

**Transcript: LEE BROCKINGTON, Senior Interpreter, Belle W. Baruch Foundation**

**Interviewer: BETSY NEWMAN**

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BETSY NEWMAN: Please tell me about Simon Baruch.

LEE BROCKINGTON: Simon Baruch as a young man of 15 living in Prussia. He always knew he was just so interested in medicine, but being a young Jewish man he knew he would never be able to study medicine much less practice it. His family knew of his interest -- and because they knew people in America, in South Carolina, in Camden, they began to craft a plan to bring him as a 15 year old, to send him to South Carolina. They helped him pack his bags and put him on a ship and he found passage, and was able to come to New York and then made his way down to South Carolina where there was a sponsor in Camden, a family named the Baum family. And he worked in their store and then, became more and more interested in medicine and was sponsored to go to medical college in Charleston, South Carolina.

BN: So, just continuing with his story -- so then he became a Doctor...

LB: Simon Baruch entered medical college in Charleston and when the college closed due to the American Civil War, he transferred to Richmond, to the medial college of Virginia and finished in 1862. And although he had emigrated in part to study medicine, most 15 year old boys in Prussia were being conscripted, were being drafted. And here he is in America now, completed medical college in 1862, and what does he do? He joins the Army. But which army? The confederate army, because he believes that everything he is he owes to South Carolina. And he is

a medical officer because of his training and he, distinguishes himself on the field of battle. He was a prisoner of war at Gettysburg and at Antietam, and he treated both confederate soldiers, and union soldiers. He completed a great number of field operations and surprised his co-workers because he took time to clean his instruments between amputations. At the close of the war Simon Baruch returned to South Carolina and married his South Carolina sweetheart, Isabelle Wolfe of Fairfield County, the Jewish daughter of cotton planters, of slave owners, and they lived in Camden and raised four boys in Camden, South Carolina.

BN: And those four boys were?

LB: The four sons were Hartwig, Bernard, Herman and Sailing. They lived in Camden until Bernard, the second born was 10 years old, and for various reasons they decided that it was time to move to New York, to try to make a living in New York, and to raise their boys in New York City.

BN: Do you want to talk about the duel that he served at?

LB: Shortly after returning to Camden, South Carolina, and establishing a practice, Dr. Simon Baruch became involved in the Cash-Shannon duel, one of the most well-known duels in South Carolina. In Camden those two men met and called Simon Baruch to be their medical doctor. It was typical practice that doctors were present at duels. The effects and the aftermath of that duel... led Simon Baruch to consider moving to New York. The violence over and over during the reconstruction era in which he and his wife were raising children was overwhelming, not just the economics, but the violence and the culture – 11 years of federal occupation, 11 years of federally appointed governors and, election irregularities as well as the death of one of those duelists. So Simon and Isabelle Wolfe Baruch decided that they

would move to New York City, and together the family went in 1881 when Bernard Baruch was just 10.

BN: Let's talk about Bernard, from the point of where he's started to go to college and met Annie.

LB: When the family moved to New York City the children attended public school, and Bernard had an opportunity to go on to the City College of New York, which was then and remains now tuition-free. And when he graduated he had a great difficult time finding a job, and Bernard Baruch arranged a position as a runner-- as an errand boy with a stock brokerage firm in New York City, and he opened up in the mornings, lit the lamps, filled the inkwells and he kept his eyes and ears open, and began to pick up information and knowledge. He began to make investments with other people's money-- they trusted this young man on the way up. And he began to make just a bit of money. But before he was very well established he noticed a woman, a young, beautiful woman named Anne Griffin of New York City, perhaps not from a wealthy family, but a well-to-do family, from which she came. He noticed two things about her when he first saw her, she was beautiful, and she had her own horse and carriage, and for a man on his way up this was important information for him to gather. They began courting in secret, as much because he was of the Jewish faith and she was an Episcopalian, but also because of the fact that his job-- a speculator, a gambler on Wall Street was not what she thought her father would find appropriate.

Bernard Baruch and Annie Griffen dated, courted, for about eight years and it was eight years before he was well-established with money, and it was eight years before her family could be convinced that Bernard Baruch was the right person. They were married in the Griffen home in New York City even though her father refused to attend the wedding, and remained in an upstairs room. They courted in Central Park, married and lived right in the city and he continued his climb higher

and higher on Wall Street. By 25 he had earned his first million dollars, and by age 35 he was a millionaire several times over and was already giving money away as a philanthropist.

