

Uncorrected Transcript of

Interview

with

**HAZEL ALSTON and AARON WINSTON**  
**27 JUNE 1995**

by James Eddie McCoy, Jr.

Transcribed by Wesley S. White

The Southern Oral History Program  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Original transcription on deposit at  
The Southern Historical Collection  
Louis Round Wilson Library

Citation of this interview should be as follows:  
"Southern Oral History Program  
in the Southern Historical Collection,  
Manuscripts Department, Wilson Library,  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill"

Copyright © 1998 The University of North Carolina

[START OF SIDE A]

HAZEL ALSTON AND AARON WINSTON  
27 June 1995

JAMES EDDIE McCOY: .....The experience what you heard in Oxford, what you seen, and the progress, so, will you give my your name, address, and where you live, and age.

HA: My name is Hazel Winston Alston. I live at....(**Phone rings**)..... My name is Hazel Winston Alston. I live at 124 Webb Place, Oxford, North Carolina.

EM: Your age?

HA: My age is eighty-three years old.

EM: The date?

HA: Today?

EM: The date you was born?

HA: I was born in September the twelfth 1912.

EM: Okay, Mr. Ervin, what's your date, and the place you, what street you live on?

AW: I live on Graveyard pass, and I'm, my age is seventy-five.

EM: And the date you was born in?

AW: And I was born, April 30<sup>th</sup> 1920.

EM: Mr. Winston, tell me what they call the area you live in.

AW: They call that area Camptown.

EM: Do you ever know where it came from? When you was born it was Camptown?

AW: Well, they claim that, the Indians was down in that section, and uh, that's what it come from, 'cause the Indians had made rocks and things down in that bottom.

EM: Did you, when you was a kid, you played in that branch?

AW: Yes I did.

EM: You know what you are talking about?

AW: Yeah, I know what I'm talking about.

EM: Did, did you think so too, as artifacts.....

AW: Yes, I did. I sure did.

EM: Okay, I know a white man, own some man there, that's probably why he bought it. And what, tell me, describe the rocks, and I can tell you what I, when I was going down there, when I was going to Grady school, we didn't have clay, we would go out back, and in that branch, we would get stuff out, that looked exactly like clay, and you could do the same thing with it, but no, see I was young, like first, third, fourth, fifth, and I didn't know, and the teacher didn't tell us, why it was clay in there, and you know I wish they had a did a history on it, because it was clay, we would go get it, we would play with it, and everybody would get clay, but nobody explained to us why clay was in that branch. Now, you help me remember some of the things you found, or your brothers or you heard was found in that area.

AW: Well, uh, we found rocks down there, and all size rocks, little rocks and big rocks, and some rocks down there, you couldn't pick them up.

EM: How was they made in .....???????

AW: They was made in square, and some of them was made in diameter.

EM: All kind, like Indian rocks?

AW: Yeah, yeah.

EM: All artifacts.

AW: All artifacts.

EM: Did you, did y'all throw them, or what did you do to try to see what you could do with them?

AW: No, you couldn't throw them because it was too large.

EM: And what about the smaller ones?

AW: Well, the small ones, you didn't see too many small ones.

EM: You didn't?

AW: No.

6/27/95

EM: Well, what about the ground, and the make up of the branch, did you ever find anything in there, like we did when we was kids?

AW: Well, we didn't find too much, uh, in the branch, but, a lot of frogs down there.

EM: A lot of frogs?

AW: Yeah, a lot of frogs.

EM: What do frogs represent? 'Cause I don't understand.....

AW: Well, frogs represent, uh.....

EM: Good breeding ground or?

AW: Yeah, good breeding ground for frogs.

EM: Well, if frogs would breed there, it had to be something special, in that area, because frogs was there.

AW: Well, I imagine it would come from fishes. Folks fished down there too.

EM: Fished in that little branch!

AW: Yeah, sure did, fished down in there.

EM: Fish was that...

AW: Yeah, fish was down in that branch, big fish.

EM: Did you ever hear talk it was a mill up there, you Miss Hazel, you can come in too, up there where the service station, and that branch was named fountain branch, or do you know why, Mrs. Hazel?

HA: No, they called it fountain branch, I reckon because it was deep in some places and uh, and it had a bridge that go across it, 'cause we crossed it many, many times, and plenty tad poles, and frogs that my brothers said was there.

