

Janice Gilyard tells the story of finding Willoughby in an interviewed with Juilee Decker recorded on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 4:30 pm. The interview is 72 minutes long, and a transcript is provided. If you have any questions about this interview, please contact Juilee Decker, jdgsh@rit.edu.

COVID gave Janice Gilyard the opportunity to dig deeper into genealogy, one of her hobbies. On July 4, 2020, she uncovered details about the remarkable life of her 5x great grandmother, Willoughby McWhite, who was enslaved. Janice Gilyard tells the story of finding Willoughby in an interviewed with Juilee Decker recorded on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 4:30 pm. The interview is 72 minutes long, and a transcript is provided.

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00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:00.420
That

2
00:00:02.460 --> 00:00:10.170
Juilee Decker: It's there, it said it was being recorded, so thank you for that. So, okay, I have three statements. So do I have permission to record our conversation.

3
00:00:10.260 --> 00:00:10.769
Janice Gilyard: Yes.

4
00:00:11.610 --> 00:00:16.500
Juilee Decker: Do I have your permission. Janice to name you and I asked the creators of this interview.

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00:00:16.830 --> 00:00:26.940
Juilee Decker: Yes. Do I have your permission to share this interview on the cobra 19 archive online through the link that I sent you through email and I'll send it again.

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00:00:27.210 --> 00:00:27.810
Janice Gilyard: Yes.

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00:00:28.080 --> 00:00:29.010
Juilee Decker: Thank you very much.

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00:00:30.060 --> 00:00:37.830
Juilee Decker: So okay, so now we got the formalities over. So what I intend is I, I'll say my name. And I'll ask you to spell your name.

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00:00:38.610 --> 00:00:50.190
Juilee Decker: I just have a couple of questions. And at any point we can take the conversation in whatever direction the framing for this of course is, you know, is we're doing this online archive, which

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00:00:50.580 --> 00:01:00.630
Juilee Decker: Has been this this amazing opportunity to collect people's stories about Kobe and the range of experiences. So all over the place and

11
00:01:01.680 --> 00:01:16.140
Juilee Decker: My, my connection is the archive is based out of Arizona State, but my connection is I teach museum studies and public history at RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) and in the midst of the craziness. That was the spring.

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00:01:16.890 --> 00:01:27.240

Juilee Decker: I had my students creating content for the archive. So that was my link in and I've been working in it ever since and volunteering to get stories and connect so

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00:01:28.140 --> 00:01:44.880

Juilee Decker: So already, so today is Tuesday, July 21 2020. My name is Juilee Decker, and I'm in Rochester, New York, and I'm interviewing Janice Gilyard, who will spell her name shortly, who is in another location and she will tell us that in a moment.

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00:01:45.390 --> 00:02:00.930

Juilee Decker: We are connected via Zoom and we are doing video, Zoom, but the recording will be the only record of this conversation. So, Janice. If I could ask you to say and spell your name and tell me the general location like city and state of where you're at.

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00:02:00.930 --> 00:02:16.530

Janice Gilyard: Or no problem. My name is Janice. Jay, and I see my maiden name is cross CR OSS and my last name married name is Gilyard. G I L Y A R D and I reside in Summit, New Jersey.

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00:02:17.130 --> 00:02:21.240

Juilee Decker: Thank you very much. Now, we don't know what another but our connection is

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00:02:21.450 --> 00:02:37.620

Juilee Decker: Joysetta Pearce, who's the director of the African American Museum with Nassau County. So I'm so grateful that she connected us and told me about your story and I went through and read. So let's just start there. So please tell me before COVID

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00:02:38.190 --> 00:02:42.750

Juilee Decker: I know this is a COVID story before code. What was an average day like for you.

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00:02:43.320 --> 00:02:50.130

Janice Gilyard: An average day was me going into work. I am a customer care manager for a panel sprints.

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00:02:50.460 --> 00:02:56.820

Janice Gilyard: And I work with small business clients as well as consumers, so I handle all their inquiries I set up new accounts.

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00:02:57.150 --> 00:03:08.790

Janice Gilyard: And my full day was in Linden, New Jersey, working for Panos Brands and taking care of all of our clients a small business and consumers and answering any queries that they may have

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00:03:09.990 --> 00:03:15.390

Janice Gilyard: Making sure that their products are shipped out in a timely manner and resolving any conflicts that may have arisen.

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00:03:15.720 --> 00:03:23.340

Janice Gilyard: And I also manage us on a staff of one. It used to be three, but they had to cut back but you know we're managing and adjusting

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00:03:24.030 --> 00:03:33.420

Janice Gilyard: So also just guiding her and providing assistance were needed and then also if they need feedback regarding products and reports.

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00:03:33.840 --> 00:03:45.090

Janice Gilyard: And information in terms of how consumers feel about the products and how we're handling things then providing that information as well. So that was my typical day running customer service for a food production company.

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00:03:45.420 --> 00:03:51.870

Juilee Decker: Wow that's busy and then in terms of like anything outside of work. Did you have hobbies has genealogy.

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00:03:51.870 --> 00:03:52.080

Juilee Decker: Oh,

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00:03:52.800 --> 00:03:54.090

Janice Gilyard: I should i do

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00:03:55.080 --> 00:04:06.240

Janice Gilyard: First of all, my husband is a pastor. So I'm a pastor's wife, so that's that's very involved and with the transition of COVID you know doing everything from home. So I'm assisting him with that I actually managed the Zoom services every Tuesday and Sunday.

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00:04:06.690 --> 00:04:17.340

Janice Gilyard: That's part one. Part two is my daughter who was in college. She's a first year student at Syracuse University. She had to come home and March. So that was an adjustment and an adjustment as well. Yeah.

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00:04:17.940 --> 00:04:28.800

Janice Gilyard: Having her home, but she's working and managing and coping. It's an adjustment on this is new and scary for her. So we've had to have several conversations to reassure her that we will get through this.

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00:04:29.040 --> 00:04:34.050

Janice Gilyard: And then the other part of it is hobbies. I'll start out with my small one first, before I had to the big one.

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00:04:34.350 --> 00:04:45.570

Janice Gilyard: One of my favorite things to do is to crochet and so I enjoy making blankets and scarves and that has turned in over the years. The past four to five years, actually, to like a small minis.

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00:04:46.380 --> 00:04:56.730

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Janice Gilyard: Side business where I get so many requests to make blankets and baskets and sweaters and hats and I love it. So that's the other thing that's very calming and soothing for me during this time.

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00:04:57.090 --> 00:05:11.400

Janice Gilyard: My favorite, favorite all time hobby is genealogy and I've been doing that for the past say 2526 years and I have found some amazing information things that I never ever thought that I would encounter.

36

00:05:11.910 --> 00:05:24.540

Janice Gilyard: First of all, as an African American, I thought it was almost impossible, you know, to make a lot of progress that like some of the scenes that you see on the TV programs, finding your roots and thinking that that could never happen to me, and it has

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00:05:25.710 --> 00:05:36.510

Janice Gilyard: Again, researching for 25 years finding out that I had ancestors of one who founded a college to that were professors at a university. They traveled to England and Liberia.

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00:05:38.130 --> 00:05:44.550

Janice Gilyard: Another one was fighting ancestors fought in the Civil War. And so for me, genealogy and history. I've always been a history.

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00:05:44.910 --> 00:05:55.380

Janice Gilyard: Buff but then starting the genealogy and then seeing how your family lines up with that is just mind blowing to me still. I'm still in awe and amazed at all the things that I found

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00:05:55.740 --> 00:06:05.610

Janice Gilyard: My favorite thing that happens to me is about four or five years ago, I met a woman and she invited me to a genealogy group. So I came there were about four people.

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00:06:06.270 --> 00:06:15.210

Janice Gilyard: And I thought, how cool is this that I have an outlet and a place to go to share, you know, the little bit that I am finding and and some of the major finds that I was starting to find

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00:06:15.630 --> 00:06:25.800

Janice Gilyard: So after I had been there for about six months, seven months going every second Saturday of the month. There's a we need a vice president, you should do it. And I said, No, you should find someone else I'm too new for that.

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00:06:26.310 --> 00:06:33.270

Janice Gilyard: And of course I did. And I was vice president, everything went so well that I was vice president for two years.

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00:06:33.570 --> 00:06:42.840

Janice Gilyard: They amended their bylaws and said we could you be vice president for one more year so I served it for three years and then after the three years they needed a new president

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00:06:43.650 --> 00:06:51.630

Janice Gilyard: And so they said, Would you do it, and I really, really did not think that it's like okay, that's a little bit different. Vice President, working with someone

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00:06:52.110 --> 00:06:58.380

Janice Gilyard: I'm not sure if I'm ready for that. And I thought about it. I prayed about it. And I said, you know what I think I can handle it.

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00:06:58.830 --> 00:07:12.690

Janice Gilyard: And I'm not that person. I have to be very honest with you, I'm it's just my nature. I'm a very humble person. I like working in the background, but there was just something in me that said you know what you can do this and I'm doing it and I'm scaring myself.

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00:07:13.050 --> 00:07:23.190

Janice Gilyard: Because everything is going so well. We went from having board members to me going out with them and eventually speaking to. Now we have at one point we have 40

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00:07:23.490 --> 00:07:32.670

Janice Gilyard: With transitioning, all we have roughly 3032 32 we have four more people that are coming on. So the membership is grown, we are doing more

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00:07:33.060 --> 00:07:39.450

Janice Gilyard: We had to stop our meetings in March, and I said, Okay, well, what are we going to do. I said, Well, I'm going to learn how to do Zoom use Zoom

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00:07:40.200 --> 00:07:53.550

Janice Gilyard: And someone showed me what to do, how to do it a name is Devin Robinson. She's an amazing person to show me what to do and how to do it. And so we've been able to actually continue meeting, not only meeting, but

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00:07:54.000 --> 00:08:01.470

Janice Gilyard: Our last meeting and I'm really happy and excited about this. I watched a TV program. So this one segment is called roots less travel

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00:08:01.950 --> 00:08:11.820

Janice Gilyard: And I said, you know what I'm going to reach out to that mother and son that program was outstanding. It was phenomenal. I reached out on Facebook and talk about how much the segment had an impact on me.

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00:08:12.420 --> 00:08:17.520

Janice Gilyard: And then I thought, Why not invite them to come be a part of your next meeting. And they said yes.

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00:08:17.880 --> 00:08:18.180

Janice Gilyard: So,

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00:08:18.270 --> 00:08:28.140

Janice Gilyard: The mother was in Missouri. The sun was in California. We met two times before our actual meeting and we actually had special guests and

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00:08:28.770 --> 00:08:35.910

Janice Gilyard: I was just amazed. I was like, I can't believe I pulled it off if you want my face. I have a Facebook page. If you go to my Facebook page you'll see where I put I thought about it.

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00:08:36.210 --> 00:08:44.730

Janice Gilyard: acted on it and we made it happen. And I have one other woman work with me. We coordinated it. It was amazing. I actually had the nerve to

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00:08:45.210 --> 00:08:49.260

Janice Gilyard: Say, You know what, I'm going to invite some of the bigwigs of the genealogy world.

