Marlene Mayo: Today is May 12, 1992 and I am interviewing Virginia Beauchamp at the University of Maryland, College Park. Professor Beauchamp I would like start out by learning about your background. Would you tell me where you were born, where you grew up, a bit about your parents and your early education?

Virginia Beauchamp: OK. I was born in a farm in Michigan near a small town called Sparta which is near Grand Rapids. I was born in the same farm that my father was born at. When I was three my father sold the cows and the equipment and decided and went to college. Very unusual back then, in that time.

Marlene Mayo: Somewhere in Michigan?

Virginia Beauchamp: Yes, he went to Grand Rapids Junior College and we continued to live on the farm. Than after two years there he was principal of the high school in Sparta and continued with his education, getting his A.B. at the University of Michigan during the summers. We moved to Ann Arbor in 1927 for one year while he was finishing his undergraduate work and than he had a job in the Upper Peninsula in the area near Marquette. After which he came back to the University of Michigan as a part-time teacher and graduate assistant and gradually worked into a full-time faculty division and retired as professor emeritus in the College of Education.
Marlene Mayo: What kind of education did he specialize in?

Virginia Beauchamp: His doctoral dissertation was on Matthew Auld as educator. Dad actually began thinking he was going to get a degree in English and got fed up with it and moved over into education. He really had a stronger and longer educational background. As a matter of fact he got his doctorate while I was overseas either in the Philippines or Japan. I don’t remember the exact date.

Marlene Mayo: So than you did your high school work when you were in Ann Arbor.

Virginia Beauchamp: Yes. I went to University High School. My father was head of the English Department in the University High School.

Marlene Mayo: So your interest in high school tended to center upon English literature too.

Virginia Beauchamp: Yes, but I don’t ---- not because my father was in the Department. My brother followed my mother into mathematics. She was the youngest child of an immigrant family. He was the only child born in the United States and the only one to graduate from high school. He was born in 91. Went to school where she got her B.A. degree and went on to
teach high school -- German and math and was a principal during World War I in a very small high school. She married my father who was a farmer -- of course she gave up her career which was a pattern of the time and had babies right away.

Marlene Mayo: Do you know whether she ever had any second thoughts about that and was she involved in anything -- the feminist movement???

Virginia Beauchamp: I don’t think so. I think that she was always interested in the wide world, kept up readings, followed politics. I don’t think to her there was an option. She did some substitute teaching when I was young, when I was in elementary school but after that she was very very active during World War II as a volunteer. Going down to the Red Cross and so on taking a great deal of pride how fast she could ___ and how skillful and so o.

Marlene Mayo: Did you pretty much notice

Virginia Beauchamp:

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