EM: Mrs. Harris told me that she was baptized in that branch. Y'all tell me about baptizing, or did you know anything about them?

AW: Yeah, we had baptizing in there.

EM: Who did, what church or who?



6/27/95

AW: Uh, **Bibleway**??? Church. I remember the time that they baptized uh, Mr. Al Thorpe.

EM: Who, tell me a little bit about Mr. Al Thorpe, I never heard of him before.

AW: Well, Mr. Al Thorpe, he was a member of Bibleway Church.

EM: Where did he live?

AW: He lived on .....???? street.

EM: Was he white or black?

AW: Black.

EM: Do he have any relatives, can you tell me who is his relatives? Or one or two of his children.

AW: Mrs. Alston, Alstons was a relative....

EM: What Alston? Henry Alston?

AW: Ethel Alston.

EM: Where did them Alstons live?

AW: They live on First Street too.

EM: Oh, your, okay. Okay, who else, what other church baptized in that branch? Or do you remember?

AW: The .....??????? Church..

HA: Mt. Zion...

AW: Mt. Zion Church.

EM: So, y'all had a lot of baptizing in that....

AW: In that particular branch.

EM: Oh, and it went on for quite a while.

AW: Went on for quite a while.

6/27/95

EM: But did you ever heard it was mill on that branch?

AW: I never heard talk of a mill on that branch.

EM: You never heard nobody say why they called that branch Fountain Branch?

AW: Well, reason why I decide they call it Fountain was basically 'cause it was the only branch down in there. Run through there, and it was Fountain Branch.

EM: Uh-huh.

AW: That was the name of it.

EM: Uh-huh. And uh, your mother, your father, this where.....????????? was passed down from one generation to the next generation, now, did your parents say there was Indians there, or you heard somebody else, or who said it, 'cause it was passed in a family, and I might can research it.

AW: Well, my mother and them said there was Indians in there, and had Indian signs down there, things was carved on the trees, too.

EM: What?

AW: In the woods, in the trees, you could tell if an Indian had been along and carved things on the trees.

EM: Well, why didn't somebody come down there and take pictures and collect the stuff?

AW: Well, at that time, things wasn't formed.

EM: And by you being black, and you don't have the education and stuff, they wouldn't have, I know what you saying, even Dr. Hicks, Dr.... even a black professional person, wouldn't have thought that your mother and them, not you, but your mother and them, was telling the truth.

AW: Right, right.

EM: And then, like they say, nobody was back those days, they just couldn't do the research in areas, I understand that, but, who cut down all those trees and stuff?

AW: Well...

EM: As the years went along?

AW: Well, the neighbors. Neighbors cut down some of the trees.

EM: Did you Mrs. Alston, did you ever get old enough to see any of this?

HA: Yes, I did.

EM: Okay, you tell me what you.

HA: I .....many times I went over there to the place where we used to call it the cotton mill, but it was the **Burlington**??? Mill. And uh, that's why uh, I learned these things, because I passed it many, many times going on there to work for the people you say call it the cotton mill, but now it is the Burlington mill, and uh, finally, the built up a lot, and they just did away with that. Going through there, as of now there is no path that goes through there. But the branch is still there in some part.

EM: Uh, tell me about, you, you remember Louis Creek, you had to go down in the branch to cross it, and then come up before the put a ditch in there, and come in there put pipe in it, do you remember when it wasn't pipe, that road was dirt?

HA: Yes, I do.

EM: Okay, tell me about it.

HA: I can't tell you.....

EM: Uh, you didn't know that?

HA: I didn't pay too much attention....

EM: 'Cause you was a girl?

HA: Yeah.

EM: I understand that. How many girls was in the family?

HA: Four of us altogether.

EM: How many was older than you?

HA: All four of them...

EM: All four of them..

HA: Uh, all three of them.

6/27/95

EM: All three of them. Did they live in Oxford after they got grown, and after they got married?

HA: Yeah, they all did.

EM: They didn't never leave Oxford?

HA: No.

EM: Okay, Mr. Winston, by you being a boy, you know that branch up and down. How far did you trace that branch going down, or going to Ellie Peacetown, how far did y'all go, all the way to the end, tell me about that part.