BN: Let's go to their children, and how they raised them as Episcopalians.

LB: After Bernard and Annie Baruch were married they welcomed their first child, Isabelle Wilcox Baruch. Isabelle Wilcox Baruch was born in 1899, and the first-born child, she was named after her grandmother, a Wolfe from South Carolina, and she was the apple of her father's eye. She was welcomed as any millionaire's first born child would be, and according to her baby book, she received a great number of presents and so many of those gifts came from the extended family, both on the Baruch side as well as the Griffin side. Photographs of Belle throughout her childhood remind us that she had everything she needed and everything she wanted, and what we particularly like to see is that so many of her toys, so many of her carriages, had to do with horses-- a prophetic love of hers.

In 1902 the family welcomed their second child, a son, Bernard Mannes Baruch, Bernard Mannes Baruch. Bernard Jr. quickly became the center of attention for the extended family and we believe that very early on Belle became competitive with her younger sibling. Bernard Baruch Jr. naturally garnered attention as the first son and Belle already was a Daddy's girl. Belle and her brother were raised in privilege, they moved to a larger home with their family, and in 1905 a younger sister, Renee Wilcox Baruch was born. All three children were taught by tutors and raised by governesses as their parents traveled a great deal. They were taught music and foreign languages, and spent a great deal of time outdoors as well.

BN: Let's talk about how Mr. Baruch came down here and found this place.

LB: In 1904 Bernard Baruch was a guest, hunting in Georgetown County and he was brought to plantations here on the southern end of the Waccamaw neck. Bernard Baruch as a guest of hunters began to notice the abundance of wildlife and the variety of habitat, here on the southern end of the Waccamaw neck. He inquired about purchasing in the property and found out that Hobcaw was for sale. He paid \$3.15 an acre for what would become 17,500 acres - a number of plantations, pieced back together again to recreate Hobcaw Barony, a colonial land grant. Bernard Baruch was thrilled with the opportunity to have not only a hunting retreat, but also a winter home for his family. And Bernard Baruch is believed to be one of the very first, in the South Carolina low country to purchase a winter retreat, beginning that move by wealthy Northerners to South Carolina winter residences, particularly for hunting, as well as climate, and in the Baruch case - a family retreat.

BN: ust describe it for us Lee, what Hobcaw is and what the name means, and the Indian connection.

LB: Bernard Baruch as a South Carolina native was infatuated with the history and the natural history of the property. He learned quickly that Hobcaw was a Native American word for "Between the Waters," because Hobcaw is situated between the Waccamaw River, the Winyah Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean at the southern tip of the Waccamaw neck. By 1718 the land was granted by the King and given as a gift to one of the Lord's proprietors, South Carolina's early colonial rulers. The property today is about 28 square miles, and has every different environment found within the South Carolina coastal plain; 2.5 miles of oceanfront property, 5,000 acres of salt marsh, the north inlet estuary, freshwater marsh in the form of abandoned rice fields, cypress swamps, upland forests, maritime forests, and even a few isolated Carolina bays. Every representative environment, making it the perfect place to hunt and to fish.

Hobcaw Barony, the colonial land grant, had been divided into a number of individually named plantations and although they were a number of different resources and incomes from the plantations throughout the decades, rice became the predominant crop. In the South Carolina Lowcountry rice was planted in the upland areas, inland swamps, but then before the Revolutionary War, rice planters discovered that by clearing swamps adjacent to tidal rivers, that rice could grow using that tidal push, pushing the fresh water into the rice fields. Georgetown County alone grew more rice than any other place in the world, except the area around Calcutta, India. Rice continued to be a profitable crop between the Revolutionary War and the American Civil War and by 1860, Georgetown County was 85% Black because of the great dependence on slave labor, particularly slave labor from West Africa where tidal cultivation of rice had occurred for centuries.

Rice continued to be grown after the Civil War, a lot of people are surprised by that, but rice was planted after the war with free labor, implementing some new modern methods, but finding over and over that other areas were planting rice - Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas - growing rice on high ground with modern equipment and modern irrigation methods.

And then finally in the South Carolina Lowcountry a series of weather events - hurricanes, high water, heavy rainfall, and wind - ended crops, ended cultivation of rice. By 1911 the last crop of rice was milled at Waverly Mills at Pawley's Island area, South Carolina. Bernard Baruch came at just the right time. Bernard Baruch hunted here as we said, in 1904, Bernard Baruch had an opportunity to look over this property and to find from the owners that the property was for sale. A rice mill at Hobcaw Barony... a rice mill on one of the plantations here had burned in 1903. The landowners were offering the property to hunters. Offering it for rent, for sale, for lease. And Bernard Baruch talked them into selling it to him, and pieced back from several owners those former rice plantations.

