

## **Chestnut Consolidated High School Alumni Book (1954 – 1970)**

### **Expanded Example of an Autobiography (*pseudo name*) Class of 1961**

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My name is Betty Williamson Doe, and I was born in the Longs, South Carolina community. My parents were sharecroppers. Both of my parents are deceased. I am the third of eight children.

My early childhood was that of a typical African-American child growing up in a segregated society, where blacks and whites were segregated in every aspect of southern society, except the military while on base. I started my formal education in 1949, at Freemont Colored School in Longs, SC. The school was a two-room wooden building with no indoor plumbing. Its construction was partially paid for with Rosenwald funds. Four months after Chestnut opened, a new elementary school was built in Longs to replace the wooden school. The new school was a brick building with numerous rooms, indoor plumbing, and a cafeteria. I started attending Longs Elementary School in 6th grade. After moving up from 6th grade, all students in grades 7 – 12 were required to attend Chestnut Consolidated School.

While a student at Chestnut, I was a member of the student council, library club, and dramatics club. I also played on the girls' basketball team and was senior class vice president. My high school years were enjoyable where I met many good friends, and some are still my close friends to this day. Most of the teachers were great, and my favorite teachers were Mr. Right (English) and Mrs. Love (History). Much of the guidance and nurturing received from the teachers; especially these two were invaluable to me. This experience has had a positive impact on my life through the years. Some of my happiest times while in high school were the junior-senior prom and the few weeks before graduation.

After graduating from high school, I moved to New York. For the first 5 years, I worked at various jobs that did not pay very well. In the interim, I sought a better-paying job with more benefits and met the man of my life, William Doe. We were married June 23, 1965. I subsequently obtained a position with the United States Post Postal Service. During the next 25 years with the postal services, I was promoted regularly and served in various positions, including manager. Our three children were born during my employment with the post office. Additionally, I earned my associate degree in business from New York City Technical College with a focus on hospitality management and worked part-time as a front desk manager for a major hotel chain.

After retiring from the post office, we relocated back to my hometown in Longs, SC. After six months of traveling, I obtained a position at Beach Cone Resort in North Myrtle Beach where I worked my way up to manager and retired a second time after 15 years.

I have experienced sadness, hurt, failure, etc.; nevertheless, the vast majority of my life has been full of happiness and much fun raising our children with my husband. We have three adult children and seven grandchildren ranging from ages 9 – 18 (4 girls, 3 boys). Our oldest daughter is a high school math teacher with Southampton County Public Schools in Virginia. The son is a financial manager with IBM, and the youngest daughter is an engineering manager with Boeing.

I feel that the foundation formed at Chestnut was invaluable to me. Therefore, I will always feel profoundly indebted to the school because it has influenced my life in a very positive way and that of my family.

Let me close by saying that the most important thing in my life is my family! I have been married to my best friend and soul mate, William Doe, for 47 years. Together, we have cried, prayed, laugh, traveled, etc., and we continue to live a happy and spiritually filled life.

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## Worksheet – Your Autobiography

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Write your autobiography here or attached it on a separate page or pages!

If living – generally, use the first person singular | If deceased – generally, use the third person singular

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