AW: Well, that branch go all the way down, I'd say, approximately three miles. And we would go down there and hunt frogs, on that branch, and uh, and then we hunt frogs and fish down there, and uh, people would go, and uh, and they would pass around that uh, uh, I just then said it, I'm trying to think.

EM: Okay, the branch goes by the shopping center?

AW: Right.

EM: It goes under 85?

AW: Right.

EM: It goes right on down, back of uh, the city's sewer system?

AW: Right, right.

EM: That, did you know that river, that branch dumps into Tar River?

AW: Yes I do.

EM: You knew that?

AW: Yeah, yeah. After a certain distance, they trained me to dump in the river, they dumped in the river.

EM: So, the purpose of Indians, and I'm explaining, you have to travel with water, 'cause that's the only way you could get in areas, 'cause that was clear. So, they'll stop there and clear out an area...

AW: Right...

6/27/95

EM: And, and OK. That's where Camp town came from, 'cause the Indians camped out down there. And it was an Indian camp.

AW: Yeah, that's right.

EM: Oh, Ok. I didn't know why they called it Camp town. So, that makes sense?

AW: That makes sense.

EM: So the Indians stayed there?

AW: The Indians stayed there.

EM: And they cut out and camped in that area, before Oxford moved where it is....

AW: Yes it is.

EM: I appreciate that information, that's, that was very good explaining that to me, now let's go back to uh, where did y'all have to play when you was a little boy, was there enough area in there to play?

AW: Well, most time you go in there and play on the branch. We call it a branch, 'cause you go in there and jump across the pond, and uh, have a good time down there on Sundays...

EM: That's what you do after church?

AW: Yeah, go down there after church.

EM: In the summer.

AW: In the sun.

EM: Could you swim, did anybody try to swim in there?

AW: Well, we had a certain hole we go to swim.

EM: You did?

AW: Yeah, had a certain hole.

EM: Oh.

AW: had certain spots we go to swim at.

6/27/95

EM: So, y'all had a, it wasn't polluted or nothing like it is now?

AW: No, no, it wasn't polluted.

EM: And y'all had a good time?

AW: Yeah, had a good time.

EM: Uh-huh. Ms. Hazel, let's talk about what you like to talk about, let's talk about the church. What church, and tell me, when you came up, what church you came up in and what you remember.

HA: I came up in Mt. Zion Holiness Church.

EM: Where is that located at?

HA: On Orange Street.

EM: Uh-huh.

HA: I stayed there until I was eighteen years old, then I moved up to the church on Hernon Avenue, which is the .....????? Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

EM: That's what it was called?

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: Pronounce it again.

HA: .....????? Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ

EM: Okay, now go on and tell me about Sunday School.

HA: Well, we attended Sunday School there, and Sunday School open at ten o'clock, morning service at 11. And .....????

EM: Now, do you remember when your other sisters and brothers, y'all could go to Sunday school, ahead of your parents, 'cause you lived so close to the church?

HA: That's right.

EM: They didn't have to, see after you, because you only lived a couple of blocks from the church.

6/27/95

HA: That's right.

EM: Okay, now, who was the minister of that church when you came along?

HA: Well, when I was at Mt. Zion Holiness church Bishop H. L. Fisher was the pastor.

EM: What about the one on Orange Street?

HA: That's the one on Orange Street.

EM: Who was the pastor?

HA: And uh, as of now, Bishop T. E. Binford is the pastor of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Hernon Avenue.

EM: Now, what minister was there before him?

HA: Bishop S. E. Johnson, of Philadelphia, he organized the church in 1938.

EM: That church was, came about in 1938?

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: From what, out of another church?

HA: Come out of the church in New York City.

EM: What was the name of the church in New York City?

HA: Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

EM: He came down here, what, he like this area or he had cousins or relatives or what?

HA: He had friends here, back here.

EM: And they talked him into coming down here and starting a church?

HA: That's right.

EM: And that church came out of, out of a church in New York?

HA: That's right.

EM: What was the name of the church in New York?

6/27/95

HA: ....Temple.

EM: Okay, what was the minister name?

HA: Uh, he's dead now...

EM: Yeah, I want to know.

HA: Bishop R. C. Lawson.

EM: R. C....

HA: Lawson...

EM: Tell me something about him, how did he look or did he, was he married or how many children did he have?

HA: He didn't have many children, but he uh....