BN: Let's talk about the house that was here before Hobcaw House.

LB: When Bernard and Annie Baruch purchased the property they renamed the entire property Hobcaw Barony, and took advantage of a house that was on the bluff overlooking Winyah Bay; a large house that the previous owners had built shortly after the Civil War. The Old Relic was full of bedrooms and full of windows, and porches and exactly what Bernard Baruch and his wife wanted for their three children and their great number of guests, that extended family as well as guests from Wall Street, from New York, and from her home as well. Bernard and Annie Baruch not only spent time here with their family, but they also invited their extended family to join them for Thanksgiving and for Christmas and for large holidays like New Year's Day, sometimes upwards of 100 people at Hobcaw hunting on an annual deer drive, the Governor of South Carolina sounding the... shooting the gun in order to begin the hunt.

But Thanksgiving to Easter the family was here at Hobcaw following the ducks, the migrating ducks that came and spent the winters in the South Carolina rice fields, the South Carolina salt marshes. And so the family when they were not at Hobcaw, and not in New York City, they enjoyed Mr. Baruch's parents' home at Long Branch New Jersey, a very large home at the shore called the Anchorage. And then the young family also began to lease estates on Long Island before finally purchasing one at Bayport, Long Island. In the early part of the twentieth century Bernard Baruch also leased a castle every summer for grouse and pheasant hunting, Fetteresso Castle, not far from Aberdeen [Scotland], where they not only took the family but also an entourage of hunters.

BN: Of course the African American history is a very big part of Hobcaw.

LB: Shortly after Bernard Baruch purchased the property he realized he was going to need a large staff to operate his winter retreat and fortunately there were residence that still lived on the property. About 100 freed slaves, their children and

their grandchildren still lived in the four villages within Hobcaw's plantations. He met with them in the church in Friendfield village and offered them jobs, offered them wages-- wages, fair wages for the day, and offered them the opportunity to continue living in their homes and also to provide medical care and transportation for them as needed. So with 100 or so working for him year round Bernard Baruch could improve the roads, improve the bridges, re-dig the ditches, have people to operate boats, to have people to help him as he took visitors out into the marshes and the rice fields. because these were the people who knew the land the best - the woods and the waters.

In addition to that large crew he also needed someone to supervise them, and from the local area Bernard Baruch hired a number of superintendents, various plantation managers in different departments we might say. Superintendents that came to manage the boats, the hounds, the horses, the woods, and something as simple as plumbing and power which had not been available to the property prior to Bernard Baruch's purchase. Bernard Baruch built houses for these superintendents and their families and they lived on the property for over 50 years as year-round residents, supervisors for the great deal of work that had to be done to operate Hobcaw Barony.

BN: Describe where they lived.

LB: Within Hobcaw's villages, residents, black residents were still living much as they had throughout the slave era. The majority of the cabins were small two room cabins build up off the ground with a large fireplace, no plumbing, no electricity ever installed in those houses throughout the Baruch era. Single families lived in those houses, sometimes extended families lived with them but it was not until 1935 that any of those slave cabins were enlarged - porches added, glass windows. Not until the mid 30's, we believe, due to the fact that for the first time a bridge was build to the mainland. A bridge linking the Waccamaw neck to the city of

Georgetown and the outside world. Within a year, 1936, International Paper created a mill in Georgetown and undoubtedly lured a number of the former plantation workers to jobs in town. I think Bernard Baruch was aware the he might lose his inexpensive labor force and I think he decided to make improvements at that time. But ever since the purchase of the property Bernard Baruch was on the one hand, paternalistic and took care of his employees - both white and black - but also continued to operate the plantation in that paternalistic way as it had been done for centuries.

As the family continued to enjoy Hobcaw Barony during the winter months, the first big changes came at about the time of World War I. Bernard Baruch sold his seat on the New York stock exchange and offered his services to President Woodrow Wilson, a fellow South Carolina native. During this time also all three children, being patriotic, were involved in different endeavors, Red Cross volunteers, but Belle especially became a member of the women's radio corps, trained in Morse code, and trained to teach the military Morse code. Belle also was active during WWI with the Red Cross and rolling bandages, encouraging others to be involved. But also it was after the war that Belle accompanied her father to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference and became aware of Woodrow Wilson's dream of a League of Nations. And she with a few other young women formed a junior League of Nations and continued to lobby for this particular program that Wilson had dreamed about.

