

Interviewee: Tracy Bracken Tyndall

Interviewer: John W. Cooper, III

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Acronyms: TBT (Tracy Bracken Tyndall), TCP (Tina Cheeks Peagues), JC (John W. Cooper, III)

JC: Hello, my name is John Cooper today I am interviewing Tracy Tyndall. If you don't mind, just sharing your name, your date of birth and where you're from.

TBT: Hello, my name is Tracy Tyndall, Bracken Tyndall and I was born November 10th, 1970, here in Greensboro, North Carolina.

JC: Can you tell me who your parents were or are?

TBT: Larry Bracken and Vivian Fuller Bracken.

TBT: It was fun. I had two brothers, and I'm the middle child. So, only girl so I got away with everything.

JC: Ok. Tell me what your childhood was like in Greensboro, living.

TBT: It was fun. I had two brothers, and I'm the middle child. So, only girl so-

JC: Mmhmm (affirmative). How was that like?

TBT: I got away with everything {laughs}.

JC: Oh {laughs}. You feel like you had protectors or?

TBT: Yes, definitely.

JC: Yeah, I'm a twin actually. So my-

TBT: Oh, okay!

JC: So yeah, Dad definitely instilled, protect your sister. I don't care if she got a man.

TBT: {Laughs}.

TBT: That was good and bad though. I couldn't do certain things because I had an older brother.

JC: Like what?

TBT: Like we were in school, I wasn't known by Tracy. I was known as Larry's little sister.

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: Even by the teacher's that was always Larry's little sister. "Oh, that's Larry's little sister". I'm like I have a name, it's Tracy.

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: So, but I mean, it was good.

JC: Did you spend a lot of time playing with your siblings or in the neighborhood or neighborhood kids anything like that?

TBT: We did. We stayed at outside also and we played. Like I say I had brothers, so I played football and ran and rode bikes and wrestled, so.

JC: You did it all?

TBT: I did it all {laughs}.

JC: {laughs}. Do you have any like early family memories you could think of?

TBT: I do. When we lived on English Street. We had, My mom had an insurance agent and he would come to our house. So this particular time he came to my house and he was in there with my mom. So me and my brother was supposed to be quiet while she's handling her business. So soon as they got finished, uou know, he left so it was like "Okay, time to play". So we started playing and he hit me and we took off out the house! He ran and I was right behind him and I jumped off the porch and the insurance man said "You was right on his heels". And he was a minister also. And we had visited his church one time, he would still bring that up every time he would see me.

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: And he was a minister also. And we had visited his church one time and he would still bring that up every time he would see me. He would tell that story that I was at your house and I remember you chasing your brother. I was like, "Good, he shouldn't be hitting me". {Laughs}.

JC: {Laughs}. Must have been fast?

TBT: Oh yeah.

JC: Tell me about school. Where did you go to school growing up?

TBT: I went to Hampton Elementary and then I went to Washington. And then I went to Mendenhall Middle School. And then I went to pay Page High school.

JC: Okay. Okay. What was your experiences like there? Do you like school?

TBT: I loved school.

JC: Had fun?

TBT: I never missed a day at school.

JC: You had perfect attendance?

TBT: Mmhmm (affirmative).

JC: Oh wow.

TBT: I didn't get sick and I just loved going to school.

JC: What was your favorite subject?

TBT: P.E.

JC: P.E.?

TBT: {Laughs}.

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: Cause I was a tomboy. So I just love, I love playing. I was smart, but I just love playing

JC: Any like fond teachers you can think of?

TBT: Not really. That's bad to say.

JC: It's not that bad.

TBT: No. I mean, even though I love school, I was quiet in school. So I was kinda not overlooked but since I didn't cause any trouble, you know, I wasn't called out. So I was just there. Did my work, came on home.

JC: Can't complain about that.

TBT: No.

JC: Okay, so after school, did you pursue higher education or did you start working or?

TBT: I did. Well in I think, I don't know what grade I was in. But I did have a job at Burger King. My cousin was a manager, Tina Peagues.

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: {Laughs}. And I thought-I needed a job but one of my classes and so it gave me credit so she will come pick me up, take me to work, bring me home. For that was my first job working but after that idea go to, um, Winston Salem State University.

TCP: S.U. {Winston Salem State University}.

JC: {Laughs}. So, what did you intended to go for?

TBT: Earl-Back then it was kind of early childhood education.

JC: Okay. Okay.