EM: Just guess.

HA: I'd say about three.

EM: Did he have a boy?

HA: Yes. Names Nathaniel Lawson.

EM: And he came down in 1938?

HA: That's right.

EM: What did, what did he start in, a house first, in a store front, or what happened before the church was built, it was a small, they tore that one down and built....

HA: You know that Episcopal Church there on Hernon Avenue, used to be a Episcopal Church, little Zion Church.....?????????????

EM: What, what was the name of the church that was sitting right there in Orange Street yard? It was a church right there.....

AW: Little Zion.

EM: Little Zion. And then where did little Zion go, once they left there?

AW: The went back out there.....



6/27/95

EM: In front of ???????

AW: Yeah.

EM: Okay. Now, when he came from New York, he couldn't, he had enough money to build a church and come in here and start.

HA: .....that's where the church was Episcopal church....?????

EM: Where 'bouts?

HA: Episcopal church, you know the church where we at now, the renovated it when they first come here, that church was named Episcopal church, the Episcopalians built that church over on .....????? Street. They moved over there, you know.

EM: Wait a minute now, you telling me, that the Episcopal church that Mrs. Chavis and them go to, up on Fifth street.....

HA: .....????....he ain't remember his name, I forgot his name now, but anyway, that little church there, I got a picture of it..

EM: Okay, we'll get it later. Now, the Episcopal church.....

HA: Right there in front of old Grady School, you know that church right across there, don't you remember that church?

EM: Okay, but, he started, what was the Episcopal church, was it built or was it a house there?

AW: Yeah, small, small.....

HA: It was a small church...

EM: Oh, it was a small, ok. Okay, he had money and they built a small church?

AW: Yeah, Yeah.

HA: The Episcopal people did, before they built the church over on Granville street.

EM: Oh you had to be.....

HA: Well, but there people that go there.....???????.....little brown skin guy, I can't think of his name.

6/27/95

EM: You'll tell me sometime. Now, do you know how long the Episcopal church stayed there as you was a kid, how many years they stayed there? Just guessing?

AW: Just guessing ,they stayed there five or six years, I know.

HA: More than that, I'd say about twenty years.....

EM: Okay, it was the Episcopal church?

HA: Uh-huh, it was the Episcopal church first, but the preacher man died, but Bishop.....????? came in and used that church, and 'cause we used it, and pastor .....????? came in. Because uh, they, he had it torn down, and built the.....??? church.

EM: Uh, I'm going to need some answer out of you, I need to know who you remember that went to the Episcopal church, name some families, or some people now that's living that went to that church. Either one of y'all.

AW: Nobody, I, I don't remember nobody, because uh, at that time I wasn't old enough to remember, she might remember.....

EM: What about the people that went to that church? Somebody attended in Oxford....

HA: Yeah, I know they did....

EM: Somebody in the neighborhood attended.

AW: Yeah.

EM: So, what you tell me, if I go and do some more research in that area, I'll find somebody that can give me some more information too, and can help me with it?

AW: I don't know nobody.

EM: Ok, was Mrs. Hadie Hester, she was down in the country then?

AW: Yeah.

EM: Okay, I just want to, I'll find out.....

HA: Ask my brother, he might know....

EM: Okay.

HA: I'm just one year older than he is.....

6/27/95

EM: Okay, now, let's go back, tell me, what was your mother's name.

HA: Anna....want her maiden name?

EM: I want it all.

HA: Anna Ray Winston.

EM: Ray?

HA: R A Y Uh-huh.

EM: Where did the Ray come from?

HA: Come from, that was her maiden name, it was her, she had some brothers named, Jerry Ray, Jim Ray, that's the only two I know she had.

EM: Okay, what about sisters?

HA: I don't think she had no sisters, she had some half sisters, Emma Cheatham....

EM: She had half sisters?

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: Who was Emma Cheatham? Did you ever see her?

HA: Yeah, I seen her, she lived down there on Orange Street.

EM: That's your mothers....?

HA: Half sister, she....

EM: And she was named what, Emma what?

HA: Emma Cheatham.

EM: Cheatham.

HA: Emma Ray Cheatham.

EM: Did you remember any more sisters or brothers?

HA: Jerry Ray, that's her brother, Jerry Ray.

6/27/95

EM: Okay, and another one.

HA: That's all.

