

# Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

Charlotte Adcock, 2014

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*Blaire Smith:* The date is June 19<sup>th</sup>, and my name is Blaire Smith. And, on behalf of Cross Roads to Freedom, Team for Success, and Rhodes College, I just want to thank you for being here with us today.

*Charlotte Adcock:* You're welcome.

*Blaire Smith:* And, sharing your story with us. I do want to tell you that this will be archived only at the Crossroads to Freedom website, and you'll have access to that. But, just for starters, can we get some background information? Can you start with you name?

*Charlotte Adcock:* Yes, my name is Charlotte Adcock. My maiden name is Corchran. I was born here in Tiptonville in 1957. My father was actually born here, too. My mother is from also Sparta, Tennessee. They met when she was up in Dayton, Ohio when he was in the air force. I went to college at the University of Tennessee for pharmacy in Memphis. Graduated in 1980, came back here, and has been working here every since at the same drugstore. My mother and daddy actually own the jewelry store next door, until it closed down. And, so lived here in this town.

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*Blaire Smith:* Wow. So, you've been here for the bulk of your life. And, not too far to college.

*Charlotte Adcock:* Yeah. I went to Morton to college for two years, and then I got into pharmacy school. And, I was there for three years, and then I came back here and married a hometown boy in 1980, and graduated in 1980. Been married ever since.

*Blaire Smith:* Wow. So, how was – can you just talk about your childhood a little bit here growing up in Lake County?

*Charlotte Adcock:* Okay. It was a very peaceful, relaxed, you never thought about anybody shooting in schools and everything. I walked to school. I lived across from the football field, which my house was - there was an elementary school, the football field, and then my house. We walked home. I stayed home 'till 6:00, you know, from 3:00 to 6:00 I was by myself. I had some older brothers. I have an older brother and two older sisters, actually. What else do you need?

*Blaire Smith:* Oh, and where did you attend high school?

*Charlotte Adcock:* Lake County High School, I went to school at Margaret Newton here in Tiptonville.

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And, then everybody from Margaret Newton – you only go through the sixth grade – and then you go to junior high in the seventh and eighth grade. It's how they used to do it at Laura Kendall, which was in Ridgely, but this is all the same county.

*Blaire Smith:* Oh, okay. Okay. So, you said you have some brothers and sisters. Can you – how many?

*Charlotte Adcock:* I have a brother and two sisters.

*Blaire Smith:* Okay, and where do you fall in line?

*Charlotte Adcock:* I'm the baby.

*Blaire Smith:* And, how is that?

*Charlotte Adcock:* That was fine. They babied me like I was the baby. I was in a really bad car wreck with my dad probably when I was between four and five years old. And, why I'm even just bringing this up – it was like being in a hometown. We had the wreck, and of course, the car comes through the town and it's a wrecker that has the car. And, the doctor comes down to the jewelry store that's down the street, which is Dr. Holyfield to tell my mom not to worry about my scars. That they will probably be okay, that I'll be able to cover them up.

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Well, about that time, of course she sees the car going through the town and she almost faints. But, it was like he called over there to see where we were at the emergency room. I had a concussion. They didn't know if I was going to be able to see with one eye because it was all cut. They had to shave the top of my head. I had stitches here, and I have a cut that's slanted, if you can tell, in a different direction right here. My dad – they said that he held onto the steering wheel and it actually bent. But, all he had was like five stitches underneath his throat right here around his neck. But, what he did was we had a station wagon that was full of radio equipment. And, back then they had the two-way radios. So, he went around to all these sheriff's stations and built these towers across the river. So, everybody had these two-way radios – that's

what kind of business. Well, he knew that we was gonna have a wreck. It was a feed truck and he turned off without his blinker on.

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And, he grabbed me – we had our seatbelt on. And, he grabbed me and put my head between my legs. But, all the equipment came on my side. Well, back then they stopped the car to get you to the hospital and they took you to the hospital. Well, this doctor that was good friends of ours that I was telling you he was actually the doctor that – I was born. My mother had me – that was the doctor that they used also during this time. He called them and told them to send me home, that they were comfortable enough that he would check me three times a day. He would stop by the house in the morning, at lunch, and at night. So, they took down all the mirrors in the house so that I wouldn't see myself and they actually sent me home with my dad that night.

*Blaire Smith:* That must have been a crazy experience for you and your family.

*Charlotte Adcock:* And, like I said, they all baby me because of that afternoon between four and five years old.

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*Blaire Smith:* Especially being the baby of the family.

*Charlotte Adcock:* I can remember them telling the stories and the principal called them into the high school and told them about the wreck and everything. That they needed to go home. But, I mean, it's just nice when people say that everybody knows everybody, and they might be nosy. But, it's nice because you know that you're neighbor's always there. And, even the person down the street is here to help you.