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00:08:49.620 --> 00:08:58.530

Janice Gilyard: And so we had the new president, she's the first African American to be President of the Board Certified genealogist I asked her, she's actually Dane, a cousin, she found me.

61

00:08:58.950 --> 00:09:10.080

Janice Gilyard: And she said, Yes, a couple of other people, they said yes. So I had all these experts and then these TV guest on this segment and it just went so well. Another crazy thing, I decided to do

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00:09:10.800 --> 00:09:18.300

Janice Gilyard: Was there's an author. I watched his program and he's with another person. And I said, oh, we should do Zoom with the author

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00:09:18.600 --> 00:09:28.470

Janice Gilyard: I'm going to reach out to him and say, you know, look, we're starting this new book club, would you come on. Would you join us. And he said, Yes. He goes by your first guest. And I'm like, yes, you are so

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00:09:29.070 --> 00:09:38.010

Janice Gilyard: It'll. This will tie into the story that Joysetta told you about, and how she and I connected what I feel. And what I'm starting to feel is that

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00:09:38.580 --> 00:09:48.240

Janice Gilyard: My, my ancestors, they overcame so much. And if they could overcome that. Okay, we're dealing with the pandemic, but we can survive anything I'm here because they refuse to die.

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00:09:48.510 --> 00:09:56.280

Janice Gilyard: They refuse to quit. So it's what is it for me to ask someone to all I can say is, no, but they've everybody's been saying yes so we

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00:09:56.610 --> 00:10:05.670

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Juilee Decker: So amazing Janice know it just the determination, but also your willingness, just to try something new and and not be afraid. I mean,

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00:10:05.850 --> 00:10:09.990

Juilee Decker: Like stepping up to the leadership role is incredible. And then thinking like

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00:10:10.230 --> 00:10:20.910

Juilee Decker: Okay, let's invite these people from roots less travel. Let's see. Let's see what they say and just think how meaningful, it is for them to know that you heard their story. You are listened to it or whatever.

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00:10:21.120 --> 00:10:29.430

Juilee Decker: And you cared about it and you thought it was impactful for your group, you know, halfway across the US. This is incredible. That's such that's

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00:10:32.190 --> 00:10:39.180

Janice Gilyard: Want to know how to edit and I met. Let me I'll tell you what happened there, because this is mind blowing. The next part. So,

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00:10:39.540 --> 00:10:40.380

Janice Gilyard: Whenever you're ready.

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00:10:40.440 --> 00:10:41.550

Juilee Decker: No, go for them.

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00:10:41.700 --> 00:10:55.110

Janice Gilyard: So basically I do the newsletter for our group and I sent it to I sent it to our membership and then we have friends of the group. So I sent it to friends of the group. Well, one of the friends sent it to 20 of her friends.

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00:10:55.350 --> 00:10:56.130

Janice Gilyard: And she said, Oh,

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00:10:57.900 --> 00:11:05.820

Janice Gilyard: And I'm just, I'm saying to myself, Well, you know, you really need to renew your membership, your friend of the group. And you really are supposed to take the newsletter, send it out, but

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00:11:06.060 --> 00:11:10.380

Janice Gilyard: Hey, so many good things are coming out of it. Okay. Well, she's included Joysetta.

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00:11:11.310 --> 00:11:16.200

Janice Gilyard: And Joysetta said, and I didn't saw my name to the article because because I'm the editor.

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00:11:16.560 --> 00:11:26.820

Janice Gilyard: And I include so many other pieces I just try to balance it out and not put I have a lot of content. So if I asked folks for articles and they don't give them to me. I'm like, oh, I have enough to put a new so I put JC G.

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00:11:27.240 --> 00:11:37.680

Janice Gilyard: And it was hilarious because Joysetta was emailing me to say, hey, I need to know who this person is that wrote this article, can you get them in touch with me. And I'm like, Hi, it's me.

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00:11:38.130 --> 00:11:45.600

Janice Gilyard: And so when she was like, What can you call me and I called her and we spoke three times that day for almost like an hour and a half each time.

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00:11:46.050 --> 00:11:57.210

Janice Gilyard: And then she came back and she told me about you and what you were doing. And she was like, you got to do this. But what really moved me. Was she read my piece. And she said, I felt every word that you were writing so

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00:11:57.630 --> 00:12:09.060

Janice Gilyard: She's always going to be near and dear to me because we connected we established a relationship. And then some of the experiences I had with writing about this newfound discovery. I'm going to tell you about

84

00:12:09.810 --> 00:12:13.170

Janice Gilyard: I was a little uncomfortable telling her about them because to me.

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00:12:13.980 --> 00:12:19.920

Janice Gilyard: I have a friend. Her name is Dr. Evelyn McDowell, and she runs a program called sons and daughters of the US middle passage

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00:12:20.250 --> 00:12:27.390

Janice Gilyard: And what that program is about an organization, rather, is if you've been able to trace your enslaved ancestor.

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00:12:27.870 --> 00:12:38.460

Janice Gilyard: You, it gives you an opportunity. It's a lineage society where you can documents it they provide a certificate and it's a way to network and just talk to other people who have found the same information and to share stories.

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00:12:38.640 --> 00:12:51.090

Janice Gilyard: And so one thing that Dr McDowell says is this work is spiritual. And I told her, I said, I'm using that I will acknowledge that I'm using it. And it's from you and it's your quote, but it's true.

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00:12:51.600 --> 00:13:03.840

Janice Gilyard: And since I've been using that quote everything about my research all of the things that happen. It's like this connection thing that happens. And so, Joysetta and then you and then on Sunday.

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00:13:04.350 --> 00:13:10.500

Janice Gilyard: I had an opportunity to share about Willoughby, we're going to get to her one quick second about Willoughby, and

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00:13:11.490 --> 00:13:23.190

Janice Gilyard: I pray, what I found that will be I prayed. I said, I want an opportunity. It's not about me, but I wanted an opportunity to share her story and the moment I said that

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00:13:24.030 --> 00:13:32.550

Janice Gilyard: opportunity after opportunity has been presenting itself. So on Sunday. I did a Zoom cast my first one I spoken at libraries and churches.

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00:13:32.760 --> 00:13:40.830

Janice Gilyard: But this was my first time me personally speaking, and doing a presentation on Zoom. I was a little nervous about it and I was like, I just felt you can do what you can do it.

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00:13:41.250 --> 00:13:50.640

Janice Gilyard: And I did it. And the response that blew me away. And the one that is so emotional for me. This woman was in her car driving listening to it.

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00:13:51.240 --> 00:14:04.860

Janice Gilyard: And she said to the person who was hosting it she said, make sure you let her know I thought it was intelligent. I thought it was riveting. I thought it was moving. So I took that quote, and I made like a Facebook post for it because

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00:14:05.370 --> 00:14:12.150

Janice Gilyard: I was overwhelmed by this woman's response. So it was confirmation for me to keep telling her story and to keep sharing

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00:14:12.540 --> 00:14:19.920

Janice Gilyard: And then the next thing I know, I'm getting email from you to say, Okay. So when can you chat. So here, this is and then

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00:14:20.520 --> 00:14:33.960

Janice Gilyard: On top of this, I'm talking to you. I have another opportunity on sep tember third there's a woman, her name is Bernice Bennett and she does a blog talk radio and she works for the National Archives. So, September 3 I'm going to be on her program.

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00:14:34.230 --> 00:14:35.010

Juilee Decker: Oh my god, it's

100

00:14:35.100 --> 00:14:44.400

Janice Gilyard: Gonna be a podcast. It's going to go on iTunes. She said, I'm telling you now it's going to go everywhere. And just last night, I was talking to someone and I said,

101

00:14:45.000 --> 00:14:51.090

Janice Gilyard: That's not me like I like doing this, but I really don't like being out. Yeah, I actually created a blog and it's private. I will

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102

00:14:51.420 --> 00:14:58.320

Janice Gilyard: Put it out there. And so I was like, Okay, I gotta deal with that are really got to try to get through this because I want to share my ancestors stories.

103

00:14:58.560 --> 00:15:08.550

Janice Gilyard: And so now this thing with Bernice finished. So she said, I'm gonna need your Facebook page information your blog information. And so that was that Poland, talk to say, okay, it can't be a secret anymore. You have to put it out there.

104

00:15:08.850 --> 00:15:17.370

Juilee Decker: That's right off not keeping it under a bushel, which you haven't been keeping it under a bushel, but it's just the bushel keeps getting pulled away and then there you are.

105

00:15:17.400 --> 00:15:18.420

Juilee Decker: You know, let's allow

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00:15:18.690 --> 00:15:21.840

Janice Gilyard: I don't know what your faith is but I'm in the scriptures

107

00:15:21.900 --> 00:15:29.310

Janice Gilyard: There is a scripture that talks about, like, who has a light and you take it and you put it under a bushel, you're not supposed to do that. It's supposed to put it out so

108

00:15:29.760 --> 00:15:39.540

Janice Gilyard: I my, my main concern is that I don't want any of this to be about me. I want it to be about my ancestors. So the title of my blog which I created in May.

109

00:15:40.110 --> 00:15:46.950

Janice Gilyard: Is my ancestors speak. I don't want to be the one that see they didn't have a voice so I feel that they selected me

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00:15:47.190 --> 00:15:51.930

Janice Gilyard: Because I'm the only person in my family on my maternal and paternal side maternal and paternal side.

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00:15:52.200 --> 00:16:01.140

Janice Gilyard: Doing the research and I personally feel that God and my ancestor said she's the one that's supposed to tell the story. She's the one that will be dedicated

112

00:16:01.470 --> 00:16:13.920

Janice Gilyard: And will give voice to it. And so that's why I have the title of my blog as my ancestors speak and as of tomorrow is not going to be private. I'm going to make it public, and with all of that I want to tell you about Willoughby.

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00:16:14.340 --> 00:16:29.940

Juilee Decker: Oh, please do. Oh my goodness. No, I just want to say I enjoyed your introduction, because that helped put the pieces together and just the way that you explained how you're not a very like public person that makes complete sense in that

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00:16:31.230 --> 00:16:42.330

Juilee Decker: This story now has that ability to just rise up and into your question about faith. I was raised Roman Catholic that my whole entire life. And then I went youth group.

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00:16:42.600 --> 00:16:51.090

Juilee Decker: For Lutheran kids six seventh and eighth graders. Can't believe I survived that. And I consider myself today Christian in general.

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00:16:51.720 --> 00:16:52.830

Juilee Decker: Know this passage, and I

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00:16:53.880 --> 00:16:56.970

Janice Gilyard: Was like, oh, there's something there. There's something there.

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00:16:57.570 --> 00:17:03.630

Janice Gilyard: Okay, so with Willoughby, my grandmother, my paternal grandmother her birthdays. The Fourth of July.

119

00:17:04.200 --> 00:17:10.200

Janice Gilyard: And so every fourth of July, we typically my family and I we traveled to go see her and wish her happy birthday.

120

00:17:10.950 --> 00:17:14.730

Janice Gilyard: Four or five years ago, doctors are like, oh, she's not gonna make it. She's not going to make it.