EM: Okay, uh, now, your mother was, repeat it again, because I have to have it right, her name was Anna, what was her middle name?

HA: Anna Ray, she married a Winston, Anna Ray Winston.

EM: Okay, tell me about your, did you ever see your grandparents on your mother's side?

HA: See my who?

EM: Your grandparents, your mother's mother and sister?

HA: No.

EM: Uh, what about....

HA: On my daddy's side....

EM: Uh-huh, tell me that.

HA: Her name was Ella Winston...

EM: Uh-huh, this was on your father's side?

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: Tell me about her.

HA: I don't know nothing but, I know right before she married.

EM: Your father's mother, you seen her?

HA: Yeah, I seen her.

EM: Her father was named Nelson what?

HA: Her husband, I mean her husband was named Nelson Winston. What you got....

EM: I'm on your father's side now....

HA: On my father's side...

6/27/95

EM: Uh-huh, you say your father's mother was named?

HA: Nelson Winston.

EM: What was the mother name?

HA: Amanda Winston.

EM: Amanda?

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: How you spell that?

HA: Amanda.

EM: What did they tell you they was born at?

HA: Born in Granville County down there near Rock Springs....

EM: Okay, I know where Rock Springs is at. Did, did your mother and them come up, did your father come up on a farm?

HA: Yes.

EM: Whereabouts?

HA: My daddy, Granville County.

AW: I'd say around....

EM: Did they ever take y'all out there and show you where it was?

AW: .....??? out here, Mr. Dean, Mr. Dean....

EM: Francis Dean Farm?

AW: Yeah.

EM: That's off, that's down on Rye Road. By Floyd's grocery store. Or is it another one....

AW: Another one right there by, uh, Wilson place out there.....

6/27/95

HA: .....?????

AW: Soots....

HA: Suitt's Farm

AW: Mr. Suitt's farm.

EM: Spell it, how you spell Suitt's.

HA: S-u-i-t-t

EM: Okay, that's where your father came from?

HA: Uh-huh.

AW: Uh-huh.

EM: Okay ,was any of y'all ever on that farm?

AW: No, I wasn't.

HA: I wasn't either.

EM: Well, it was so close to Oxford, you thought, it ain't no where now. Okay, did you ever, we are still with your father, you father came up on the Suitts' farm or plantation, all right, what about his mother and father ,where did they come up on that farm too, or do you know?

HA: I dont' know nothing about .....?????....Winston, they was up there.....

EM: I'm talking about your daddy's father.

HA: That's the one, all I know about him was he just uh, I don't know, I don't know nothing about him, none too much.

EM: Okay, tell me about his mother then.

HA: Amanda, Amanda Winston...

EM: You tell me what somebody say, I understand that, you not telling me what you know, 'cause you didn't see her...

HA: No...

6/27/95

EM: Well, what did somebody say about her, did he tell you how nice she was or what she did...

HA: She, she was uh.....

EM: Okay, now we going to leave your father's mother and father, let's go to your mother's, your granddaddy on your mother's side, did you ever see your grandparents on your mother's side?

HA: No, never seen them.

EM: Where was your mother, where was the Rays born at?

HA: Rays was born in Granville County.

EM: What area?

HA: In around.....

EM: 'Cause I never know there was any Rays in.... Do you know, name your uncles or brothers or sisters, somebody Rays, tell me some more about.....

HA: Uncle Ketum...

EM: What?

HA: Uncle Ketum

EM: Ketum?

HA: Winston.

EM: Uh-huh.

HA: And uh.....

EM: I'm talking about your mother's side, there wouldn't be a Winston....

HA: No...

EM: Okay then, name all your uncles on your father's side then.

HA: My uncle Ewell Winston, uncle, uncle.....????????????????

EM: That's all right, was there girls?

AW: Three boys....

EM: Okay, and we are back to your father's side. Okay, I'm going to take you back again, try to explain to me who went to New York and invited this minister down here, or who was his relatives that encouraged the minister to come down here and start a church.

HA: There was the mother....

EM: Who?

HA: Sylvia Austin.....

EM: Your mother's sister...

HA: She's the mother of the children, she come, she come down ,this was her native home.

EM: Okay.

HA: And she came here

EM: She's the mother of a church?

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: 'Cause I don't, you'll have to explain....

