spaceflight Center and I worked with really nice engineers from Boston. And that was whole entirely different culture and I got to inter-react with Washington DC's students which I found very interesting and very knowledgeable, too.

ED: Did anything you learned from being around here helped you in your life outside here?

LG: No, not really.

ED: Did it made you more resilient? Tougher?

LG: More just the country life. Learning how to survive and being sustainable. Like planting vegetables. I still do that now. I still love that. Eating fresh vegetables, planting vegetables, growing vegetables and sharing it with my friends.

ED: Right. Any fond memories of around here, the people? Anything that stand out to you? You cherish much?

LG: Yes, my first Prom. My first prom date was that here in Eagle Harbor. I didn't know where I was going. But that was a cheap prom date, too, I thought. I say, "cheap", it was nothing to do, but to look at the water, and, but it was fun." It was different and this is where I really, I was really introduced to Eagle Harbor. I said, "Oh there's a place down here that you can go."

ED: At that time, what was the popular thing? How were people dressing? Entertained music wise?

LG: We were so like... It was always Wilmer's Park, we had Aquasco's Speedway. So we had our own little culture and our own way of dressing. You had to dress for fast cars.

ED: Much of street racing and things like that?

LG: Yes

ED: Okay. Did you do anything religious? Did you have any religion?

LG: Yes, my family was very religious. We couldn't work on Sundays. Sunday was church day and visiting families and we usually went to my grandfather's house or my grandfather's house which was quite huge and all the families used to meet there.

ED: Was there anybody that was a leader-type figure? In those times that everybody kind of went to? Who's that?

LG: Yes, my grandfather.

ED: Your grandfather. What was his name?

LG: Peter L. Moore. He was the first black sheriff in Prince George's County. So, everybody came to him and he always helped everyone.

ED: Did you take that? Do you have that in you?

LG: Instilled? Oh Yes. leadership.

ED: As far as Aquasco and Eagle Harbor in particular, is there anything you'd like to see happen to this area?

LG: Yes, I just don't want this particular area just going into the history books as a small African-American Historical Resort Town and that's it. Know the history with it. It is surrounded by history and I want all of that just to, be revealed.

ED: Do you think the culture, is it the same now as it was then?

LG: Pretty much.

ED: If there were any differences, what do you think there are?

LG: Differences?

ED: Do you think the people here now have the same value towards as this area as they did then?

LG: No, I think back then is was much richer and I think now they take it more for granted. People back then worked harder for what they've got. And now, they are sort of like the entitled generation like okay, because my parents had it, I should have it also without trying to work for it.

ED: Yes. What was commuting like getting around this area? Was that difficult? Or what was it?

LG: At the beginning, when I was growing up we always had horses, and it was fun. Everybody had some type of horse. Maybe it's wasn't fanciest horses but it was fun. And, so we could go horseback riding or we had tractors. You know, you learn to drive the tractor before you learn to drive a car. So we used to do that. The guys always had the fancy cars. In the country, usually the guy with the fancy car used to have the most girlfriends.

ED: Who was that guy?

LG: Usually the son of the preacherman.

ED: So, how will people acting towards each other, I mean, it sounds like everybody was pretty big family?

LG: People are family but they are also... because we were such a tight knit group, It was a lot of jealousy. And what's the other word? Jealousy and a little bit of envious. It depends on your family status. And they would judge you by that, instead of embracing it; they would judge you by it.

ED: Does that speak to the... working hard for what they had?

LG: Exactly

ED: But look would at others that way?

LG: They will look like you were entitled to this and you really didn't have to work hard but we do that work hard for it. It was not easy for us. It was just not given to us. We had to work for it.

ED: What made so interested in the preservation and maintaining the culture of this area? Aside from being from here?