BN: Talk about the Women's Radio Corps and what led Belle to her interest in the League of Nations.

LB: Belle did accompany her father to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference where her father was a delegate, and she spent a great deal of time listening to Woodrow Wilson and understanding his need for a League of Nations and Belle

quickly became involved in the Junior League of Nations and continued to show an interest in Europe, and America, and politics.

BN: Let's talk about how when she was 21 she received a million dollars, and kind of how that propelled her into the lifestyle that she enjoyed, and how she bought a place in Paris and started living in France a lot.

LB: When Belle Baruch turned 21 years old she received a trust, her inheritance, of about one million dollars and Belle had hoped to own a part of Hobcaw Barony that she could call her own, and when her father declined she instead took a small apartment in New York City with a roommate and then within a few years she had an opportunity to move to France, to be in Paris, and as the daughter of the very well known Bernard Baruch, what an opportunity for her simply to be herself. She and Americans her same age - many of them were moving to Europe and finding freedoms. Belle smoked, Belle drank, and Belle spoke her mind. She also was six feet two inches tall and because of her money, quite independent. In France I think she found herself.

She also enjoyed riding a great deal and was fox hunting in the Pyrenees when she was first observed by one of the foremost trainers of international level riders. Paul Larregain said, "You must be competing." And he began to work with her and found her the most outstanding horse, Souriant III, an Anglo-Arab, bred in France. She quickly found a country villa. She established a country place and had a stable for eight champions on which she could mount and ride at any time. The key to her competition in France was that in France, and throughout Europe, Italy and Germany as well, she could compete against men, whereas in America women were not allowed to. In France, Belle competed against Italians, military officers, part of Mussolini's Calvary.

Between 1923-1937 Belle was at the top of her game, competing throughout Europe in Dressage, Cross Country, and Stadium Jumping. As a woman she couldn't

compete at this level in the United States, but in Europe she was competing against Calvary. Until the close of World War II, cavalry represented their countries at these competitions. And in Italy she was competing against Mussolini's officers, in Germany she was competing against Hitler's military officers, and each time winning, beating them, as an American, as an American woman, and as a well-known American woman with a Jewish last name.

BN: And can you talk about how they offered to buy Souriant?

LB: When Belle defeated Hitler's representative at a competition in Germany, Hitler sent his officers to purchase that horse out from underneath her. "Souriant III," she announced to the Germans, "was simply not for sale." Later in Italy, after a competition in Florence, where she had beaten Mussolini's military officers, they approached her about buying Souriant and she said, "Hmm, what would you do with my horse?" And they said, "Oh, we wish to present it to Mussolini. How much do you want for your horse?" And Belle simply asked them, "How much money is in the bank of Italy?" And they said, "Oh, millions!" And she said, "That is simply not enough." Belle refused to sell her horse, and she certainly refused to sell to Hitler, or to Mussolini. I think that the time period is such that it is one of the main reasons that Bernard Baruch and his wife decided to sell a portion of Hobcaw to Belle, to bring her home, to bring her home to America. By 1938, she had build a home at Hobcaw and was living at Bellefield plantation on the northern half of Hobcaw Barony.

BN: And of course that was the same year that her mother died.

LB: Well, and you know what's really sad... By Christmas 1937, Belle Baruch's house was completed. She moved in and had a wonderful Christmas party for extended family and guests and was especially proud. Her mother and father

attended the Christmas party and within a few days her mother contracted pneumonia here at Hobcaw, and within a few weeks was dead. January 1938 Annie Griffen Baruch died in New York City. And I think it was sad because a new relationship might have formed between the adult Belle Baruch with her new home, her new residence at Hobcaw, and her mother older and perhaps ready to receive her daughter home, here in America.

BN: That was sad.

LB: Yea, it just kind of dawned on me not too long ago that the timing was such. And I don't know about you but I remember when I got married and got pregnant my mom and I got real close. We'd always been close, we didn't have issues like Belle and her mother, but I really do think there was an opportunity missed because of Mrs. Baruch's death. We know that, we know that shortly after Mrs. Baruch's death, Belle and her sister Renee offered to build Georgetown a hospital if they would name it in honor of their mother. And although that offer was declined, there were many ways that they honored their mother's memory in New York.