HA: Well, what I'm saying is, she just a missionary, just a missionary, Sylvia Austin.....

EM: She was born in Granville County?

HA: Yeah.

EM: In your family?

HA: No, she's not in the family, but she was uh, a friend, she knew the people here.

EM: And she wanted to start a church....

HA: She didn't start it, but she came here, and got it, as soon came here, she got in touch with her pastor, she had him to come down....

EM: And look at it...



6/27/95

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: And he decided he would come down?

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: Did he preach one Sunday, and go back to New York, or did he stay here?

HA: He stayed here for a while.

EM: Where was his house located?

HA: He stayed in the house with my mother.....???? Orange Avenue....

AW: .....Orange Avenue...

EM: Is that where you live now, .....??? place?

AW: Yeah, Uh-huh.

EM: The preacher stayed there?

AW: Uh-huh

EM: Okay, and he.....let me, clear the record for me about this, was it ever a church where Mr. Willie Thornton lived, or was it a house there, and they preached in it, I heard somewhere that a church come out of that area, or you don't remember?

HA: It might have been Mt. Zion Church come out of that area.

AW: I think Mt. Zion.

EM: That's what I heard, I heard that too.

AW: Yeah, they had church there for a while....

EM: In that house?

AW: In that house.

EM: Yeah, people had church in they house.....

AW: Yeah. ...

EM: And then out of the house it grew?

AW: Yeah.

EM: But, do you, can you think of that preacher's name or....

HA: Bishop H. L. Fisher.

EM: He lived, that's who...

HA: He come from Durham, you know...

EM: Ok, and preached....

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: Now we going back to the minister from New York with Sylvia Austin.

HA: She was a missionary, Sylvia Austin, she, that was her pastor in Philadelphia, and she had him come to North Carolina, and plan on a revival, I reckon for about three months.

EM: Okay.

HA: He came backwards and forth until he had the church established.

EM: Did you ever see his wife or children?

HA: Well, didn't see no children, saw his wife, she came too.

EM: And what was his name, what was the minister name?

HA: S. C. Johnson, Bishop S. C. Johnson

EM: You put an S and a C in front of....

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: Okay, Johnson?

HA: Yeah.

EM: 'Bout many years you think he was the minister? Five years or four years or what?

HA: He carried on about ten or fifteen years as Bishop...

6/27/95

EM: So you remember him then?

AW: Uh-huh.

EM: Okay, if he stayed that long?

AW: Yeah.

EM: Y'all had a lot of history in that area, did you know that?

HA: Uh-huh

EM: You did? There was a lot of history in that area, where y'all came....Tell me about the neighborhood. Was it nice and everybody was very nice and everything?

AW: Yeah.

HA: Everybody was living together, one family was like all families.

EM: Uh, tell me about Mrs. Mayfield, y'all know her

HA: She was a nice lady.

EM: See y'all were.....????/ I can help you with that, she lived over by Mary Potter. And then they moved in there. Do you remember that area?

AW: Yeah, I remember.

EM: Did she go to church in that area?

HA: Yeah, she....

EM: Name some more people that was living in that area, when y'all...

HA: Tom **Coon**?? Margaret Coon, and uh Cary Holeman.....????????? and uh, Mrs. Annie Hunt, and uh, Smith Hunt....

EM: Who was Smith Hunt?

HA: .....???????

EM: I could tell you some more, Charlie Hunt and them came from in that area too.

HA: Yeah.

6/27/95

AW: Yeah. Elizy .....???? was Charlie's mother.

EM: She was a Bumper?

AW: Yeah.

EM: Oh, after the Hunt's she married, after she married a Hunt, she married a Bumper?

AW: Yeah, married a Bumper.

EM: Oh, okay, wasn't that a row of houses down in that area?

AW: Yeah. ..

EM: It was three or four story houses?

AW: Yeah.

EM: Okay, and then the church?

AW: Yeah.

EM: Okay, and then the house where ...??????? mother used to live in right there at Burch, am I right?

AW: Yeah.

EM: I seen that one.

AW: Yeah, Yeah.

EM: That's the one I seen, I seen. All right tell me about, we can't leave without Major Sanford and the market. All right tell me the story of that, come on, you remember that.

HA: Yeah, I remember that, stayed there a long time.....

EM: Tell me, how did he get in there? Was it a house or whatever?