121

00:17:15.090 --> 00:17:26.790

Janice Gilyard: We're at a point now that we're just like when they call me to tell me that. Okay. Yes, you can really come. She's gone best one I believe that she's not going to make it because longevity runs in her family, her name is Celia Woodbury cross

122

00:17:27.600 --> 00:17:37.860

Janice Gilyard: And again, she just turned 97 on the Fourth of July, and she is named after her father, sister, who was also Celia and lived to be 113 years old.

123

00:17:38.910 --> 00:17:47.190

Janice Gilyard: And when she passed away, they put it in the newspaper. So longevity on that line runs in the family. So I called her to wish her happy birthday.

124

00:17:48.090 --> 00:18:00.000

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Janice Gilyard: And spoke with my aunt who I always tell her kiss her on the cheek if I can't be there. I always say you have to kiss on the forehead and say this is from Janice. So we're doing that. And then my aunt says,

125

00:18:01.140 --> 00:18:10.200

Janice Gilyard: Oh, well, you know, you have cousins in Pennsylvania. And I'm like, I do now. My aunt never talks about genealogy, it's not her thing. She'll typically answer the questions that I have

126

00:18:10.530 --> 00:18:18.210

Janice Gilyard: What she does so out of the blue, she just starts talking about people and saying, Okay, this is interesting. So I said, Well, I'm at my computer.

127

00:18:18.600 --> 00:18:24.600

Janice Gilyard: I'll just bring up my ancestry.com account but prior to that, I have to kind of set the stage a little bit

128

00:18:25.140 --> 00:18:33.660

Janice Gilyard: For years ago we were on vacation, South Carolina, and I wanted to go to Charleston. Nobody in my family wanted to go. They were like, no, we don't want to go with all my god it's like, no, I have to go to Charleston.

129

00:18:33.960 --> 00:18:40.530

Janice Gilyard: So other people are like, Well, why do you want to go to Charleston. I was like, I don't know, I just had this pull and drive to go to Charleston.

130

00:18:40.860 --> 00:18:50.190

Janice Gilyard: So I call my niece and my nephew and they said, Okay, well, we'll come and take you and they came to the hotel picked me up. And I'm going to go through this because it can be kind of lengthy so I'm giving you the short version. Yeah.

131

00:18:50.730 --> 00:18:58.680

Janice Gilyard: We go to Charleston. We tour. I'm like, oh, wow, this is really nice, but then I'm like, What's this smell. They're like, oh, they have horses. I'm like, Okay, that's interesting.

132

00:18:59.130 --> 00:19:11.250

Janice Gilyard: So then we end up by the slave Mark that's in Charleston and that was very moving for me I'm like okay so as we're leaving. I had this overwhelming sense and presence like

133

00:19:11.880 --> 00:19:19.650

Janice Gilyard: Wow, she came to see us today, and I couldn't tell anyone because I was like I don't even think I'm crazy, but it was this release late I was supposed to go to Charleston.

134

00:19:20.070 --> 00:19:29.070

Janice Gilyard: I came, I went by the slave mark and then I had this overwhelming feeling of like peace, like, okay, I didn't think anything of it now.

135

00:19:30.240 --> 00:19:40.830

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Janice Gilyard: When I started my research 25 years ago I met a woman online. It was before you have as like ancestry being as popular and all of the different ways to network and Facebook.

136

00:19:41.370 --> 00:19:52.860

Janice Gilyard: And there was a woman. That said, when you come back to South Carolina. I want to take you somewhere. I said, Okay, so where does she take me she took me to Francis Marion University, where there are two slate campaigns on the property.

137

00:19:53.910 --> 00:19:59.820

Janice Gilyard: So I was kind of overwhelmed by it. I took pictures. I still have the pictures. And I'm like, wow, okay.

138

00:20:01.260 --> 00:20:02.400

Janice Gilyard: 20 something years ago.

139

00:20:03.900 --> 00:20:13.050

Janice Gilyard: Move up to going back and forth to South Carolina married South Carolina doing a research go into the archives Center. I met a man whose name is Maxie foxworth

140

00:20:13.500 --> 00:20:19.590

Janice Gilyard: And Maxie really helped me find a lot of documentation, if I got stuck on something. One time I was stuck on a name.

141

00:20:19.980 --> 00:20:26.310

Janice Gilyard: And I was frustrated and my husband, my daughter in the car and he was like what's wrong. I said, Why can't find this information. I have to go. We have to go

142

00:20:26.820 --> 00:20:37.170

Janice Gilyard: And he said, What are you looking for. I said by, she said, Oh, by just short of Isaiah, and then he show pulls out the book and shows me and gives me like 15 additional names to work with. Okay.

143

00:20:39.870 --> 00:20:49.620

Janice Gilyard: After that, fast forward to Fourth of July. On Saturday, before I call my grandmother. There was a man. His name is Jane know his name is

144

00:20:50.040 --> 00:20:56.640

Janice Gilyard: Joseph I can call him change his name is Joseph McGill. And he runs this project and it's called the slave dwelling project.

145

00:20:56.880 --> 00:21:05.490

Janice Gilyard: And so he goes around to different sites in the country, and he sleeps on plantations. He actually works for Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, South Carolina.

146

00:21:06.270 --> 00:21:11.340

Janice Gilyard: He has a Facebook page. He has a website when on Saturday before I call my grandmother

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147

00:21:11.610 --> 00:21:22.620

Janice Gilyard: He happens to be live. And I was like, wow, I've never seen him go live before. So I started interacting with him. And I was like, Oh, you got to come to New Jersey, and he's like, hi. Janice. I've been there before. And this is through the computer.

148

00:21:23.010 --> 00:21:33.030

Janice Gilyard: And he goes, oh, I've been there before, but I need to come back and I'm doing something, you know, follow my page. Okay, fine. So we have documented on that Facebook feed right interacted with him before I call my grandmother

149

00:21:34.380 --> 00:21:47.940

Janice Gilyard: Call my grandmother speaking. So my aunt. And then I hear, she's given me this names on his ancestry com and all of a sudden, is I'm putting information in different names started populating

150

00:21:48.390 --> 00:21:56.490

Janice Gilyard: So I'm like, well, what does this look like, Oh, I've seen that before. So now that's not mine doesn't make sense. And then I'm asking my and I'm like, have you heard these names before

151

00:21:56.880 --> 00:22:05.730

Janice Gilyard: And she said what I sound kind of familiar, but I'm not sure. And I kept looking and looking but and I was able to document that these names belong in my tree.

152

00:22:06.120 --> 00:22:15.330

Janice Gilyard: So the cool thing was I went back to additional generations. I was all excited about that. But then it went up one more. So will be and I'm like most will be like

153

00:22:15.780 --> 00:22:24.000

Janice Gilyard: Okay, I've seen these names before. But what is this will be. And you could see that. Definitely, definitely should belong to them. This family and she was born in 1808

154

00:22:24.630 --> 00:22:25.890

Juilee Decker: Oh my goodness.

155

00:22:26.700 --> 00:22:28.560

Janice Gilyard: So that's enough, right there, but

156

00:22:28.620 --> 00:22:36.480

Janice Gilyard: Then there was a note and I have seen them know before and I kept saying that does not apply to my family doesn't apply to my family, the notes, specifically said

157

00:22:37.080 --> 00:22:44.490

Janice Gilyard: If you are connected to this person go look up a segment done by PBS and it's called the history detectives.

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158

00:22:44.970 --> 00:22:55.950

Janice Gilyard: Now you have to understand. I used to watch that show faithfully this one episode, I never saw it. So I go online I type it in. And there's a transcript that comes up.

159

00:22:56.460 --> 00:23:08.070

Janice Gilyard: three paragraphs and I start reading the transcripts and I'm like, oh my goodness, no, no, this is not happening to me. So then I said, Okay, what's the likelihood that they would have the segment online saying PBS.

160

00:23:08.820 --> 00:23:19.590

Janice Gilyard: Was a popular show it should be online the segment was online and I started watching it and tears just started rolling down my face and the crazy thing.

161

00:23:20.640 --> 00:23:24.750

Janice Gilyard: The crazy thing to me. It will always be like crazy or serendipity or surreal.

162

00:23:25.410 --> 00:23:35.520

Janice Gilyard: There was a woman in Wichita, Kansas. She was cleaning her at it and came across on her grandfather used to collect Civil War memorabilia.

163

00:23:35.820 --> 00:23:43.860

Janice Gilyard: And she's going through it. And the last document is a slave bill of sale and who is for its for Willoughby.

164

00:23:44.400 --> 00:23:54.150

Janice Gilyard: She wrote into the history detectives to say can you research her and what happened to her and if she survived slavery.

165

00:23:55.050 --> 00:23:57.690

Janice Gilyard: The history detectives decided to take it on.

166

00:23:58.410 --> 00:24:12.990

Janice Gilyard: Where was the first place. Now mind you, all of this is happening on Saturday. I never went to bed. I was up until five o'clock the next morning, because I was writing five pages worth of information and I have that I have that to share with you. I have it all organized and to share it.

167

00:24:15.030 --> 00:24:23.310

Janice Gilyard: Where did they start Charleston, South Carolina. The slave more than I went to four years ago. And I'm watching this, like this is I happening.

168

00:24:23.850 --> 00:24:34.830

Janice Gilyard: Where was the second stop that they went to Francis Marion University which 20 more years ago this woman out of the goodness and kindness of her heart said that she would take me to

169

00:24:35.310 --> 00:24:43.080

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Janice Gilyard: So that's where they are. Who is the person that's with the TV host at Francis Marion University.

170

00:24:43.470 --> 00:24:55.200

Janice Gilyard: Joseph McGill from the slave dwelling project, who I have been watching him live for the first time he can attest to this and I've spoken to him. I call him, I said, I need to talk to you.

171

00:24:55.560 --> 00:25:04.170

Janice Gilyard: And he called me back that next Sunday morning. And he said, Oh, I remember that program he was in it and I set up personas in my stomach. This great grandmother

172

00:25:04.920 --> 00:25:12.960

Janice Gilyard: Okay, so then they're there. Right. And he's talking and will it be was sold at 17 years old and they kept saying that she was alone.

173

00:25:13.680 --> 00:25:24.540

Janice Gilyard: And that was rare because normally. It was a mother and child or you had siblings. This family was together that she was alone being sold. And so then the question became,

174

00:25:25.110 --> 00:25:34.920

Janice Gilyard: It was she being sold for breeding purposes where she being sold for her and slavers personal use, or, you know, they were those questions came up

175

00:25:35.160 --> 00:25:43.590

Janice Gilyard: And that's when tears were just coming down my face because yes she is 17 years old. I can't imagine my child be taken away from me. And this is happening to them.

176

00:25:44.190 --> 00:25:55.200

Janice Gilyard: Okay, that's the second part. The next part is they say, okay, well, we need to go for they went from Charleston to Florence. We're Francis Marion university is the next place that they go to

177

00:25:55.680 --> 00:26:07.470

Janice Gilyard: Is the archives center TO MEET WITH MAXIE Fox where who is someone I know like if I'm on vacation, and I see him. I see him in a Walmart. I'm like, hey, MAXIE. How are you, like, I know him know him.