BN: Maybe you could talk about how she felt when Evangeline Johnson went off and married Leopold Stokowski.

LB: When Belle Baruch was growing up she always was independent, she always had a mind of her own, and she had a great number of friends. Evangeline Johnson early was one of her best friends, Evangeline Johnson with whom she took an apartment as a young adult in New York City. And it was at Evangeline's engagement to a man that Belle first began to wonder, "why am I so unhappy, why am I so sad?" When Belle moved to Europe and began to explore different friendships her sexual orientation became clear to her. It was something that others

in her family were very uncomfortable with initially. I'm not sure that she ever resolved the relationship between her and her mother.

Her father chose not to think about it, not to talk about it. But Belle continued to have her own way of doing things. Belle had at least three monogamous relationships that we're aware of and Belle was very happy with the people that she chose to spend time with. We also know that she was engaged at least twice to men but the first man was an Englishman, Munro Cuthbertson who had been a frequent visitor to Hobcaw, was an excellent horseman, Belle enjoyed his company, he was gay, and she was also. It was a marriage of convenience and those in her confidence were aware of that marriage of convenience, but when Munro Cuthbertson was caught in a scandal with a gay military officer, a male officer, it ended that relationship. Not the fact that Monroe was gay, but instead that he had been involved in a scandal. So the family, as well as Belle decided that it was best to cancel that engagement.

Several years later Belle was engaged a second time to a man named Charles Davila who was a diplomat from Romania. Romania at that time, its leader, and its government were anti-Semitic. Bernard Baruch throughout his life, having married an Episcopalian, had witnessed the prejudice against Mrs. Baruch and his three children and knew that a marriage between Belle and this diplomat from Romania would end sadly, for both of them, and for children if they had them. So he encouraged her to reconsider that engagement and, Belle did call off the engagement but kept his picture on her piano many, many years and is said to have commented to at least one person, "I never quit loving him."

After many years of hoping, Belle Baruch found out at Christmas 1935 that her father was going to sell her a portion of Hobcaw; 5,000 acres on the northern end of Hobcaw. Belle, surrounded by people at the Christmas dinner table was delighted so immediately she began to make plans. She hired an architect, a landscape architect, and an interior designer, and decided that she would rename her 5,000 acres Bellefield, after the name of a former rice plantation within that

tract. Belle hired New York architects, Murgatroyd & Ogden, landscape firm Innocenti & Webel, and an interior designer named Mary Glenn who had worked with those architects for a number of years, and though surrounded by professionals, Belle had a great deal of input into the design of her new country estate. Belle chose the native materials, pine and cypress. Belle chose the layout of the rooms in what has sometimes been called an unstudied country estate. There's no show of opulence, there's nothing... The country home that Belle built with the help of the architects and the interior designers perfectly reflects her personality and her desire to spend more than just her winters. By January 1938 Belle was at home. Within following decades Belle began to spend more and more of the year here at Bellefield. We find entries into the guest book, we also find the addition of a swimming pool and more than anything, the addition of air-conditioning window units to Bellefield so that she could enjoy and consider Hobcaw more of her permanent home, her home there at Bellefield plantation and the northern end of Hobcaw.

BN: Let's talk about her bringing the Darthez family to Hobcaw.

LB: As Belle established her home at Bellefield plantation she allowed the construction to begin on her stable. Retiring her horses from France and bringing them to America also meant that she wanted to bring not just the horses but also the stable manager that had worked so well for her in Europe, traveling with her from show to show and being the groom for her most outstanding horse Souriant III. Jean Darthez, a native of France, with family in France, declined. Belle continued to ask him to move here to be with her horses, to be with his family here at Bellefield plantation. And it was the situation in Europe, WWII that finally convinced John Darthez, to leave France, his home, and to move to America. Belle was able to bring the Dartes family out of France shortly before France capitulated to the Nazi's. A home was built for the Darthez, family adjacent to the stable and Jean Darthez's,

wife, who spoke no English, did a great deal of fine sewing for Belle Baruch, monogramming, tablecloths, beautiful lace maker, Mrs. Darthez. Their family attended local schools, they were involved in the local Catholic Church. In 1959 Darthez contracted cancer and died and Belle buried him exactly where he requested, next to the training field where he'd spent so much time with her eight champions.