*Blaire Smith:* Yeah. Well, we've interviewed a lot of people, and everyone is always made a point to say how much of a community that the county is.

*Charlotte Adcock:* Right. Right. I mean, I know your last name. But, if we know something hat has happened, we all join in and try to help everybody.

*Blaire Smith:* And, a lot of people, they left for college, of course, and then they came back.

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*Charlotte Adcock:* Right. It's what happened to me.

*Blaire Smith:* When you left, what made you want to come back to Lake County?

*Charlotte Adcock:* Just always wanted to live in a small town. I grew up in a small town, liked knowing everybody. I always wanted to be a pharmacist. My mom worked in a pharmacy when she was up north.

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She wasn't a pharmacist, but she just worked there as a clerk. And, she always liked it and enjoyed the work. And, I thought that it was was a good profession for a woman. I guess it is because there's only two other women that are in the county, and I'm the only woman in the county that is a pharmacist. The other one that works in Ridgley lives in Dyersburg.

*Blaire Smith:* Wow. Well, you said your occupation is a pharmacist, obviously. Can you talk a little bit about where we are right now – the drug store, your role that has to do with community?

*Charlotte Adcock:* Right. Well, I mean, there is a lot of drug abuse, and I will say that. There is a lot of help out there that we're trying to have. We are a big team care – you know, a low poverty county. There are some really good doctors, though, here that really do care about. There's a hospital 30 miles either way, which is in Dyersburg.

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It's just like you're not going to have that many community pharmacists, as you can tell, like just being in the big city. But, we always stress when someone goes away, if you'll go to the community pharmacy, more than likely they're going to help you just a little bit more.

*Blaire Smith:* Yeah. So, being –

*Charlotte Adcock:* And, I feel like that's true, because you're not just there for a paycheck. You're there for more reason than that, because if I just did this for a paycheck, I would have left a long time ago.

*Blaire Smith:* I understand. So, it's definitely way more than just money. It's all about community here. That's good.

*Charlotte Adcock:* Yeah. I mean, the stress of the day – I mean, anybody is going to get tired of standing on your feet, and all the things that you have to do to get a card to go through, or an insurance card. But, if you know that you helped somebody that day, that's the most – the biggest award that you could ever have.

*Blaire Smith:* Yeah.

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Well, anyways, Rhodes College and the Crossroads to Freedom project – we focus on asset-based development here in small communities. And, you, yourself, are even an asset to Lake County community.

*Charlotte Adcock:* I appreciate that.

*Blaire Smith:* You are a pharmacist – one of the only ones – the only one living here, if I was right. Or, two others.

*Charlotte Adcock:* No, JC Williams is the one that owns the store. He is also a pharmacist and he lives here in the county. There is another one that lives right outside the city limits. And, there's also one in Ridgley that's from Dyersburg.

*Blaire Smith:* Well, I mean, all of you guys are obviously assets to this community, but the one things that me and my group, the Lake County team, has noticed is that this drug store is a very big asset to the Lake County community. And, it's been here for almost 100 years. We did some research.

*Charlotte Adcock:* Right. It used to be Tiptonville Drug – it was across the street. And, then there was a Marcum Drug. Actually, the pharmacist that owns it worked for the Marcum Drug years and years ago.

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*Blaire Smith:* So, I mean, the 100 year anniversary coming up – is that something really special to you about this drugstore?

*Charlotte Adcock:* Well, of course it will be. Yeah.

*Blaire Smith:* Do you think the town or the county will make a big deal about it?

*Charlotte Adcock:* I hope so. I really do. Like I said, you know, when you get up there to 100 years, the younger generation sometimes is not as

interested as the older generation. And, everybody – a lot of people have died. But, there are a lot of people that, like I said, I'd give anything if my dad was here. He could tell you so many stories. So many stories – probably more than you'll ever even want to know because there used to be a hardware store across the street. It was called the Peacock's. And, they also had a funeral home. They actually had the funeral home or the morgue. So, his father died when he was young – he was in a car wreck. And, of course, people back then didn't know how bad you were hurt when you were in a car wreck. But, to go on, this other family had two boys – him and his brother.

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And, my grandmother was raising them. And, so he worked at the hardware store, but he also worked for the morgue when he was like 13 years old, or something like that.

*Blaire Smith:* Oh, wow. That's really young.

*Charlotte Adcock:* But, he loved it. And, he thought about doing that when he got older. But, what was so funny was that they let him – the wife had a lot of money and they were one of the more established ones here in the county. And, she didn't like to drive anywhere. So, he got to drive her big Cadillac. Can you image at 13 or 12 years old driving a Cadillac? But, then he also got to take the lumber truck home at night. So, he really thought he was big stuff because he had a truck and he would go by the ice plant and pick up his ice. It was right over the railroad track. I don't know if anybody has told y'all any stories about the ice plant out there.