178

00:26:07.770 --> 00:26:16.290

Janice Gilyard: And I'm going this is not happening, this, this, this, this is, this is not happening. And honestly, that happened on the Fourth of July.

179

00:26:16.920 --> 00:26:26.100

Janice Gilyard: Even now, having this conversation like I can talk about it now without crying on Sunday during the interview, though session. I was just crying. I started crying all over again but

180

00:26:27.450 --> 00:26:35.490

Janice Gilyard: All that happened on the Fourth of July on my grandmother's birthday. And so I was up until five o'clock in the morning typing and writing going

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181

00:26:35.940 --> 00:26:44.970

Janice Gilyard: I don't understand how this is happening. So the what I say is in the way I title. It is that although I was talking to my and I felt like, will it be found me.

182

00:26:45.540 --> 00:26:59.880

Janice Gilyard: That I normally do research and I'm finding people but will it be found me. So the answer to the question that the woman from Wichita, Kansas initially asked as far as a slave bill of sale was what happened so will be

183

00:27:00.660 --> 00:27:12.060

Janice Gilyard: So will it be, what's a slinked and I have the documents because PBS. When I found out about it, I was like, I gotta get my car and go to South Carolina, because I need these documents I need all the documents that were discussing the program.

184

00:27:12.630 --> 00:27:31.950

Janice Gilyard: Well, PBS is amazing, all of the documents are online, they haven't listed in the segment. So I actually have a Word document where she worked for \$1 and she was working. The thing is, is that she was sold, but she was also sold you see in the record sit

185

00:27:34.290 --> 00:27:41.670

Janice Gilyard: On You know what my screen is a touch screen. So I have to be very careful. There we go. I'm going what happened. Okay. I apologize. I'm sorry.

186

00:27:41.790 --> 00:27:42.480

Juilee Decker: You're good.

187

00:27:42.780 --> 00:27:49.650

Janice Gilyard: So I actually have. And I'm going to email you have everything in an email to send to you. Yes, not showing up here, but I have

188

00:27:50.430 --> 00:27:57.690

Juilee Decker: A few. Yeah, I can see the paper, I can just see your face, but know that it's so but to the point of like all of the documents that they had so

189

00:27:57.960 --> 00:28:13.410

Juilee Decker: They did a bunch of this research that you weren't even aware of and the fact that it came to you on the Fourth of July and the intersection with slave dwelling project. I mean, and I know that project. I am familiar with that project. It is a radical, it isn't so

190

00:28:14.040 --> 00:28:25.080

Juilee Decker: WHY IS IT WAS THAT WAS IT BECAUSE IT WAS YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S birthday. Do you think your heart was just open up like what made it happen. This Fourth of July. This grandmother's birthday. What do you think

191

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00:28:25.110 --> 00:28:27.060

Janice Gilyard: Okay, I do feel that

192

00:28:28.920 --> 00:28:41.460

Janice Gilyard: As a person faith, I feel that it was the appointed anointed time for me to find it. And when you look at when that segment aired and I have it all in the email was sent to you that segment aired in 2012

193

00:28:42.870 --> 00:28:47.580

Janice Gilyard: I don't think I was supposed to find it. Then or know about it, or even see it. And again, even if I had seen it.

194

00:28:47.880 --> 00:28:56.910

Janice Gilyard: It would not have stood out to me and people have asked me over the years. Do you have any family out of Charleston like know all my family is in Marion South Carolina Mullins

195

00:28:57.180 --> 00:29:06.270

Janice Gilyard: Columbia Lawrence never Charleston and now I can say, well, she was there because in 1808 it was against the law to

196

00:29:07.080 --> 00:29:20.730

Janice Gilyard: Support slaves. It's. It was supposed to stop, but people are still doing it, but you're supposed to do it. So the whole thing was, you have to work with the folks that are here, basically. So that's where all that breeding came in from to get additional slaves. I just feel that

197

00:29:22.050 --> 00:29:36.450

Janice Gilyard: Fourth of July. My grandmother and also because I was upset about not being able to go to see her. I felt like it was a gift to me. I felt as if it was like, this is the time that she supposed to get it and it has really

198

00:29:37.380 --> 00:29:44.130

Janice Gilyard: I'm still, even though I'm talking to you, even though I had to interview on Sunday, even though I posted this on Facebook.

199

00:29:45.000 --> 00:30:02.670

Janice Gilyard: I posted on the site. This is I've traced my enslaved to ancestors. It still does still does not feel real to me. I feel like literally as if I'm floating like somebody has to pinch me that I really had this every time I look at the documents. It's emotional. Um, and, and not only that she

200

00:30:03.810 --> 00:30:16.200

Janice Gilyard: So, so to answer that question. I feel that this was providence that it was supposed to happen now. No sooner know later that it was supposed to happen now. And on the Fourth of July.

201

00:30:17.520 --> 00:30:19.950

Janice Gilyard: And I just think that there's so much significance and my grandmother

202

00:30:20.520 --> 00:30:22.980

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Janice Gilyard: She is a firecracker well she used to be a firecracker

203

00:30:23.370 --> 00:30:29.790

Janice Gilyard: But she's the person who took my son fishing for the first time, and she's the person when I started my research, I would talk to her.

204

00:30:30.060 --> 00:30:36.810

Janice Gilyard: And she would answer all of my questions. I don't know if I said it told you but for her second great grandmother on her paternal line.

205

00:30:37.140 --> 00:30:41.850

Janice Gilyard: She was a slave and there is a slave. I don't know if you're familiar with the Works Progress Administration.

206

00:30:42.060 --> 00:30:51.330

Janice Gilyard: They had that whole slave narrative collection. Well, I have one for my 97 YEAR OLD GRANDMOTHER. I have one for her grandmother, which is my second great grandmother

207

00:30:51.570 --> 00:30:58.290

Janice Gilyard: Who names. The enslavers who names. Her parents, which puts me back additional degeneration, so

208

00:30:58.650 --> 00:31:05.400

Janice Gilyard: All of this with my grandmother is just like unbelievable. And one of the quotes that I started using his ancestors.

209

00:31:05.730 --> 00:31:15.930

Janice Gilyard: daring to go back as far as possible to embody both the joy and the jarring places of being a descendant of people who know persistence and persecution.

210

00:31:16.320 --> 00:31:26.190

Janice Gilyard: I am reflecting on what it means for the descended in me to meet the ancestor in me. And so I lament, to me, which is where I was crying.

211

00:31:26.580 --> 00:31:36.570

Janice Gilyard: I rise rejoice and right now I don't consider myself an author, but I love to write. And when I write and share with people's interesting the feedback that I'm getting

212

00:31:36.930 --> 00:31:41.520

Janice Gilyard: For instance, like I said, I said. I said, I felt every word that you that you wrote and so

213

00:31:42.480 --> 00:31:56.250

Janice Gilyard: Last month I have about four books that I eventually want to write with the family history and I've done. I can't put them all in one book. And so it just keeps coming to me. What are you going to do it. What are you going to do it. So every Tuesday I make sure I write two to three pages.

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214

00:31:57.000 --> 00:31:59.790

Janice Gilyard: On it an essay style so that once I'm done.

215

00:32:00.030 --> 00:32:07.260

Janice Gilyard: I can sort everything out and figure, okay, these essays need to go together. These need to go to

216

00:32:08.040 --> 00:32:14.850

Janice Gilyard: Other and then I'll do it. But I have to. There is that pole internally to do this so

217

00:32:15.120 --> 00:32:23.070

Janice Gilyard: I think with this be in Providence and an anointed and appointed time. I feel like that's why I had that pulled to write and with Willoughby, when she found me.

218

00:32:23.310 --> 00:32:34.980

Janice Gilyard: I could not go to sleep. I kept trying to say, it's like, Okay, I'll come back like know keep writing. So I ended up writing a total of four pages. I do have a graphic in and I'm going to send that to you. So I put together. I have a document with

219

00:32:38.310 --> 00:32:41.670

Janice Gilyard: His ancestry com that I'm just trying to get it.

220

00:32:42.060 --> 00:32:55.920

Janice Gilyard: Shows how I'm connected. So, okay, I think that's important. And then I had the documents that talk about her being sold. She and her husband Essex were sold for 1100 dollars and then they had a child.

221

00:33:00.450 --> 00:33:03.960

Janice Gilyard: They had a child that was so for 400 or \$850

222

00:33:05.430 --> 00:33:13.050

Janice Gilyard: And then his second wife because will be dies is listed here as well. I just found this out. Her name is Rose and

223

00:33:14.250 --> 00:33:16.470

Janice Gilyard: Rose was so for \$850

224

00:33:17.850 --> 00:33:18.360

Janice Gilyard: So,

225

00:33:20.250 --> 00:33:28.740

Janice Gilyard: I feel that I, the reason I was still what I was selected to do it is that I'm a famous person and my friends. They always

226

00:33:29.520 --> 00:33:39.270

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Janice Gilyard: they tease me they're like you cry over everything. My boyfriend. She was like such a water handles that before, it will be awarded, but I am because I feel everything deeply

227

00:33:40.200 --> 00:33:52.380

Janice Gilyard: For my family for my children. And they're like, well, are you cry at Churchill like they they're careful in how they do things because they know they're like oh my gosh she's gonna cry. And so when I don't cry. My I encourage

228

00:33:53.520 --> 00:34:01.110

Janice Gilyard: What I feel that God made me that way to be able to feel and empathize with people and to make a difference and

229

00:34:02.010 --> 00:34:10.020

Janice Gilyard: Although I say I'm very, very private and I don't like to be out there. I used to be extremely shy and no one believes me when I tell them that they're like, no way.

230

00:34:10.500 --> 00:34:20.250

Janice Gilyard: And I said, Well, over the years, I've embraced who I am and who God has made me to be. So given certain things. I have no problem getting up and speaking but genealogy.

231

00:34:20.700 --> 00:34:30.390

Janice Gilyard: I'm very, very passionate about it. No problem. And I always think I do prepare my notes and I have notes and it's really funny because I prepared this long document.

232

00:34:31.500 --> 00:34:37.590

Janice Gilyard: To be able to go in order and not be wordy. And I got everything organized and I'm going to refresh your document.

233

00:34:38.070 --> 00:34:44.010

Janice Gilyard: But I think that was meant to happen that I'm supposed to share authentically from my heart once again.

234

00:34:44.340 --> 00:34:50.190

Janice Gilyard: The woman that I had to interview with on Sunday. I was like, Okay, well, what are your questions and she's like, Oh, well, you know,

235

00:34:50.700 --> 00:34:54.420

Janice Gilyard: You can just share and you can talk is like, okay, you don't have questions, just like no

236

00:34:54.900 --> 00:35:14.010

Janice Gilyard: It's like okay and again inside. It was just speak from your heart and it went extremely well. And the feedback was amazing. So I what happens to will be just circle back to her is that once she was free. She bought 160 acres from the family that enslaved her

237

00:35:15.660 --> 00:35:25.020

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Janice Gilyard: And so at the end of the segment the woman from Wichita, Kansas, found that out and they did try at that time to find descendants

238

00:35:25.530 --> 00:35:32.400

Janice Gilyard: They located some but they weren't interested. I said, Well, they didn't find me because I would have been there, I would take a vacation day days and I would have been there.

