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Transcript of Oral History Interview with Alma Thomas, 1986

Extracted on Apr-17-2024 01:16:52

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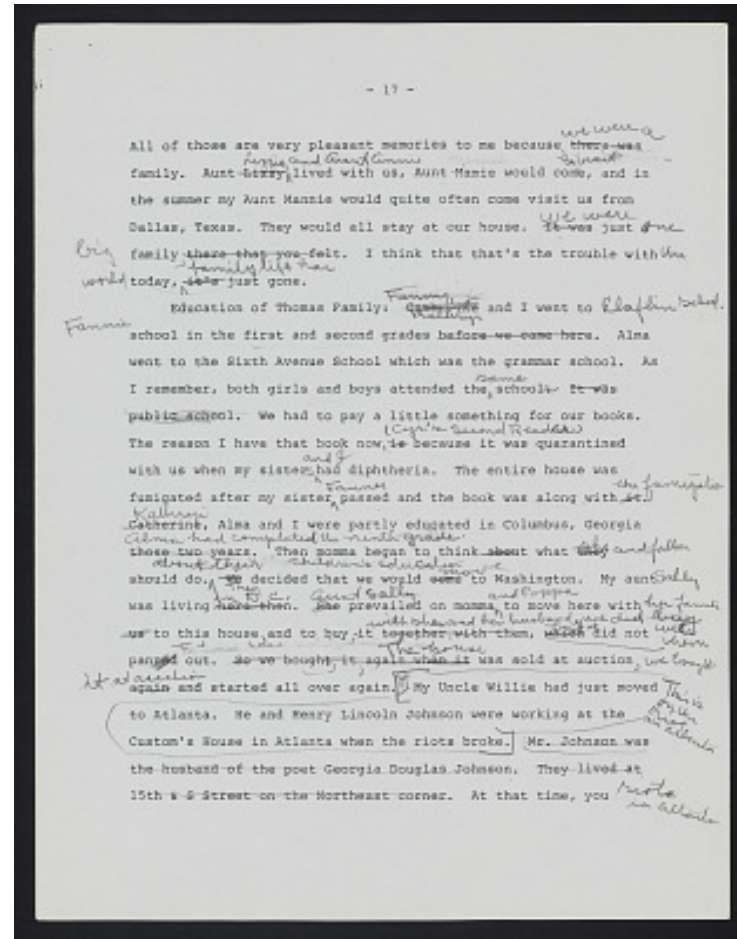
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All of those are very pleasant memories to me because ^{we were a} ~~there was~~ family. Aunt ~~there was~~ Lizzy ~~there was~~ ^{Lizzie, and Aunt Annie} lived with us, Aunt Mamie would come ^{to visit}, and in the summer, my Aunt Mannie would quite often come visit us from Dallas, Texas. They would all stay at our house. ~~It was~~ ^{it was} just ^{one big} family, ~~there that you felt~~ I think that's the trouble with the world today, ~~family life has~~ just gone.

Education of Thomas family: Catherine ~~there was~~ ^{Fanny, Kathryn} and I went to ? ^{Claffin School} school in the first and second grades ~~before we came here~~ before we came here ~~Alma went to Sixth Avenue School which was the grammar school. As I remember, both girls and boys attended the~~ ^{same} school. ~~It was public school.~~ We had to pay a little something for our books. The reason I have that book now ^(Cyr's Second Reader) is because it was quarantined with us when my sister ^{and I} had diphtheria. The entire house was fumigated after my sister ^{Fannie} passed and the book was along with ~~it~~ ^{the fumigation}. Catherine ~~there was~~ ^{Kathryn}, Alma, and I were partly educated in Columbus, Georgia ~~those two years~~ ^{Alma had completed the ninth grade}. Then momma began to think ~~about~~ ^{what they and father} what ~~they~~ ^{she and father} should do. ~~We decided that we would come to Washington. My aunt Sally~~ ^{Alma had completed the ninth grade} was living ~~here then~~ ^{in D.C.} ~~She~~ ^{prevalled on momma} prevailed on momma ^{I, and Pappa} to move here with ~~us~~ ^{her family} to this house ^{and to buy it} together with them, which ~~it~~ ^{with she and her husband, we did buy with them, but it} did not pan ~~ned~~ ^{ned} out. ~~So, we bought~~ ^{it} again when it ~~was sold at auction~~ ^{we bought it at auction} again ~~and started all over again.~~

My Uncle Willie had just moved to Atlanta. He and Henry Lincoln Johnson were working at the Custom's House in Atlanta when the riots broke. ^{This is on the riot in Atlanta} Mr. Johnson was the husband of the poet Georgia Douglas Johnson. They lived at 15th and S Street at the Northeast corner. ~~At that time, you~~ ^{riots in Atlanta}



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