LG: I would have went to Jug Bay. 'Cause I like to visit historical spots and just spend time by the water and just see the nature and everything. So I went up to Jug Bay, just to have a nice little peaceful summer day and read the historical signs and signage. And I saw that there was a glittering cabinet back there called Duckett Cabinet and I start reading the sign and where it was first located and how they got there and why they got there. And I'm like, wait a minute. The manager of the park told me, "Well, this was a cabinet that was left in Aquasco and the Truman family, it was left on their land and the Truman family donated it to the park because they couldn't find the family members of the Duckett family". I said, "The Ducketts are all over Aquasco. What do you mean they couldn't find the rightful owners of this cabinet?" And they say, "We really couldn't know." And I say what about in Malcom? Dogpatch? Did you try over there?" It was Mom Duckett, The Duckett family, you know. The Duckett family that was the family that this usually looked down on because she and her son, would have a lot of run ins with the Charles County police people and they say, well, it wasn't that family and so I said, "Well, I'm part of the Duckett family." Then, I went home and done some research. I went to my church, all these Duckett's, my Grandmother on my mother side, my aunts married Ducketts and Duckett men must be very popular because they were all in my family on the female side. And so, I started looking and I said, "Well something is funny about this". Being the historian that I am, I started researching more and more and I said, "Wait a minute, this seems like, you know, this can go somewhere. "Why is this cabinet doing on Croom and it's called the Truman cabinet?" And then I read another story, it's called the slave cabinet. What is the real name? And then, I saw the little icon on with the cabinet, as icon of Prince Georgie's County and I said "Wait a minute. Something is wrong with this picture", you're taking our history and putting it on Prince

Georgie's County and we're not getting the full benefits of this. So, I started writing my grants and so one thing led to another, and this is why I'm sitting here today.

ED: You've been doing a lot of research. Have you discovered anything you didn't know?

LG: Oh have I. Well, first of all, as a History Major from Fisk University, with a history degree, the war of 1812 was never spoken much about down here and this is where it all was happening. It happened here right in my backyard, and the civil war, we always knew about the civil war but we never knew about Camp Stanton in Benedict. My mother used to talk about Benedict, The city of Benedict many times and we used to go down there at the summertime. But the history of Benedict, nothing, but we had the best crab cakes around. So, we knew about the crab cakes, we knew about Benedict but the other history, we didn't learn. And I think most of the people today in Aquasco, still does not know about all of the wars that happened and all of the stories that goes, and the stories they go with the war. They're not familiar with that.

ED: Not even the slavery? They did know much about the slavery?

LG: No. And plus I didn't know Aquasco had the highest population of slaves for the whole state of Maryland. Didn't know that. I always thought the story was on the Eastern Shore, where Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, you know. We always heard about these people and we didn't really put them together. We knew that they were there, Marylanders, but that was the extent of it.

ED: You said, you went to your church and found out all of this information. Was the church like where the family histories were stored and kept? Archives?

LG: Absolutely. Everything. Cemeteries. And in the black churches cemeteries and even white churches, I assume, the cemetery can tell the whole history of the region, the people, and everything.

ED: Was that church you were referring to, is that a family church?

LG: Of course. Most of the churches around here that were started by families in that area. And school. Usually, when they started a church, they also started a school. We believed in Education is the way out of a lot of poverty and to help you growth period. Education is the best way of growth.

ED: As far of preservation, do you think the same way of speaking of the cabinet that we're talking about, do you think that something that could happen to a lot of the historical homes around here. Is that what you'd like to see happen?

LG: Absolutely. What I would like to see happen, yes, the homes, preserved them before we won't have them. Because once they are destroyed or on the ground, that's it. This is the time that we must preserve the homes.

ED: Is there anything that you feel, you need to say or get off your chest?

LG: No, I think this an excellent program. I think the people who were we talking to is good. If something that, a sit down conversation that we always needed. Hopefully that the two mayors coming in, plus other mayors, we can really make a difference this time in pursuing the trail of the Afro-American Heritage Trail that the university students have completed, which was excellent. It was an excellent idea, I think. I think that's could be a very eye opening experience for a lot of people who want to learn more about Aquasco and this area and which they should. I think this area should also become a historical area for Maryland period. Because we have no representation of Southern Maryland in this area of history. Most of our history is in the Northern

part of Maryland. I mean, or Prince George's County which is Bowie, Bladensburg but, what about Aquasco? All of this started in Aquasco. And they just overlook us, period. Because we are a small rural, coastal community.

ED: And very quiet as well?

LG: Well, we're isolated. And they keep us isolated for a reason. And felt that with their last, with this Charles Duckett Cabinet and by taking that out of the community, that was devastating. So, we have no history left.

ED: Still a lot over here? Don't you think?

LG: No, what I mean is our real history. With the slavery, and with the wars and all of that, and a family doing so much.

ED: Sounds like there is more?

LG: Yes. And that slave cabinet is an icon, for the tourists, bureau, in Prince George's County but we're not getting the actual credit for it.