239

00:35:32.820 --> 00:35:39.480

Janice Gilyard: So one of the things that I'm trying to do now, I have not been successful is I'm trying to find the woman that sent the segment in

240

00:35:39.930 --> 00:35:56.790

Janice Gilyard: To let her know that it was meant for her to find that because she could have found it and thought, okay, you know, you're right. This isn't this collection. She didn't do that. And what she did is a gift for me and I feel that that's a part of this whole time frame.

241

00:35:57.060 --> 00:35:59.670

Janice Gilyard: And finding things and then here's Janice

242

00:36:00.000 --> 00:36:11.550

Janice Gilyard: 12 you know 2012 now in 2020 I come along and find this segment and I went into ancestry com i had a hard time going back to find the sky, but they were the man that put that note in there.

243

00:36:12.030 --> 00:36:22.170

Janice Gilyard: near her name. I went back and I think Tim, I said, You have no idea what you have done for me in terms of God on my genealogy and research because there's a big difference of

244

00:36:22.590 --> 00:36:38.010

Janice Gilyard: Oh, well, if he was my fifth grade grandmother to oh will be my fifth grade grandmother and there's a whole segment of 1514 minute segment on her. So with that being said, It's just amazing how all of this just came together.

245

00:36:38.580 --> 00:36:51.060

Juilee Decker: Well, I'm thinking about like the collective nature of people contributing to ancestry and like, that's how you can make these connect you don't even know these people and they're connecting or helping you to connect these dots.

246

00:36:51.330 --> 00:37:00.480

Juilee Decker: And as far as the segment the person. I'll see what I can do to reach out to her. I have a friend who works in PBS here.

247

00:37:00.810 --> 00:37:05.010

Juilee Decker: And I'll see if she can, you know, go behind the scenes and figure out some

248

00:37:05.550 --> 00:37:07.650

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Janice Gilyard: Mountains on to have

249

00:37:07.860 --> 00:37:17.040

Janice Gilyard: One gentleman who there was, there were three like main people that used to conduct the interviews. So one of the guys. He works at Temple University, I emailed him.

250

00:37:17.520 --> 00:37:27.450

Janice Gilyard: Know I reached out to him via Facebook. I haven't heard back yet. And then the guy that was a part of the segment and you'll see that the lead guy for the segment.

251

00:37:27.900 --> 00:37:36.570

Janice Gilyard: I left a message for him. I think he works at a university in Arizona. I'm not sure but I left a voicemail message for him. I haven't heard anything yet.

252

00:37:37.020 --> 00:37:47.310

Janice Gilyard: And then I just thought, you know what, however, it's supposed to happen it will happen. The woman, her name is Jeannie Hans and you'll see her throughout the segment. She is an editor.

253

00:37:47.700 --> 00:37:54.000

Janice Gilyard: At Wichita, Kansas. So, but I think with COVID that folks may be working from home or not getting messages.

254

00:37:54.870 --> 00:38:04.920

Janice Gilyard: I did leave a message for the publication that she's listed as an editor for that was the Fourth of July. I haven't heard anything yet, but I feel that when it's supposed to happen it will happen, but I wanted to

255

00:38:05.370 --> 00:38:10.950

Janice Gilyard: I would like to thank her to say I'm so glad you didn't just take that and put it somewhere and not do anything with it.

256

00:38:11.190 --> 00:38:31.650

Juilee Decker: Yeah. And to your point about, you know, crying, you hit the nail on the head. It's the empathy that you have like you have empathy. When you hear or read or when you see someone, and that's just so important because it helps you to connect and especially being a pastor's wife, that's

257

00:38:31.800 --> 00:38:41.910

Juilee Decker: That's part of your car and and i and i understand what you say about like people are shocked that you're shy. The same thing I said of me there something I'm trying. It's like well with my job as an educator

258

00:38:42.330 --> 00:38:42.630

Juilee Decker: And

259

00:38:42.870 --> 00:38:48.570

Juilee Decker: I work at the University. Now, I used to do GED back in the day work and I used to work in

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260

00:38:50.130 --> 00:38:54.390

Juilee Decker: I used to do literacy in a factory before that have to

261

00:38:55.050 --> 00:39:04.290

Juilee Decker: Talk and be in front of people and a half to be the one that has the voice to talk, you know, it's not my preferred mode. But that's just what I have to do.

262

00:39:04.620 --> 00:39:22.590

Juilee Decker: So this story though. It's so fascinating that it's just coming together right now. And when you mentioned Fourth of July. I mean, what a celebration for you and for your grandmother, just to find all of this information and you've just done so much work with this Janice this sync with

263

00:39:23.010 --> 00:39:28.980

Janice Gilyard: A what I wrote. You'll see like when you read it, you'll see the order that I shared it in

264

00:39:29.520 --> 00:39:39.270

Janice Gilyard: And you won't feel the emotion, because I'm going, Okay, well, hold on here. Remember this, and wait and wait and so pretty much the way I shared it with you is

265

00:39:39.750 --> 00:39:44.790

Janice Gilyard: The way I wrote it, but I had questions I wanted to know, um,

266

00:39:45.750 --> 00:39:53.160

Janice Gilyard: I wrote our questions for part two of this in two parts. The first two pages I did on the first day. And then the second set of pages. I did the second day

267

00:39:53.580 --> 00:40:00.360

Janice Gilyard: And it so it's very quick. It's where were you born born in Charleston, South Carolina Africa or the Caribbean.

268

00:40:01.050 --> 00:40:13.410

Janice Gilyard: Who are your parents and where did you last see them how and why were you separated from your parents did you cry, Mr particularly makes me cry. How were you treated by the people who enslaved you

269

00:40:16.230 --> 00:40:27.060

Janice Gilyard: Did you and Essex decide to be a couple or what's the relationship or marriage forced. Were you ever reunited with your parents. Where is your final resting place, which I think I just found this week.

270

00:40:28.110 --> 00:40:37.410

Janice Gilyard: Other than me. Who are your descendants so excuse me with some of the interesting things that have happened about five years ago.

271

00:40:38.400 --> 00:40:47.250

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Janice Gilyard: My grandmother, as far as I can tell, all the research I've been doing. I've never seen her in anyone's tree. And so this one day I'm looking at them going.

272

00:40:48.210 --> 00:41:03.900

Janice Gilyard: Somebody has my grandmother, my grandmother's grandmother, my grandmother's grandmother and their tree. And so I reached out to the woman and I was like, how do you know this person and how so my great great grandmother and this person is

273

00:41:05.040 --> 00:41:16.440

Janice Gilyard: Great, great grandfather were siblings. And so when I found out about all of this. The first thing I was. It was like, Okay. Who's, who's going to know who's going to appreciate this. And I reached out to her.

274

00:41:16.890 --> 00:41:33.570

Janice Gilyard: And so she's been sharing it. Other people have been sharing it on Facebook. I've had about 400 close to 400 responses, where people have just been going crazy. I had a woman in Canada, reach out to me and she said, I believe that my family was a part of the enslavers

275

00:41:34.440 --> 00:41:34.770

Juilee Decker: And

276

00:41:34.800 --> 00:41:48.780

Janice Gilyard: She lives in Canada, and we have DNA matches and common there's this program called Jed match and she and I have five ancestors and common um I was talking to you about the interview that I have on sep tember third

277

00:41:50.460 --> 00:41:56.010

Janice Gilyard: Well, the woman that's going to do it. I sent her the link for the segment.

278

00:41:56.730 --> 00:42:05.550

Janice Gilyard: She called me this morning, she said, I'm on my way to a dentist appointment I need to talk to you for a few minutes. I said, okay, no problem. She's the first of all, would you be interested in doing it us of Yes, absolutely.

279

00:42:05.940 --> 00:42:10.350

Janice Gilyard: I said, this is something I pray for, she said. Secondly, I believe I'm connected to Willoughby.

280

00:42:11.790 --> 00:42:25.290

Janice Gilyard: So she sent me. I told her, I said there's I spoke with her twice. And I said, okay, you're gonna have to email me and then I'll reach out to you after work. I said, because if I start this I'll probably end up getting fired because if I start researching something that's it.

281

00:42:25.500 --> 00:42:25.740

Juilee Decker: So I

282

00:42:25.770 --> 00:42:38.760

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Janice Gilyard: Try to restrain from doing anything genealogy related during the day and it's the same area, the same two areas and the first place that will be lives in her ancestor live

283

00:42:39.390 --> 00:42:52.770

Janice Gilyard: She said two pages and the census records with the same tail. So, more than likely, there's definitely going to be a connection and we're going to try and figure that out tonight. And that's when I said you can't make this up. Not only that,

284

00:42:54.090 --> 00:43:02.850

Janice Gilyard: Sunday during the interview at the last minute, I said, You know what, let me invite a couple of people, but the page and the group, it's private.

285

00:43:03.360 --> 00:43:11.220

Janice Gilyard: And so you just can't go on. You have to go on and join and then you can see the segment. So at the last minute I invited one person.

286

00:43:11.730 --> 00:43:24.150

Janice Gilyard: And prior to that the other person. I had invited them long time ago and they were on it and they loved it. During the segment or shortly before the segment. She posted a picture of her grandmother

287

00:43:26.040 --> 00:43:35.280

Janice Gilyard: The person who was my cousin that lives in New York during the segment afterwards saw the picture join the group saw the picture and said, is that so and so.

288

00:43:36.990 --> 00:43:39.000

Janice Gilyard: This person who was a member of my group.

289

00:43:40.200 --> 00:43:48.660

Janice Gilyard: The ancestors. She put the picture up and the person who was my cousin from New York who I asked at the last minute. Their second grade grandmother's have siblings.

290

00:43:49.710 --> 00:43:55.500

Juilee Decker: Oh my goodness, just see that kind of just bringing people together. You just convening all these the

291

00:43:55.500 --> 00:43:57.810

Janice Gilyard: One lady said I'm calling you, the connector.

292

00:43:58.680 --> 00:44:01.920

Juilee Decker: You are, you are connected your connector your

293

00:44:02.310 --> 00:44:09.300

Janice Gilyard: Picture and somebody. And so I saw them talking and I always saw the last line and passing. And they said, oh, look what you've done.

294

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00:44:09.540 --> 00:44:16.410

Janice Gilyard: And I thought, all this is so cute. You like the picture and I just put a heart on it and I went on about my business will last night.

295

00:44:17.250 --> 00:44:22.290

Janice Gilyard: And I have nothing else. I won't share anything else after this, because this could go. I could go on forever last night.

296

00:44:22.770 --> 00:44:38.010

Janice Gilyard: I saw that the two of them were chatting on their page like if you're we're all connected. So it was so I was like, Oh, that's so nice that they, you know, they're talking so then we go away, man. When we talked about it, then I'm seeing. Oh, hey, cousin. How are you, cousin, and I'm going

297

00:44:41.100 --> 00:44:53.010

Janice Gilyard: It's 11 o'clock at night last night. The woman's name is Tunisia, we're very close. I called her us like I'm confused. What's going on, she said, our grandmother our great grandmother's for siblings. I said, you can't make this up.