*Blaire Smith:* Oh, no.

*Charlotte Adcock:* It was right over the railroad tracks. And, then there was a service station that's actually where his dad worked.

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But, I can remember going in an old truck and getting that big block of ice, which I thought was so neat. And, taking it, you know, to put in our refrigerator at home.

*Blaire Smith:* Wow. Like, I said before, this Crossroads to Freedom project is an asset-based community development project, which means we focus on ideas and different things that the community has to offer. I've all ready pointed out that you, of course, are an asset and this

drug store is an asset. But, in your mind, is there any bigger asset here in Lake County? Or, is there any other assets that you want to point out?

*Charlotte Adcock:* I wish we had more things to do for the young community. Like, some kind of activity or like a YMCA sort of that type. Now, I don't know if anybody has talked to you about the four young teens, females, that happened to get pregnant. There's a clinic right down here where they just support and try to help the pregnant woman – the young pregnant woman that gets pregnant.

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Like I said, we have a great Lake County Primary Care, a good health department here with very good doctors. It's just that I wish that our county had more –

*Blaire Smith:* More involvement for the youth.

*Charlotte Adcock:* More involvement for the youth. Or, had something for the youth to do so that they would stay - I guess you'd say off the streets. But, that happens in every town or city. We have a pretty good basketball team. We have had a pretty good football team. We used to have a band. Actually, I was in the band and I loved it. We won awards and we were great. It's just money – income. I just wish we could get some of the community – we're just low poverty. And, I hate it, but I wish there were more things for the young adults to do.

*Blaire Smith:* Definitely. So, I mean, obviously you spoke a lot about the youth there. If you could give the youth of Lake County some advice, what would it be?

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*Charlotte Adcock:* Stay in school. Go to college. I spoke once at the high school and talked to them about pharmacist school and what all it is to get in. Actually, no, I've been there twice. I forgot they called me in another time to speak.

*Blaire Smith:* So, stay in school and get an education.

*Charlotte Adcock:* I mean, both of my girls – one was third in her class and one was Valedictorian. And, both of them received scholarships and we went to Memphis. And, I'd like to mention Mr. Richardson. I don't know if anybody has talked about Mr. Taylor Richardson. He

gives out scholarships. They have to go to the university in Memphis, but if you keep a certain grade level –

*Blaire Smith:* GPA?

*Charlotte Adcock:* GPA – yes, or certain grade level – he will see you all four years. And, sometimes he’s sent them to law school.

*Blaire Smith:* Wow. So, he’s a great asset to the community, as well.

*Charlotte Adcock:* Yes. He was from this community, and he was very low poverty. And, he made something of himself. So, he tries to give back to the community.

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Now, we also – and my mind has just gone completely blank. It’s the manager for the New York Giants.

*Blaire Smith:* Jerry Reese.

*Charlotte Adcock:* Yeah, Jerry Reese. He comes back every year – him and another man. I can’t remember exactly what his name is. Jeremy something. They come back every year to the school and hand out notebooks and tablets, and just all kinds of stuff to help the kids get started there.

*Blaire Smith:* Jerry Reese is actually the person who funded this little project here. Yes, ma’am. So, he’s the whole reason why we’re getting to sit here and talk to you today.

*Charlotte Adcock:* Well, that’s great. Right, he is wonderful. He really is. And, his family – I hope y’all are able to interview his mom. His mom is really, really sweet lady. My husband works with one of his daughters. Or, sisters, I mean. Her daughter.

*Blaire Smith:* So, we’ve actually asked all of our Interviewees this, and it can be a hard question or it can be an easy question, depending on what you think. But, if you could describe Lake County in one word, what would it be?

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*Charlotte Adcock:* Compassionate.

*Blaire Smith:* Compassionate or passionate?

*Charlotte Adcock:* Compassionate.

*Blaire Smith:* And, why?

*Charlotte Adcock:* And, why? Because, it doesn't matter if you're rich or if you don't have any money. Everybody wants to help everybody.

*Blaire Smith:* Well, I just want to thank you for your time that you took out of your day to come talk with us.

*Charlotte Adcock:* You're welcome. And, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Probably my girls wouldn't want to live here, but I wouldn't really want to live anywhere else.

*Blaire Smith:* Well, it's a great town. We've enjoyed ourselves. And, it's people like you who've made our trip worthwhile.

*Charlotte Adcock:* Well, thank y'all. Thank y'all very much. Y'all have been really super nice. Nice looking young men and women.

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