ED: I understand. You have any questions?

NW: Yes. Can you talk about some of your professional experience about, were you – well, I understand you were a stewardess?

LG: Yes, I was a flight attendant right after I finished college because that was the time they're recruiting black flight attendants. As a History major, I wanted to see the world, I wanted to visit all those places that I studied about and which I did. And I was very fortunate to have been the flight attendant for Nelson Mendel on his 1991 Victory Tour and that sort of like was the apex of my career as a flight attendant. And after that I wanted to leave, and I retired as a flight attendant which was pretty good.

ED: When did you retired?

LG: Twenty some years ago and then I started teaching History and Writing. I went back and got my masters at the John Hopkins Research History & Technology and I worked on my PhD at Bolton University online and I completed all of my assignments except for my dissertation. I feel like, this is part of my Dissertation.

ED: Could you use it?

LG: Yes. I plan use it. Hopefully, it's an honourable PhD from Tuskegee University cause I'm working very hard for them.

ED: I hope you get it.

LG: Yes. I feel that this project is going to be the answers to a lot of my, well, basically, my purpose in life. What is my purpose in life.

ED: It is.

LG: Yes. To bring awareness to Aquasco.

ED: Well you came full circle. You were here, you left, went around the world. And now you're back?

LG: I know and I love it. By the way, I lived in in Haiti too, full of history. In Haiti, so that was a big experience but I think my hardest struggle so far with this project plus finding people to interview. A lot of people just sit and won't come out because they don't want to talk about it. I don't see what's there is not to talk about. It's about our past and bringing it to the present. And it needs to be talked about.

ED: I'm sure, it will make it relevant.

LG: Yes, that's the word. It is used to be relevancy back in the 1960's but you know, we really have to make it relevant today.

ED: I agree.

LG: Yes, every period is all in it.

ED: Everything. That is all that matters.

NW: So, I have a question. How many years were you a flight attendant?

LG: For twenty some years.

NW: Can you name some of countries you visited?

LG: All of the seven continents.

NW: And we used the term relationship. So, in relation to countries, towns that you have visited, how will you compare Cedar Haven and Eagle Harbor?

LG: That is a great question. It just made me think.. I think of all the places I've gone to and somehow, this Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven takes me back to Greece.

ED: Really, in what way?

LG: The beautiful water, the beaches, the cliffs you know. Coming down and old ancient towns and villages that just set back in time and most of those buildings are not disturbed and that's way they like it. Just the way it is. Like Rome, you go through Rome and you see modern Rome and ancient Rome but together.

ED: Is that your vision for Eagle Harbor?

LG: Yes. Delphi is one of the most, I think, the most beautiful towns in the world and this reminds me of Delphi, Greece. Absolutely, beautiful blue waters.

ED: It was nice how you explained this place the same way that the Mayor from earlier explains it.

LG: We see the vision. It just has to come about and I think this will bring it out.

NW: So I have another question, and this may be a little touchy. So because of your world travel, probably most people have not traveled as extensive as you, seen as many places. Do you feel that there is some type of connection or relationship that turn again between, because of your extensive travel history, and maybe attitudes that may become a little apprehensive about dwelling to history? In particular, even as we go forward delving into the history of the areas of Cedar Haven, Eagle Harbor and Aquasco. Can you offer any insights as far as speaks to people's apprehension about maybe who benefits or however you may see it plus or negative regarding the learning, the education of history, in particular this history?

LG: Yes. I feel that like Booker T. Washington said, "Take the veil of ignorance off your head, just release it." And the more you know about your history, the more you can appreciate yourself what your ancestors had to do to get to this point where you are now and why stop the growth? Contribute to it and constantly evolve. Don't stay in one place all the time. Like we did, we got out and then we came back. Just don't stay away and help people who you were once part of. I know it's going to be really, really hard to do that and sometimes it could be very stressful. But we have to stick in there and we have to see it through because if we don't, everyone loses.

ED: I gets lost.

LG: Everyone, not only us. But other people, too.

ED: I agree.

NW: I think, I may have another question. And my other question is about your mentality for wishing to see the town gain revenue resources, independent revenue resources. The town's people, it's pretty much monetized from within. We have such scenic beauty and so what suggestions, what ideas are there to pass on because of your world travel that you've seen work in other places?

