

Corrina also has ministered by visiting the sick and shut in over the years. She recalled how early in the church's history, families would take turns cleaning and preparing the sanctuary for Sunday worship. She said Clark's membership has been diligent in maintaining its history in what she termed "The Book", which is kept with other important Church papers in an old metal filing cabinet maintained by the Church.

Counting Her Blessings

Whenever asked about the secrets to her longevity and excellent health, Ms. Kennard's immediate reply is "God, the Man Upstairs". She adds enthusiastically, "He is the main thing! He has carried me through safely!". Ms. Kennard said she has no one particular



Ms. Corrina's house in 1954 with goats feeding in the yard.

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favorite scripture but enjoys reading the gospel of John.

Proverbs 31 describes a woman like Ms. Corrina as a "Worthy Woman". Verse 28 goes on to state "Her children rise up and bless her...". Ms. Kennard also explained that she is disciplined in her habits, limiting her intake of greasy foods, salt, and sweets. She also does the things her doctor tells her to. It probably doesn't hurt that she never drank or smoked, remarking that she couldn't stand the taste or smell of either one. Ms. Corrina Druescella (Williams) Kennard, her family and friends certainly are blessed—as she is a blessing!

**** Corrections to Pamphlet 0029 ****

1. John W. Williams was born in 1885
2. Blanche is Ms. Kennard's oldest sister

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Corrina D. Kennard Memories of Family Life Part 2 of 2

**Pamphlet 0030
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**Bringing Communities
Together Through
Sharing History**

Cover: Ms. Corrina sits on her porch proudly displaying her birth certificate.

Providing for Her Family

Ms. Corrina D. Kennard started doing domestic work as a child, before and after school, noting she had to stand on a chair to reach the cupboards to put the dishes away. After the birth of her first son, Clarence Alexander Williams (1933-1957), she began work in earnest. In over six decades, Ms. Kennard has worked for lawyers, policemen, and at least two prominent Bel Air judges (O'Neill and Close). She worked for over 25 years at the Bo Peep Nursery on Hickory Avenue and, for a time, at the Bainbridge Naval Training Center, cleaning the nurses' quarters. Ms. Corrina also worked in the homes of many families in Bel Air and the surrounding area. She recalled catching the McMahon bus which ran right past her home, adding that many of her employers would pick her up and bring her back and forth to work.

During the mid-20th century many African-American women worked as domestics, out of necessity. Even though her early work years were a time of segregation and racial tension in Harford County, Ms. Kennard recalled her employers, most of whom belonged to the Catholic faith, were extremely kind to her. She said she was never relegated to the back door or to the

kitchen to eat alone, and was invited to sit at the table with the families to enjoy her meals. In 1972, Mrs. Georgia Howard, a lawyer for whom she worked helped her apply for and secure a copy of her birth certificate. Another employer with whom she maintains contact is Mr. Lloyd Fry, who still checks in on her and comes by at Christmas with a gift.

While waiting in Bel Air for the bus to head home, Ms. Corrina would enjoy a delicious fried fish dinner at the "always popular", Ms. Hannah Moore's place on Bond Street. Periodically, she would stop in at Barrett's Restaurant or mosey over to Boom Boom Lester's sports club. She also recalled having her daughters' hair styled at C&M Taylor's Hair Salon. On occasion Ms. Kennard would rent a room at the home of Ms. Sally Walker, on Courtland St., for the week and return home on the weekend.

The Children Come First

In 1941, Ms. Corrina married James R. Kennard (1916-1978), but the marriage ended in 1949. Ms. Kennard is the mother of eight children. She stressed "My Children were and are the most important thing in my life, and providing for them was the major thing I was concerned about". As a result, she worked wherever and whenever she could to ensure their needs were met. Of course, family pitched in and helped by ensuring

the children were taken care of and got to and from school safely, while she worked. Even though she was a "sickly" child, as an adult, Ms. Kennard often would go to work when she wasn't feeling well, noting she would lie down for a brief nap and then get up and keep going. Ms. Corrina has fond memories of her family physician, Dr. Willard P. Hudson (1897-1981) of Forest Hill, who delivered seven of her eight children, most of them at home.



Ms. Kennard surrounded by her children (top l) Shirley, Barbara, Theresa, Arlene and Carol. Kneeling (l) James and Freddie.

The Importance of Faith

Sunday school and Church have always been important to Ms. Kennard and her family. She joined Clark's Chapel United Methodist Church as a child, and continues to worship there today. She has served as a communion steward and usher for thirty plus years, stepping down just within the past year. Ms.