298

00:44:54.360 --> 00:44:57.570

Juilee Decker: You're thinking, she's calling her cousin why she called her cousin.

299

00:44:58.920 --> 00:45:04.350

Janice Gilyard: Friendly endearment. Like, oh wow, and they are literally cousins and

300

00:45:05.400 --> 00:45:14.220

Janice Gilyard: Took second causes two times removed. I'm not dead part I'm still figuring out, but this whole thing has just been i don't i don't

301

00:45:14.730 --> 00:45:23.820

Janice Gilyard: Use the word mind blowing my mind is blown up. But it's, it really is mind blowing. And I said to the woman, last night, I said.

302

00:45:24.180 --> 00:45:31.380

Janice Gilyard: It's overwhelming. I have so many notes that I literally have to step away from it every night. I just have to step away because my is happening too fast.

303

00:45:32.340 --> 00:45:36.540

Janice Gilyard: I can't process it all and then the woman that I had to interview with on the third I just

304

00:45:37.020 --> 00:45:45.660

Janice Gilyard: She sent me. She already sent me. She said last night when I sent her the segment. She reached out to me late I sent it to her like she said, Do you want you to know I did not go to sleep last night.

305

00:45:45.960 --> 00:45:53.580

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Janice Gilyard: Just admit. Quite, quite. I know the name. I know the name, and she went and found with whites in her her ancestry and DNA.

306

00:45:54.540 --> 00:45:54.960

Janice Gilyard: And DNA.

307

00:45:55.350 --> 00:45:56.970

Janice Gilyard: So, more than likely we're related

308

00:45:57.390 --> 00:46:08.460

Juilee Decker: That's incredible. That is, I cannot wait to hear more about that. You have to keep me posted. I'm not on Facebook. By the way, I've never been on it. So I missed out on a lot of things I wanted to say, well, it's in my head.

309

00:46:10.140 --> 00:46:18.450

Juilee Decker: The fact that this happened on the Fourth of July. So I'm in Rochester and of course this was for some time, the home of Frederick Douglass.

310

00:46:18.600 --> 00:46:21.960

Juilee Decker: Right. And he gave in 1852

311

00:46:22.770 --> 00:46:24.990

Janice Gilyard: What is for the for that apply to that.

312

00:46:25.290 --> 00:46:30.570

Juilee Decker: Let me tell you this part, you may know this and if you do, I'm sorry to say that you don't know this, but

313

00:46:30.900 --> 00:46:45.930

Juilee Decker: He gave that speech down downtown here in Rochester at this place called Corinthian Hall, which no longer exists. And it's a parking lot now and there's a holiday in on that street corner so but it, but it was a building.

314

00:46:46.680 --> 00:46:59.220

Juilee Decker: I think was put up in 1820s, or 30s and it was up until the early 20th century, when it was raised with that site Corinthian Hall and just think of like your typical large scale building like an army or something like that.

315

00:46:59.550 --> 00:47:11.850

Juilee Decker: Well, he gave it at that location on July 4 of 1852 but he was commissioned to do it by and I'm getting chills the Rochester ladies anti slavery sewing society.

316

00:47:12.570 --> 00:47:29.100

Juilee Decker: Was white women, but they were a sewing society and that just when you said you crochet and you work with fiber and yarn that was just connecting to me in my, in my head just this this way in which all signs point to July 4 as this way.

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317

00:47:29.700 --> 00:47:32.880

Janice Gilyard: That about the sewing sewing like exactly look that up. I didn't know that.

318

00:47:33.120 --> 00:47:41.520

Juilee Decker: And and just think like you've given Willoughby independence. Now you've given her on Independence Day. You've given her independence as a story as a

319

00:47:41.700 --> 00:47:48.060

Juilee Decker: As a way to connect and as a way for so many people to learn her story. I mean, you're doing the heavy lifting.

320

00:47:48.390 --> 00:48:04.320

Juilee Decker: That the PBS show awesome but you're actually doing the labor. I mean, this is amazing. Janice and it's because of COVID that you couldn't see your grandmother, you know, and all these bits and pieces, but this is incredible to me. I am just

321

00:48:04.710 --> 00:48:05.850

Juilee Decker: I'm astonished.

322

00:48:06.150 --> 00:48:07.650

Janice Gilyard: Is still on.

323

00:48:09.060 --> 00:48:19.380

Janice Gilyard: I believe it. And then as I was typing. I said, I feel like I'm typing this for someone else what it's for me and i one of the post that I made. I said,

324

00:48:19.890 --> 00:48:35.280

Janice Gilyard: Out of my 25 years of researching out of any brick wall that I've encountered this makes it all worth it all the money all the traveling and the crazy thing is, and my if my husband was walking around listening.

325

00:48:36.030 --> 00:48:53.580

Janice Gilyard: He started. He started first he was doing this. And one day, he said, you know, you should your family history and I said a while I know who they are and you said, Well, who are they, I said, you know, so my parents and grandparents, okay fine great grandparents well

326

00:48:57.150 --> 00:49:08.700

Janice Gilyard: Don't know don't know and so that started me one name. I was like, well, I think, but I wasn't sure. And then once I started. That was it. I was hooked.

327

00:49:09.180 --> 00:49:19.410

Janice Gilyard: And I've been doing it ever since. And one of the things is on both sides of my family, they never do family reunions. And so when we started, so we have to have family reunions.

328

00:49:19.860 --> 00:49:33.060

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Janice Gilyard: And I always make sure that there's something for the kids to do when that they are engaged in the same thing with the teenagers. And I said to everyone. I said, one of the things my heart's desires. I don't want any

329

00:49:33.810 --> 00:49:48.900

Janice Gilyard: Anyone to feel the way I did when I was a kid, and that was in South Carolina thinking that I don't have a normal family like everybody else has. It's just me left with my grandma and I felt alone.

330

00:49:50.940 --> 00:50:04.890

Janice Gilyard: And that sense of connectedness. The only connectedness that I had to hold anything together was through my adopted the woman who adopted my mother, who was so, so good to me and is a lot of the reason why I am the way that I am now.

331

00:50:06.000 --> 00:50:14.640

Janice Gilyard: Because of her and so doing the research and watching all this stuff just like expand

332

00:50:15.810 --> 00:50:25.260

Janice Gilyard: I said I'd never want any of the child to feel like they don't come from somewhere that they don't belong. And so I embrace them I have more fun with the kids than I do with the adults.

333

00:50:26.160 --> 00:50:36.510

Janice Gilyard: I spend time with them, but I want them to come and to know that you are loved that you're cared for and you come from, you come from something and from people who were about something.

334

00:50:36.990 --> 00:50:42.330

Janice Gilyard: And everybody knows every family has it, you had the good, you got the crazy. You got some of everything.

335

00:50:42.630 --> 00:50:54.750

Janice Gilyard: But overall, my family is very loving very kind and supportive and they're funny, they're hilarious if they don't know something, everybody's supposed to call Jana. She knows coach and she knows or she will find out, and I will, and I do

336

00:50:55.290 --> 00:50:57.330

Janice Gilyard: Oh my god. Oh, with all of that.

337

00:50:58.590 --> 00:51:09.750

Janice Gilyard: Stuff. This is what I do and I love it. I absolutely love it and if, if, if I did not have to work. This would be that one thing that I could do for free or

338

00:51:10.230 --> 00:51:22.740

Janice Gilyard: You know, pay me or money if I become independently wealthy. This is the one thing that I would do, because I'm telling you when I found out about Willoughby, the first thing that came to mind was, I was like, I'm quitting my job. I'm going to South Carolina now.

339

00:51:23.220 --> 00:51:24.840

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Janice Gilyard: And it was like Okay, come back.

340

00:51:25.140 --> 00:51:27.390

Janice Gilyard: Come back to reality. You're not quitting your job.

341

00:51:28.590 --> 00:51:30.330

Juilee Decker: Unfortunately, at least not right now.

342

00:51:30.480 --> 00:51:37.860

Janice Gilyard: But, and then PS had everything available for me because I was really going to go to go there and get those documents, but they have everything online for me. Everything is here.

343

00:51:38.340 --> 00:51:46.170

Juilee Decker: So let me ask you this one I love what you said about family and like coming from some some place. I come from.

344

00:51:47.130 --> 00:51:58.200

Juilee Decker: A large family but like my mom and dad had a lot of kids and I'm the youngest of nine but my mom passed a couple of years ago. And when she passed.

345

00:51:59.010 --> 00:52:07.350

Juilee Decker: And several my family members have passed away from various things, but the the point of all this is we're not a family anymore and I missed it.

346

00:52:08.340 --> 00:52:09.510

Juilee Decker: And so hearing

347

00:52:09.510 --> 00:52:14.670

Juilee Decker: Us. Talk about that connectedness. That's very important, and it

348

00:52:15.180 --> 00:52:34.950

Juilee Decker: To you and because of you. Janice. It's only because of you that it will you know meld everyone to be connected and it's beautiful, because it's so important. And as a, as a young person to be connected and to feel like you are here and you matter that's so important.

349

00:52:34.950 --> 00:52:35.700

Janice Gilyard: Right, I just

350

00:52:35.760 --> 00:52:39.780

Janice Gilyard: I just don't have it in or when it's not there anymore.

351

00:52:41.220 --> 00:52:49.890

Janice Gilyard: Sometimes I think that if we sense it and we feel it the most that maybe if possible. We have some type of

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352

00:52:50.580 --> 00:52:57.540

Janice Gilyard: Call or commitment to try to be different or to try to have folks over for dinner or to try to

353

00:52:57.930 --> 00:53:04.770

Janice Gilyard: Do games where it's not so you know there's no tension or to make an attempt to do something because at least you can say, you know what

354

00:53:05.220 --> 00:53:13.620

Janice Gilyard: I tried. And then if it doesn't work there, then you build it, you know, God has given me people that I don't have the best relationship with, you know, with

355

00:53:13.950 --> 00:53:20.100

Janice Gilyard: Certain people in my family with my one mainly my mom. And that's very, very hard for me and I've tried, and I tried, and I tried

356

00:53:20.400 --> 00:53:27.930

Janice Gilyard: But God has given me people that are like mothers to me. He's given people to me, my father's to see. So he's given people who are like fathers to me or

357

00:53:28.170 --> 00:53:36.210

Janice Gilyard: I always wanted a big sister. I never had a big sister. I'm the oldest so he's given me people that are like sisters to me. So sometimes, whatever it's lacking.

358

00:53:36.570 --> 00:53:44.850

Janice Gilyard: God will give it to you. And it works and you find peace and there's a scripture that says, Deal with all men peaceably as much as is within you.

359

00:53:45.210 --> 00:53:52.530

Janice Gilyard: So somebody springing something negative. You put the positive out and then if it's not working then you remove yourself from it. So, Joysetta setup.

360

00:53:53.010 --> 00:53:59.640

Janice Gilyard: I'm, you know, we ended up speaking three times and I told the person that sent the email to her with our newsletter.

361

00:54:00.060 --> 00:54:14.550

Janice Gilyard: I said she's like this old sage soul that soothing and comforting and things that I didn't want anybody to think that I was crazy or off about experiences spiritual experiences I've had during my research.