Shortly after Belle's purchase of the 5,000 acres her father began to give her more and more responsibility for the management of the entire property and Belle accepted this responsibility. She also knew that she was going to have to have additional staff that not just worked for her at Bellefield, but also served as plantation managers. She hired Nolan Taylor who moved to Bellefield with his family and he became the plantation manager, the overseer of the entire Barony even during Bernard Baruch's lifetime.

BN: And Daisy Kennedy became her cook?

LB: Minnie's mother, Daisy. Yea. Belle employed both white and black staff at Bellefield and throughout the property. Many of the servants that she employed at Bellefield had previously worked at the main house for her mother and father. The Kennedy family, William Kennedy, continued to work for her father, but Mrs. William Kennedy, Daisy Kennedy, came to be cook and housekeeper at Bellefield, and they moved in 1936 from one house to another to be closer to Bellefield plantation. Their children were raised here at Hobcaw and those that chose to go to college were provided with a college education by the Baruch family. Belle saw a need also to support these families, to provide for these families and she continued to employ them in fairly menial jobs; cooks, housekeepers, stable help, not necessarily managers or crew leaders.

Also, after Belle's first purchase in 1935 of 5,000 acres of Hobcaw, she became very protective and very territorial of the property. The staff that she hired

became guardians and became game wardens on this property. It's been said that after she established an airport here at Bellefield, that she flew over the property on almost a daily basis looking for poachers and trespassers, and I think it's with some badge of honor that local Georgetownians say, "I was buzzed once by Belle" because if she spotted them illegally on her property, not in the creeks, not in the rivers, not in the bay, because she had no jurisdiction there on the open navigable waters, but on her land, hunting deer, turkey and of course ducks, she would fly down low in her airplane and buzz them. And in those small boats they rocked back and forth. But I believe that Belle was very careful not to fly too low, or too fast, and cause the boats to overturn because there went the evidence, in the boat of them illegally poaching from her property. At least on one occasion Belle was able to meet the poacher at the boat landing in Georgetown in the company of the county sheriff, who arrested the poacher, fined the poacher.

I once met a man who had been arrested for poaching on Belle Baruch's property and he told me of being buzzed, of being arrested and fined and I couldn't help but ask if that had cured him of poaching and he merely shrugged his shoulders and said, "Well, it cured me of poaching on Belle Baruch's property."

BN: Oh, that's great. Well let's talk about the war [WWII], and her working as a coastal observer.

LB: During World War II Belle had an opportunity not only to protect her property, to be a patriot and join the coastal observers program. Belle actually owned two and half miles of oceanfront property, the southern portion of DeBordieu Island. And on that property she had a cabana that she called the Grass Shack, and from there she knew that she could keep watch at night and be a part of U.S. Naval Intelligence, looking out and guarding not only Georgetown, but so many other coastal observers along our South Carolina coast were Myrtle Beach, Georgetown and Charleston, as well as Beaufort. The South Carolina coast was very

vulnerable during World War II, and particular Charleston because of the Naval Base and because of the Charleston Naval Shipyard.

Night after night with just a staff member or just a friend, Belle observed from her Grass Shack, the horizon looking out at sea there were flashes of lights, there were boats, and sometimes on the beach itself there were individuals. Belle now, as a member of US Naval intelligence, kept constant records in a logbook and those records, those reports were submitted to the local military stationed in Georgetown and those reports were passed on to J. Edgar Hoover with the FBI, and at least on one occasion Belle's observation of lights at sea, and remember her knowledge of Morse's code. During World War I she had been trained and taught the military so she had an awareness of these signals out at sea and her reports made one particular night led directly to the arrest of a German saboteur.

One of her reports led directly to the arrest of a German saboteur who was traced to a beach house at Pawley's Island and there at that beach house were rolled up charts and maps of the Charleston Naval base, the Charleston harbor, and the Charleston Naval shipyard. Had Belle's report not led to his arrest, who knows what might have happened in 1942, 1943 when so many German U-boats were just offshore of the South Carolina coast.

During 1942 and 1943, citizens of this area were part of the coastal observer program and many of them took their lives in their hands, being out in an isolated area. Belle especially because Hobcaw beach was isolated. There was no electricity; civilians were not allowed to carry radios. And so it was that Belle observed and then had to get back on her horse or back, in her boat and make her way back to her home on Bellefield plantation, a distance of several miles through the dark swamps, woods, and over dirt roads. When she returned to Bellefield plantation, then she got in her car and made the 2 mile drive to the front gate at highway 17 and then went over the Great Pee Dee, the Black River, and the Waccamaw River to reach Georgetown to make her report to the military. There were times, several times when she left her post in the midst of flashing lights, her idea that German U-boats

were just off shore, and submit those reports personally to the military in Georgetown.

