ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people contributed to this project and my entire graduate experience. I owe a debt of gratitude to my thesis committee. Each member inspired me in a different and important way. The chair of the committee, Dr. Kathleen Berkeley, spent countless hours with me over the course of my graduate work. I appreciate her guidance inside and outside of the classroom. Dr. Andrew Clark introduced me to the field of oral history and its challenges and rewards. Dr. David LaVere pushed me to improve as a student and as a professional and always took time to teach me something new.

Mr. Wilbur Jones, Jr. put me in contact with the women interviewed in this project. I had the pleasure of interviewing fourteen lovely women. I am extremely grateful for their time and enthusiasm. They invited me into their homes and shared personal memories. I will remember them all: Mary Bellamy, Hannah Block, Cornelia Campbell, Sallye Crawford, Estelle Owens Edwards, Eleanor Fick, Lethia Hankins, Aline Hartis, Glenn Higgins, Manette Mintz, Catherine Stribling, Caroline Swails, Clara Welker, and Evalina Williams.

My graduate work certainly spilled into my personal life. I will never be able to fully express my gratitude. My parents, Gary O’Connell and Karyn O’Connell, and sister Tonya, supported me from a thousand miles away. Friends near and far were there to commiserate, laugh, and encourage. My friends Brian and Heather Mayberry and their son Owen Andrew have become my family. I owe a special thanks to them for making Wilmington feel like home. Finally, my thanks to Vince for knowing when to listen, when to talk, and for saying just the right things. This project would not have happened without his dedication to me.