LG: Well, just because the place is small, it doesn't mean it has lower income value. As a matter of fact, it can have more to it because of the uniqueness of the place and this is where we are now, we are in a very unique place and we should capitalize on that. We have old empty buildings not being utilized and they could be utilized. But with just a little bit of help and understanding why this is important, I think everybody has a part here. Everyone. The owners of the buildings especially. If you have these buildings and you're not using it to their full capacity, why don't you let the town own the building or run the building, or sell it to the town so the town people can really produce a sustainable income with that building? The town needs commerce and we have commerce here. We've got fishing here and we can have a store that is not being used and other places. The park down there is not being utilized properly. We really got a lot of work to do. We really do. In stepping this whole area up a little bit. I know people don't, people really don't want to talk that way or hear it but it's the truth. We really need to modernize.

NW: And again, requesting information regarding your travels because you've been a travel agent over twenty years. You've been to probably more places on most people ever dreamed of going to. Has there been a time, maybe an experience of a metamorphosis of before and after when maybe you went to a location initially and then maybe overtime or years later that maybe it was similar to Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven, in part of Aquasco. In the development that you could experience that it became something that became existential during your time. You know that place that happened and you saw that happening and you saw the change.



Have you seen a similar, I guess, situation of a place maybe like this to transform? Or do you know other history of the transformation?

LG: Of a place that has transformed like this?

NW: Yes, to the dream, to the description of what people give for what they would like for it to become.

LG: Yes, I've seen that but, usually, I must say but, it takes everyone involve. The government, the county, and I feel like we're not getting enough help from our government in developing cities and towns like this.

NW: In that phrase, as they've said, people are people wherever you go. People are pretty much were more like them than we are different even though government structures maybe a little different maybe maimed. But do you find that the structure or progress is kind of like similar in the apprehension similar in the types of people who become involved in the progress? Is there a similarity that pretty much among all cultures?

LG: Absolutely, Yes. And most cultures, like developing cultures, it's like this. Eagle Harbor, a little bit is a developing culture like countries, like Haiti, that I lived in. If I go to other Caribbean countries, I may see a little bit more progress, but this reminds me a lot of Haiti. Where, they want to keep the traditional but they want to move forward but don't know how and people getting the way of stopping other people from moving forward so they give up and they just move on to another place. Is that what you're talking about?

NW: Yes. So you know, Stevie Wonder talked about superstitions. So would superstition to be a term to maybe, to kind of touch some of the hold up, the apprehension, that people may have because there some superstitions that if you step in an area, you're outside of, we used this terms, you're moving out of your lane, beyond your pay grade or people, just an apprehension.

LG: People just don't like to change. No one likes changes. But there will be change, whether you like it or not.

ED: Do you think, that the perception of a lot of people around here, when things come up about modernizing or just trying to find ways through repurpose of a lot of the things around here. Do you think they looked at that as a form of change gentrification?

LG: No

ED: Is that what they're thinking in their minds?

LG: No. I just think they like to get stuck in the mud. I think it has been this way. It's okay for me. I feel comfortable. It's a comfort zone. I feel comfortable in this particular area and that's where I want to stay. And then like, who moved my cheese? And things get changed around and you can't find your shoes. Because your used to them being in one place and now your shoes have been moved to another place. And they think that this is going to stay exactly this way, but it's not. Never stay the same. If we don't make this effort to change, it's not going to be a change. But guess what, it will be forced onto us to make the change. Either we be part of the solution or be part of the problem. I'd rather be what? Part of the solution or now as they say for climate change, You going to be at the table or you could be on the menu. Which one do you want to be? I'd rather be on the table. I mean at the table, instead on the menu.

ED: I understand.

LG: So we just better get on board, push this through, and bring back our history in our neighbourhood so that we can benefit economically from what our descendants have done for us. They left us a legacy and we shall honor that.

ED: Well said.

JE: I have no questions.

LG: Why, did I bore you guys?

ED: You did very well.

LG: Thanks for those questions because you've got me back on it though. I don't know where I go.

NW: Anything you would say to young pros?

LG: That was goody goody right.

NW: Is there anything you would say to young people?

LG: Yes. Hold on! We are coming! We are coming! We're there to help. In other words, help is on the way. And we are going to become a historical area for Prince George's County and the state as a historical area.

ED: Alright. That's all I have, I believe that's a wrap.

LG: Thank you. That's alright. Okay!

ED: Thank you, Linda.

LG: Thank you!

[End Transcription: 36:32]