AW: It was a little house, it was cafe, Mr. Littlejohn had a cafe there.

EM: Ok. I didn't know that.

AW: Benny Littlejohn had a cafe in that spot when he moved here. You remember that?

HA: Yeah, I remember that

6/27/95

EM: Tell me about Mr. Littlejohn.

AW: Well, Mr. Littlejohn run the cafe there, and uh, he got sick and he died, and his wife run it for a while, and uh.....

EM: What was his wife's name?

HA: .....????...I don't know...

EM: Do you know her maiden name or anything, or you just can't call it?

AW: I can't call it.

EM: Okay, I will get back with you, and you will help me with that. So, Mrs., Littlejohn built that, for a cafe, a restaurant?

AW: Yeah, a restaurant.

EM: Okay. Was that before Sanford had the store?

HA: Yeah.

AW: Yeah, that was before he had the store.

EM: So, everybody in town, was that the first restaurant, or that was the community restaurant?

AW: Yeah, Yeah, that's right.

EM: It was a community restaurant?

AW: Yeah.

HA: It was a community restaurant.

EM: Okay, and people came from all over town to eat with her?

AW: Yeah, Yeah.

EM: Do you remember when it was started? Or when it closed down, or do you have an idea?

HA: Started in 1920.....

6/27/95

EM: Okay, now, was there a restaurant there before uh, Mr. Dean built that barber shop, and built all that in there?

AW: I think Mr.....

HA: tore all that down and built it.....

EM: What was in there, houses was in that area or what?

AW: No, it was vacant lots in there, and the.....????? was up in there. And uh, Mr. Dean built that store in there after he uh, after he uh, decide to build that, then this cafe came over there, they build over there.

EM: And then he had a restaurant in his, in his building, I remember that.

AW: Yeah, after they went out of business, after they....

EM: Yeah. ..

AW: Littlejohn went out of business he did.

EM: Okay, now come on tell me the truth, 'cause I'm going to tell you what I know about Mr. Sanford. Major Sanford told me that, you know Major didn't look too clean to me as a little boy, but you tell me about it, what kind of meat he had in there.

HA: All kinds.

EM: Okay. How long did he, oh I know when he left, I know, I can tell you about, tell me a little bit about it, he had come to work, had meat we he didn't and everything, didn't he?

AW: Yeah, he had meat.

EM: Okay, now, I'm going to tell you all what he was doing when I learned, Mr. Major Sanford, he was selling corn liquor and....

HA: He was selling that too...

EM: 'Cause he was selling corn liquor, and the market was a front.

EM: Mr. Winston, when I was going to school down there, and I used to go in there as a little boy, 'cause I was curious, really it didn't look clean, 'cause we didn't have no health inspectors, and stuff like that, and in a black neighborhood, they really didn't care, what he sold, it was just a blind, turn your head, I don't see, as far as the food and the meat. But, as he got older, someone, he went into the liquor business, and he found out that was

6/27/95

a good way, and people come in there buying meat, they was coming to by liquor, and that was his source, and how he made money.

AW: Yeah, he made money.

EM: And, well, he was honest. Tell me about, was he good, he, I whenever I go in there, he'd fuss at us, 'cause we'd tease him, was he a passionate man, and everything?

AW: He was, he was a good man, a good hearted man.

EM: Well, he was shrewd, he knew business now. Weren't he a shrewd business man?

AW: Most everybody thought a lot of him.....

EM: And respected him....

AW: Yeah, and respected him too.

EM: That's why his son has such respect in this town.

AW: Yeah.

EM: Did you know where he came from or anything?

AW: I don't know where he come from, I just don't

EM: Where was he living at?

AW: Uh, he was living over there Prince Street.

EM: Okay, the same place?

AW: Right.

EM: He was a nice man.

AW: Yes, he was.

EM: He kept a lot of friends, a lot of people was friends of him, other than his business part, but they would go in there and visit with him and everything else, and sit and talk and gossip.

AW: Right.

6/27/95

EM: Yeah, that's what I remember as a kid. Uh, so you had a lot of history in your community, and uh, I'm glad you told me about the restaurant, that's another thing I didn't know, and so, now, let's get back to your parents in the church, did, were your mother a hard worker in the church?

HA: Yeah, she worked very hard, she was the president of the missionary board, worked hard spiritual and physical.