TBT: Well, I think it's called something else now. But yeah, I wanted to be a teacher. So, since I didn't become a teacher, I just kept everybody by the kids all the time.

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: And I still do that now.

JC: What is your occupation now?

TBT: Now I work in manufacturing at a place called Quality Xaps, and we make gelatin capsules. And I have been there going on-my son, my son was one years old when I started working there and he's 28.

JC: Oh my.

TBT: So, it it'd be 27 years in November.

JC: Longevity?

TBT: Yeah. I like my job, huh?

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: Yeah.

JC: Maybe get a retirement pension or something.

TBT: We'll see.

JC: Fingers crossed.

TBT: Yeah.

JC: So, you mentioned that you have a son. Do you have any other children?

TBT: No, just one.

JC: What's his name?

TBT: Marcus.

JC: Marcus. That's nice. That's nice. That's nice. So you know, I know your family is very heavily involved in the church.

TBT: Mmhmm (affirmative).

JC: St. James. Can you tell me about your experience, your perspective?

TBT: So yeah, my family was-I was probably born in St., in Saint James. {laughs}. But I was going to St. James from birth until it actually closed.

JC: And when did it close?

TBT: It just closed this year?

JC: Why did it close?

TBT: Membership.

JC: Membership?

TBT: Lack of membership.

JC: Do you have like any fond memories? As you think of.

TBT: I did so much at church! Like I said, I grew up in church. So at St. James, I was probably, I probably did almost everything but preach at the church. {Laughs}.

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: I ushered in the church, assigning it the church, I was on different boards at the church, clean the church, I cut the grass at the church {laughs}. So I mean, I enjoy and I did everything out of love, I love my church.

JC: The jack of all trades it seems like.

TBT: Mmhmm (affirmative).

JC: Kind of just pivot back a little bit curious to kind of like, know more about your parents, you know, kind of who they were? Who they were to you in the sense and also like any, any like kind of profound memories you have of them that kind of shaped you into who you are today?

TBT: Oh, my parents got divorced. I think I was about 10 years old.

JC: Ok.

TBT: Oh, my parents got divorced. I think I was about 10 years old. But my father, he was still in my life. Well me and my brother's life and still today he's-that's my other child now.

JC: {Laughs}.

TBT: And my mom, it was just me because my brother when he graduated, he went to go live with my dad. So after that, it was just me and my mom. And we did everything together. Everything until she passed away in '94. Then my grandmother Dorothy Fuller became my other mother.

JC: That's awesome. So family, you know, family is everything.

TBT: Yeah.

JC: Family is very integral.

TBT: Mmhmm (affirmative).

JC: Do you have any kind of just while of course, like, you know, your family's very internal, very important, but any other kind of mentors or just people in your life that just shaped it to the way it is today, kind of mold you to who you are, you know, you get stuff that you can pass out to you know, your son.

TBT: I would say that-now St. James was full of women.

JC: Mmhmm (affirmative).

TBT: So in each whim each woman in the church gave you always gave you advice. So I remember one of my great aunts when I wish she found out I went to school. She said, All right.

You're going to school now, books {laughs}, books over boys. I was like ok! But each women I mean, they were just, they always made sure you were on the right path. So they gave good advice, whether you wanted to hear it or not. And you just ran with it. I was glad to have all those women in my life because they came from different backgrounds. So I-and enjoyed that with the ladies

JC: So you were able to get different perspectives?

TBT: Yeah. Yeah.

JC: And do you feel like you've passed that down? So you know, your son in a sense?

TBT: Tried to. Whether he {laughs} does it or not, but I try. He. He's a good kid. We're not kidding, boys. 28. But at the key, I never had any trouble with him. Hopefully he'll stay on the right path.

JC: That's good you know. As a-of course, I'm not a parent. But all you going to do is try {laugh}.

TBT: Yeah, yes. Because you never know how they what their, what they'll do. I mean, you can do your best, then they make their own decisions.

TCP: Amen.

TBT: So but I just hope that he makes the right ones. And I just continue to encourage him to make the right ones.

JC: Can you give me some or give whoever is watching in the future any kind of advice or words of wisdom that you'd like to impart on?

TBT: Let's see, what can I encourage someone on? I would just say to just keep God first and family close because you can always call on God, but you will also need your family. Someone that can be right there when you need them. So don't don't burn your bridges with your family. Just keep them close. Because you never know what you need someone.

JC: Words to live by.

TBT: Yep.

JC: Well I thank you for your time.

TBT: You're welcome! {Laughs}.

JC: Alright {Laughs}.