362

00:54:14.940 --> 00:54:31.110

Janice Gilyard: I could tell her. And she said, It's okay, I'm just saying she had the same experience. There were two experiences that I was a little antsy about sharing with her and she had them. So my friend sending that newsletter that was meant to happen. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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363

00:54:31.290 --> 00:54:42.930

Juilee Decker: And I, I think, I don't know, I've never met Joysetta that like in person, because I've coated and I told her, when we talked last week, I said to. I said, I just go on the number to empire express and just let myself down

364

00:54:43.830 --> 00:54:59.280

Juilee Decker: To where you are in Nassau County, but because of Cobra. I'm not doing that, but I just felt so connected to her and I understand what you're saying. Like just the way in which she has been brought because of this person for that newsletter. She's been brought to you and it's

365

00:54:59.280 --> 00:55:01.800

Janice Gilyard: Very soothing and comforting and

366

00:55:03.600 --> 00:55:05.280

Janice Gilyard: How wonderful.

367

00:55:05.640 --> 00:55:11.940

Juilee Decker: Let me ask you this. So if you if you if if will be were alive today.

368

00:55:13.140 --> 00:55:15.030

Juilee Decker: What would you, what would you

369

00:55:15.090 --> 00:55:26.070

Juilee Decker: Say to her. So if she were like sitting, you know, there's no COVID will be alive and you know she's sitting in the room with you. What would you say to her.

370

00:55:28.110 --> 00:55:29.460

Juilee Decker: And you can think for a second.

371

00:55:29.910 --> 00:55:30.510

Janice Gilyard: Or what happened.

372

00:55:31.980 --> 00:55:43.050

Janice Gilyard: One would be refusing to die you refuse to die. There's a paragraph in the piece that I'm going to send you and she refused to die. Number two, thank you for surviving

373

00:55:44.280 --> 00:55:49.170

Janice Gilyard: Or surviving, because there was emphasis on her being alone and sold twice.

374

00:55:50.700 --> 00:56:03.840

Janice Gilyard: Thank you for surviving because because you survived on here. So I would say thank you. I would say I honor you. I celebrate you

375

00:56:04.620 --> 00:56:13.020

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Janice Gilyard: And then I would probably like spoil her like with flowers and okay now we have to go somewhere and then I would treat her like a queen.

376

00:56:13.590 --> 00:56:20.010

Janice Gilyard: So to me, she has a queen, I refer to her as Queen Willoughby, and just to name the name alone Willoughby, it's just like

377

00:56:20.400 --> 00:56:25.290

Janice Gilyard: You know, I do the Zoom calls for churches hold you. And so the first Sunday I found out about it.

378

00:56:25.680 --> 00:56:35.340

Janice Gilyard: I have it where I'm the host and you see the church logo and everything and then I have it working here it because you can't have two things going together. So the main computer is completely shut down. So I put will be

379

00:56:36.480 --> 00:56:37.740

Janice Gilyard: I put my name is will be

380

00:56:38.700 --> 00:56:51.990

Janice Gilyard: Practicing W's like fantasy W's. And I said, Okay, if I ever do something with my with crocheting and a business and all it would have w and we have her name incorporated into it. Some, some way

381

00:56:52.320 --> 00:56:52.890

Juilee Decker: So, or

382

00:56:53.010 --> 00:56:53.700

Janice Gilyard: Thank you.

383

00:56:54.090 --> 00:56:57.870

Juilee Decker: Will be designed like your, your whole your whole aesthetic could

384

00:56:58.290 --> 00:57:10.380

Juilee Decker: Be designed, I could just see it, like, um, let me ask you a part of the I appreciate what you what you said about her about what you would say to her about refusing to die, thanking her

385

00:57:11.730 --> 00:57:22.350

Juilee Decker: That what you've done is you've really made her story so much more visible and relevant and like you brought it to the surface, but it also has

386

00:57:22.740 --> 00:57:36.990

Juilee Decker: So much life to it and you know it's hard. It's hard to hear that she was sold and to think of being alone and i and i think in so many ways that that

387

00:57:38.160 --> 00:57:57.930

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Juilee Decker: That perseverance that determination that, you know, I think people when they come to the COVID archive, they're there, they're going to connect with that when you said connecting your connector Janice. I mean this is just, it's so amazing. And I'm just, I'm overwhelmed.

388

00:57:58.080 --> 00:58:04.680

Janice Gilyard: I feel that she was special. Why was she so special. At that time, I don't know, even though she wasn't slaved

389

00:58:05.400 --> 00:58:21.120

Janice Gilyard: But in her in slaver the last person enslaved or his name was Steven McQuaid st e PhD and then the quite MC W. H. I. T. And last week I found out that the family name was actually muscle white

390

00:58:21.570 --> 00:58:31.140

Janice Gilyard: So how they went from muscle white to MC white. I haven't seen anybody explain that yet, but his family, his descendants have trees as well.

391

00:58:31.890 --> 00:58:50.400

Janice Gilyard: And I thought, Wow, so in his will. He's preparing his will and basically says if anything happens to him that will be an Essex and Essex. His name is listed as six and sire and and so on. So, in his will.

392

00:58:51.240 --> 00:58:59.220

Janice Gilyard: He says that Essex and will be and Lydia Lydia was one of the children that if anything happens to them. They're to go to his sister.

393

00:59:00.420 --> 00:59:04.920

Janice Gilyard: And then they made five or six other slaves and they say, okay, we you can sell them.

394

00:59:06.570 --> 00:59:07.350

Juilee Decker: Wow.

395

00:59:07.740 --> 00:59:14.670

Janice Gilyard: And then at the end of slavery, she's buying property from them. So I'm saying okay

396

00:59:16.650 --> 00:59:25.890

Janice Gilyard: Was one of her children. His child, what was it that they looked out for them that they kept them together.

397

00:59:26.940 --> 00:59:35.880

Janice Gilyard: And so I'm trying to determine whether the date on the first person is sold her. His name was a sub round out of Charleston, South Carolina, and then

398

00:59:36.510 --> 00:59:44.730

Janice Gilyard: The next person that sells her. His name is McDaniel or Daniel is a surname and then she ends up with the mic whites.

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399

00:59:45.480 --> 00:59:49.470

Janice Gilyard: So they kept Essex and we'll be together.

400

00:59:49.950 --> 00:59:58.950

Janice Gilyard: So my whole question is, what was it there that even though they were enslaved, or just looked as if they were constantly trying to protect them and make sure they were they were okay

401

00:59:59.190 --> 01:00:07.230

Janice Gilyard: And then I mean, really think about that whole piece where slavery is ending and she buys 160 acres worth of land from him. The last part is

402

01:00:08.100 --> 01:00:16.410

Janice Gilyard: Where they bought the property. I'm convinced that we own a house in South Carolina. I don't think it's that far from where our houses and South Carolina.

403

01:00:17.400 --> 01:00:30.870

Janice Gilyard: Oh my goodness, and Marion South Carolina, and I don't think it's far away. So I'm going to reach out to the guy Maxie that's in the segment to say keep this is where our property is how far is it from where will it be purchased her property.

404

01:00:32.250 --> 01:00:37.980

Juilee Decker: Oh my goodness, and even the fact that it's in the same location.

405

01:00:38.130 --> 01:00:38.640

Juilee Decker: Yes.

406

01:00:38.730 --> 01:00:46.890

Janice Gilyard: Isn't Marion Marion County is big. But Mullins and Marion are not huge, huge

407

01:00:47.460 --> 01:00:58.350

Janice Gilyard: And where they went like out in the country part is out in the country part where we have our property. So I may be able to find that online like exactly where their property was and this is not the

408

01:00:58.770 --> 01:01:06.840

Janice Gilyard: I found already a property that we bought them my answer. Oh, you want to buy a house in South Carolina. I know somewhere, you can go and where it is, is named after

409

01:01:07.260 --> 01:01:13.200

Janice Gilyard: My some of my ancestors. They lived in that area and I had no idea about that at the time. I just found that out about a year ago.

410

01:01:13.590 --> 01:01:19.710

Janice Gilyard: Oh my god, so I'm convinced that the property that will will be brought in purchase is I just feel like it's going to be close.

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411

01:01:20.550 --> 01:01:24.420

Juilee Decker: Oh my, and you have the you have the historical chops to pull this off.

412

01:01:24.720 --> 01:01:36.180

Juilee Decker: I mean, you are just so in we so I'm in his story and but we talked about people who work with the public and do history not teaching and in the academy, but do history for real.

413

01:01:36.510 --> 01:01:47.700

Juilee Decker: Our public historians, you're a public historian, you do genealogy and you're creating content that's really personal and deeply important to you, but you're also creating it for the public by sharing it in the newsletter.

414

01:01:47.910 --> 01:01:58.650

Juilee Decker: And you are an amazing researcher and genealogist. This is incredible. I mean, some of the bits and pieces that you're able to pull together to actually make sense out of the story.

415

01:01:59.040 --> 01:02:08.310

Juilee Decker: This is this is remarkable in terms of writing or like making books out of this, I think, I think you have a very good

416

01:02:09.270 --> 01:02:15.750

Juilee Decker: opportunity not only to share your story, but to also even if it's just one little segment of that.

417

01:02:16.170 --> 01:02:31.560

Juilee Decker: Story to say kind of how you were on this journey. I mean it's it's the journey of you as well as the journey of Willoughby, and sex and and it's it's really amazing. And it would be really worthwhile to read

418

01:02:32.730 --> 01:02:33.300

Janice Gilyard: To

419

01:02:33.750 --> 01:02:38.190

Janice Gilyard: For people want to start to Evelyn McDowell, she's a professor at Rider University.

420

01:02:38.910 --> 01:02:44.010

Janice Gilyard: I sent it to Rick Murphy. I don't know if you've heard of him. He's the author, I cannot think of all of his books offhand.

421

01:02:44.430 --> 01:02:49.320

Janice Gilyard: But he's the vice president of the genealogy group that I belong to the national chapter and he's out of

422

01:02:49.800 --> 01:02:57.660

Janice Gilyard: Boston. He works in DC. But if you type in the same and it's different. It's Ric Ric marketing. So I sent it to him and he came back.

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423

01:02:58.350 --> 01:03:07.710

Janice Gilyard: And as an author and someone who speaks and, you know, a history above. He said, will be connected to you, my response was, yes. And he said,

424

01:03:08.130 --> 01:03:15.840

Janice Gilyard: You have to do something with this. Don't let us it he said he sees presentations that he could see it being a book, he said, You have to do something with it.

425

01:03:16.080 --> 01:03:23.670

Janice Gilyard: I said, I'm working on it. I am. And right now, everything else that I was working on. I just came to a screeching halt and my whole focus has been on her.

426

01:03:24.000 --> 01:03:30.630

Janice Gilyard: Finding out. Just this week that they actually had a son, which was not mentioned you hear about Lydia, but they had a son.

427

01:03:31.050 --> 01:03:44.310

Janice Gilyard: And in ancestry com the transcriber listed. His name is Eric and I almost missed it. And I said, oh my goodness, parents, they put six which is what they call the Essex six and a mother Willoughby.