BN: Would you talk about President Roosevelt's visit?

LB: Bernard Baruch continued to serve as an unofficial presidential advisor and during the Roosevelt administration Franklin Roosevelt was very ill in April of 1944 and perhaps Bernard Baruch's greatest gift to the Roosevelt administration was offering Hobcaw Barony as a retreat in April 1944 to the president. President Roosevelt had been diagnosed with severe bad health, not only bronchitis and pneumonia that winter but also high blood pressure, an enlarged heart, and the stress from the war. Ordered by his doctors to leave Washington and go on a vacation, a health vacation there were very few places that President Roosevelt could go because of security and because of his health, he couldn't fly, he couldn't be on an airplane. Bernard Baruch very quietly offered Hobcaw Barony to the President. The Secret Service was sent first to check out to approve the location to see if they could guard it. All branches of the military were brought in to guard and to make sure the president's visit here would be safe. The Army Air Corps flew over the property.

Bernard Baruch served as an unofficial advisor to a number of presidential administrations. With the Roosevelt administration probably his greatest gift to Franklin D. Roosevelt was providing Hobcaw Barony as a much need health retreat. President Roosevelt in early April 1944 had been examined by his doctor, and because of bronchitis, pneumonia, high blood pressure, and an enlarged heart the president was order by doctors to take a health vacation, to leave Washington. But where could the president go with national security? Bernard Baruch offered Hobcaw to the president for a two week vacation. The secret service came before the president and sanitized the area.

President Roosevelt came for what was to be a two week visit and arrived to the area by train. But the train didn't come all the way into Georgetown, instead it

stopped outside of town at Grave Station and the President was unloaded there and the entourage came across the bridges and came 4.5 miles down the dirt road to stay here at Hobcaw House on a bluff overlooking Winyah Bay. The president was guarded by all branches of the military, including the Army Air Corps that flew over on a regular basis, soldiers from Fort Jackson-- Army soldiers from Fort Jackson, Marines from Camp Lejeune, the Coast Guard patrol boats made their way up the five rivers that flow into Winyah Bay, and also the Naval war ships were just offshore in the event they were needed. President Roosevelt was ordered to sleep 10-12 hours a day. He was ordered to work no more than four hours a day and he slept, he relaxed and he toured the woods. Eleanor Roosevelt and their daughter, Anna were here some during that visit, but President Roosevelt rested and recuperated. President Roosevelt, many believe, was able to add a year on to his life because of what became a month long visit at Hobcaw. The entire month of April, 1944. This health vacation restored his health, many believe an extra 12 months. Imagine if President Roosevelt had died in April 1944, how very different things might have been if he'd died a year earlier.

BN: Would you talk about Dickie Leyland and Lois Massey?

LB: That was a really, really sad story. The fact too, that after Dickie was gone, that Belle never said, "Oh Dickie's gone now, I want you back," or, "Come and eat supper with us Saturday night." And you know, I wonder sometimes how much Miss Severin might have wondered about that relationship as well, because Miss Severin was so gracious and so open, and so much of a hostess, that I could see her encouraging Belle, let's have Lois back. Did Ella do that, or did Ella also see her as some sort of competition?

We won't know, and that's the thing that I have a problem with because it's just conjecture, sitting around wondering. Maybe that's what you do on television but I, I think it's a real sad story to me, when she was brought back in '81 or '82 to

film that segment for Belle's legacy, that was her first time back on the property, and she was such a valued employee. Lois Massey meant a great deal personally, and was very much like a sister to Belle, and so that's why I have hard time not understanding why Belle might not have reconciled that friendship, that sense of sisterhood, unless there was more to it. But I don't know. I just was sad for Lois. You know her uncle was Jim Powell, her father was Sam Massey, superintendent of plumbing and electricity, and so much of her childhood was spent here. And then also, she was a valuable member of the staff; she could entertain in Mr. Baruch's absence, and that took a lot because Mr. Baruch was an amazing host, and if he could wire down from New York and say, "Lois, Omar Bradley and Blackjack [John] Pershing are on their way. Open up your guest book and see to their needs," because Lois Massey kept a separate guest book on which room they normally stayed in, what they liked to drink, what type of hunting they liked, which horse they preferred, which hunting guide they preferred, and to be able to entertain in Bernard Baruch's absence, he had complete confidence in Lois Massey.

BN: Please repeat that story about her driving the three Generals

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LB: Bernard Baruch was a great hunter and particularly loved duck hunting here at Hobcaw, but one very important thing with duck hunting, you have to be in place, at the ready before the sun peeks up over the horizon. Bernard Baruch was here at the house getting ready to go hunting early one morning and the group was heading out to Clambank landing to make their way in boats out to the duck blinds in the salt marsh. Impatient because not everyone was ready Bernard Baruch said to Lois Massey, "Lois, you'll just have to bring the rest of them with you." And she said, "Yes, Sir, I'll do it." So Bernard Baruch and his group went on and then Lois waiting, hurrying, finally encouraged Blackjack [John] Pershing, and Omar Bradley, and George Marshall to get their thermoses of coffee, to get into the car and she would try to connect them with the rest of the hunting party.

And as they left Hobcaw and drove like a bat out of hell to get to Clambank, Lois...

As they drove like a bat out of hell to get to Clambank landing as early as possible for the duck hunt that day, Louise loves reminding people that those three generals sitting in her car, driving down that narrow road with trees on each side, completely covered in darkness, nothing but her headlights pointed due East, those three generals were white-knuckling it all the way to Clambank, and the other fun thing is knowing that Lois's nickname due to one bad eye, was 'old swivel eye.' I'm sure that was part of the reason that they never thought they'd make it to Clambank alive.

BN: When did Belle meet Ella Severin?

LB: After WWII Belle was able to renew a friendship with Ella Severin in Paris, France, a woman she'd first met in the 1930's and repeatedly invited to visit her here at Bellefield plantation. In 1951 Ella Severin accepted an invitation to come and visit Bellefield plantation and then accepted an invitation to remain here. Miss Severin became an American citizen and responded to a question of, "Why do you want to become an American?" She said, "Because I love Hobcaw." Miss Severin quickly became a part of Belle's life here at Bellefield plantation, serving as not only as Belle's companion, but also hostess at Bellefield.

Belle felt a renewed sense of hospitality during the 1950s and the 1960s but in 1962 something changed. In 1962 Belle became ill and was examined by doctors in New York and together with Miss Severin and Mr. Baruch, the doctor's diagnosis was not shared with Belle, it was decided that the doctor's diagnosis would not be shared with Belle. In 1962 Belle was diagnosed with cancer, with abdominal cancer, and surgery was performed and the doctors believed that they had gotten all the cancer, that they had cured her. Belle returned to Bellefield plantation, returned to hunting, returned to surveying the property for poachers and trespassers and yet within two years Belle began to have health problems once again. The first reason that they knew something was wrong was that she began to miss hogs, wild hogs, as

she was hunting; for the first time in her life to miss her game. Also she began to have trouble walking and with her vision. She was examined once again at the...

Belle returned in 1964 to the hospital in New York and the doctors realized that not only had her cancer returned, but also it had metastasized to her brain. Belle fell into a coma within a few days of diagnosis, and in April 1964 at age 64 Belle died. In her will, Belle specifically stated that the purpose of the property was for research and education and forestry, wildlife and marine science. Belle's vision was that this could be a perfect outdoor laboratory for researchers and students from South Carolina. Her vision in 1964 was so early; there were some state facilities, there were some national facilities, and national parks, and national forests but to link it with education, to link it with universities and colleges in this state made it unique in many ways. In 1964, right after her death, the foundation was organized. Her will also stated that the foundation be named the Bernard Baruch Foundation and yet because her father outlived her, he insisted that the foundation's name be changed to the Belle Baruch Foundation.

Her idea for the property took hold especially because she named key people as trustees, those that carried out her vision. Within a year or more colleges were already doing research here. Wofford College in Spartanburg was one of the very first to do a project on the property. Shortly after that the College of Charleston began a long-term relationship with Hobcaw Barony and its trustees. And by 1968 Clemson University began doing research here; 1969, the University of South Carolina. Both universities established Belle Baruch Institutes and research different types of things on this property and in the local area. I think that Belle's vision for the property has grown immensely and by opening up this property to researchers, literally from all over the world I think her vision has been expanded. The foundation itself exists to own and operate this property and to make Belle Baruch's legacy... I think the foundation continues to exist to make sure that Belle Baruch's vision is a reality.

END OF INTERVIEW