428

01:03:44.940 --> 01:03:59.100

Janice Gilyard: So they had a son, and then the coolest thing was that he's list where he's buried and where he's buried is like a little bit of a distance from Marion and I'm convinced that where he's buried is where will it be an Essex are

429

01:03:59.820 --> 01:04:01.230

Janice Gilyard: So I just found that this week.

430

01:04:01.800 --> 01:04:02.940

Juilee Decker: Oh my goodness.

431

01:04:02.970 --> 01:04:03.300

Janice Gilyard: Yeah.

432

01:04:03.630 --> 01:04:07.830

Janice Gilyard: My goodness, I can't wait to send you the email so you can see the documents at the end.

433

01:04:08.010 --> 01:04:13.140

Juilee Decker: Oh, I would be delighted. And if you if you want me to upload those with the

434

01:04:13.170 --> 01:04:29.490

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Juilee Decker: Story. So, so what I'll do is I'll make the recording us. And I'll give you a copy of our recording. I'll make recording one item and then I'll make I'll connected to the any of the documents that you share with me and then that way, each one

435

01:04:30.450 --> 01:04:39.690

Juilee Decker: I will be listed as creator with this because we're doing everything else you're the creator of that this is. And just to think this is going to be such

436

01:04:41.370 --> 01:04:47.970

Juilee Decker: An amazing story for people to associate now with COVID and really just to

437

01:04:49.680 --> 01:05:04.350

Juilee Decker: Bring it to light and to bring it to an entirely new audience and just, I go back to what Rick, Murphy said. And that is Janice. This is a story that you you can and should tell and And do people, people are

438

01:05:06.180 --> 01:05:16.500

Juilee Decker: They would find reward and reading it because of the way you have connected these dots and you have really just done an amazing job. I am so grateful for you.

439

01:05:16.560 --> 01:05:17.970

Janice Gilyard: sharing it. I really

440

01:05:18.060 --> 01:05:26.220

Janice Gilyard: Think it was done for the opportunity. Are you familiar with the museum that they're building in Charleston. It's, I believe it's going to be okay.

441

01:05:26.700 --> 01:05:27.900

Juilee Decker: Go. No, go ahead. Go ahead.

442

01:05:28.050 --> 01:05:37.620

Janice Gilyard: One of the things that I'm going to do because they have someone told me that I can upload will be story they have such where you can upload the story. So I'm going to do that.

443

01:05:38.070 --> 01:05:49.320

Janice Gilyard: But I want to. And I'm going to look into having it professionally done. Number one, I've already said, I'm going to be there. I don't care if it's a mask or body mask or whatever. Once it opens. I plan to be there.

444

01:05:49.500 --> 01:05:51.120

Janice Gilyard: Def. Secondly,

445

01:05:52.530 --> 01:05:55.620

Janice Gilyard: And again I have ideas and things just happen.

446

01:05:57.000 --> 01:05:58.560

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Janice Gilyard: Will be it's going to have an exhibit

447

01:05:59.760 --> 01:06:06.330

Janice Gilyard: Whether it's when it opens or if it's later on down the road, there's going to be an exhibit for Bobby

448

01:06:06.810 --> 01:06:08.640

Janice Gilyard: That's my, that's what I want to see happen.

449

01:06:09.240 --> 01:06:19.590

Juilee Decker: I, I completely hear what you're saying and what I would say to that is when you are ready for that exhibit, whether it's at the in Charleston.

450

01:06:19.980 --> 01:06:31.950

Juilee Decker: Or somewhere else. You come back and check in with me and I'll see if we can locate people to work by students of mine who do exhibit design. Not that it would be a student oriented property and I'm saying

451

01:06:32.700 --> 01:06:35.220

Janice Gilyard: For it. It's, it has to be professional

452

01:06:35.340 --> 01:06:35.670

Juilee Decker: I

453

01:06:36.120 --> 01:06:40.710

Janice Gilyard: I love to one poster boards, but I'm saying. Nope, this is I see digital content.

454

01:06:41.760 --> 01:06:45.600

Janice Gilyard: I see the silhouette of her because I doubted there would be any pictures of her

455

01:06:46.170 --> 01:06:53.100

Janice Gilyard: But there has to be an exhibit. And again, it won't be just about me or will it be finding me

456

01:06:53.520 --> 01:07:05.370

Janice Gilyard: It would be an encouragement to other people that your ancestors are waiting for you to find them and to tell their stories you're their voice you are their voice, do the work, because it is work.

457

01:07:06.150 --> 01:07:13.470

Janice Gilyard: I can't tell you the number of people that I meet and they want everything like that. I said there's some people that they're blessed and a lot of the work has been done.

458

01:07:13.950 --> 01:07:22.680

Janice Gilyard: But the reward is in doing it and then make it a major discovery and that's how I feel that, will it be said, Okay, it's time for you to get something really big and major

459

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01:07:22.920 --> 01:07:35.730

Janice Gilyard: And here's your moment and I literally because we're spirit beings. Right. And I'm not into anything spooky spiritual anything like that. And we're spirit means but I literally feel that. She's with me in spirit. I do, I feel that

460

01:07:36.360 --> 01:07:50.370

Juilee Decker: I, I can totally see how that's true and the African American Museum that they're building in Charleston would be the perfect venue. This could also be at the National Museum of African American history and culture in Washington, DC.

461

01:07:50.760 --> 01:07:57.480

Juilee Decker: Dr bunch. Dr. Lonnie bunch who directs he directs all the Smithsonian's now, but he is the founding director. He would

462

01:07:57.840 --> 01:08:07.980

Juilee Decker: Love the story because you're right, it demonstrates the hard labor that you've gone through to elevate and uplift her story and and it's inspiring. I think

463

01:08:08.670 --> 01:08:23.460

Juilee Decker: To show what happens when you follow one person story and how you can elevate enough uplift about person, but at the same time yourself and me and every other person that this story of Willoughby has touched

464

01:08:24.390 --> 01:08:27.150

Janice Gilyard: The Museum in Washington.

465

01:08:28.320 --> 01:08:38.370

Janice Gilyard: The person that they met with at the Charleston slave Mart and had the initial document. She actually works for the museum in DC. Now,

466

01:08:38.910 --> 01:08:41.880

Janice Gilyard: I called her. I called I went, I was like, I gotta find her.

467

01:08:42.210 --> 01:08:48.240

Janice Gilyard: And they said, Oh, we think that she's at the Museum in Washington, DC. Now, and I looked her up and she's at that museum now.

468

01:08:48.480 --> 01:08:52.200

Janice Gilyard: Oh, boom. I'm going to send her some information. Hopefully, she'll get back to me.

469

01:08:52.200 --> 01:08:56.340

Juilee Decker: So, oh, that's fantastic. Oh, and they're, you know, they're, it's a

470

01:08:56.550 --> 01:08:58.410

Janice Gilyard: It's an idea therapy for its

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471

01:08:58.740 --> 01:09:06.120

Janice Gilyard: I the first time I went, um, I have been planning to go and when I became Vice President.

472

01:09:06.570 --> 01:09:12.990

Janice Gilyard: On a national organization is August the Afro American Historical and Geological Society, and that's going to be in the note that I'm going to send you

473

01:09:13.410 --> 01:09:20.760

Janice Gilyard: So there was an email that was sent around and they needed a representative from each chapter. So the president at the time of

474

01:09:21.240 --> 01:09:25.680

Janice Gilyard: At the time said I can't go. And he sent out a list. He was like, can anybody go

475

01:09:26.040 --> 01:09:34.110

Janice Gilyard: So I just said, Oh, I'll go. I thought it was something in New Jersey, New York. I hadn't read it all the way through, and then later on I read it was like, Oh my goodness.

476

01:09:34.890 --> 01:09:40.560

Janice Gilyard: It's it's it's for the museum. It's for the new museum in DC, and so I got a young lady who

477

01:09:41.010 --> 01:09:47.760

Janice Gilyard: She's about 2425 at the time from our church. I said, Can you go with me. We have to leave at 233 o'clock in the morning because we have to be

478

01:09:48.240 --> 01:09:57.270

Janice Gilyard: On time because they were giving us a private tour private tour. We had to be there at nine o'clock. They had a breakfast for us.

479

01:09:57.660 --> 01:10:07.170

Janice Gilyard: And then they had this whole big presentation and Lani bunch was there and Family Search and they were presenting records that have been transcribed for the Freedmen's Bureau.

480

01:10:07.560 --> 01:10:22.830

Janice Gilyard: So I had everybody cracking up and after this. I'm done. I had everybody cracking up I said because everybody else was there like okay this is as usual. This is nice. Everything I went and I really felt like I was a princess sitting in that auditorium. I was just sitting there like

481

01:10:25.710 --> 01:10:27.090

Janice Gilyard: This is like, this is amazing.

482

01:10:27.420 --> 01:10:32.400

Juilee Decker: This is well well Janice, you are Princess if Willoughby's the queen menu would how

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483

01:10:33.570 --> 01:10:33.840

Janice Gilyard: That's

484

01:10:33.900 --> 01:10:45.120

Juilee Decker: Right, that's totally right. That is, that's the best note to end this on. I am so grateful. Is there any last. My last question is always, is there anything else you'd like to say so.

485

01:10:45.480 --> 01:10:54.810

Janice Gilyard: Yes. During COVID it's important to experience and allow resilience to be your mantra. And what does resilience mean

486

01:10:55.500 --> 01:11:15.960

Janice Gilyard: The ability to mentally or emotionally cope with a crisis or to return to pre crisis status quickly. And so my encouragement and exhortation whatever is to just believe that something better is coming and that we will all get through this together. Thank you.

487

01:11:16.200 --> 01:11:32.880

Juilee Decker: Thank you so much for an uplifting message. Thank you Janice I so appreciate your time. I will stop the recording. Once it downloads all send a link so that you can download it for yourself to and I look forward to receiving whatever documents, you're willing to

488

01:11:32.880 --> 01:11:36.510

Janice Gilyard: Send it as soon as we're done. And you have to promise to stay in touch with me. I

489

01:11:37.260 --> 01:11:39.810

Juilee Decker: Will because I want to stay in touch with you.

490

01:11:39.840 --> 01:11:45.630

Juilee Decker: You are a beaming light. I am so grateful to you and grateful that you're sharing will be story.

491

01:11:46.020 --> 01:11:53.040

Juilee Decker: Yes. Her story is amazing. And you are equally amazing and I'm so grateful for you. Thank you for your time.

492

01:11:53.040 --> 01:11:54.360

Janice Gilyard: back at you. Likewise.

493

01:11:54.600 --> 01:11:58.620

Janice Gilyard: Thank you so much for your time and I'll talk to you soon. Take care. I'm sending the email now.

494

01:11:58.710 --> 01:12:00.180

Juilee Decker: Thank you. Thank you. Bye bye.

495

Janice Gilyard tells the story of finding Willoughby in an interview with Juilee Decker recorded on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 4:30 pm. The interview is 72 minutes long, and a transcript is provided. If you have any questions about this interview, please contact Juilee Decker, jdgsh@rit.edu.

01:12:00.240 --> 01:12:01.050

Janice Gilyard: Welcome. Bye bye.

uncorrected transcript