EM: Father too? Was he a deacon or....

HA: No, he was a minister.

EM: Oh, your father was a minister.

HA: Rev. James Winston was a minister. He had a little church up there in....

AW: Baria.

HA: Baria.

EM: Oh okay.

HA: That's the reason my brother is a minister.

EM: I was going to ask you which parents guide him where did he get it from. Oh, so your father was minister?

HA: Yeah.

AW: He got that from.....

HA: He got it from his daddy.

EM: Who did?

AW: My brother.

EM: He did?

AW: Yeah.

HA: The .....??????? I put from his daddy, 'cause his daddy was a minister, mother was a missionary, and I'm just like her.

EM: How did he get back and forth up there then? They had transportation?



6/27/95

AW: My daddy had T-model ford. A '28 model. And he bought that T model before we went to New York on it.

EM: No, he didn't!

AW: Yes he did.

EM: From Oxford to New York?

AW: New York. In that T-model Ford.

EM: How many weeks did it take him to get there! I'm just kidding.

AW: Well, it took him about four days.

EM: But he got there, didn't he?

AW: He got there.

EM: Uh, since you mentioned your father had a T-model Ford, y'all kids lived pretty good, didn't you?

AW: Well.....

EM: He had a close knit family, didn't he?

AW: Yeah.

EM: He kept y'all close.

AW: Yeah, he kept us close.

EM: And that helped?

AW: That helped, I ain't got no.....?????

EM: Well, no y'all don't. Everything I know about y'all is church. I don't know anything else about y'all, but church. That's what I know about y'all, y'all you know, you just lived in a church. And so, uh, his, did your father take ministering from his parents or, or they carried, he was guided into it by his parents, what?

AW: He was guided into it, by his parents I believe.

EM: Uh-huh. Was he a good minister?

6/27/95

AW: He was a good minister. And a good provider, and he went to Kittrell college, he had a pretty good education.

EM: Where did, where was he born, or what area?

AW: He was born in Granville County.....

EM: If your father went to Kittrell college, it weren't no slavery on his side.

AW: No, there weren't no slavery.

EM: How old was your father when he died?

AW: Seventy-nine.

EM: Seventy-nine?

AW: Yeah.

EM: Okay, and old was, did you know his father's age?

AW: Didn't know that.

EM: Okay, if your father went to Kittrell college, and lived down in Rock Spring area, his parents was not in slavery in the 1800s because he went to college. Was he a light skinned man, did he have white parents or anything?

AW: No, he was dark skinned.

EM: He was?

AW: Yeah.

EM: And uh, after Kittrell, he went into the church or he was.... Kittrell was a church school...

AW: Yeah.

EM: 'cause I went there too, yea you have to, that's where AME Zion or whatever it was. That was the denomination that sponsored Kittrell college. Okay, so that's how your father got in it. What did he do after the church in Baria, that was the last one he pastored, or did he come to town, his health failed.....

AW: Well, he stayed out there until his health failed, small church out there.....

6/27/95

EM: What happened to the people in the church, did it go into a school, what did they.....

AW: No, it wasn't in no school...

EM: I'm talking about after he finished.

AW: Oh. I don't know. After Papa died, I never did go back out there too much.

EM: And you never remember that another, those people just went into other churches?

AW: Whole thing got tight, things got so tight one time, depression was on, you know.....

EM: In '32?

AW: Yeah, and he had to put saw dust in the tires to get to church on Sunday.

EM: Wait a minute now, I've never heard of this, tell me the story, what you saying, I believe you....

AW: It's true...

EM: I know, I know that, now let's talk, you fill the tires.....

AW: Yeah, put, put the saw dust in the tire, and pump it up, and uh, it would hold.....

EM: What, as you turn, it turns over, do you fill a whole tire .....

AW: Yeah. ..

EM: The whole tire?

AW: Yeah.

EM: And put it back on?

AW: Back on, and then put air in it.

EM: And what was, what was the purpose saw dust, make it ride smooth?

AW: Make it ride smooth...

EM: Where did he get that idea from?

AW: I don't know..

EM: Was that the first one you ever seen do it?

AW: First time I ever seen it done.

EM: And never seen nobody else do it?

AW: No, I sure ain't.

EM: And you didn't copy behind him?

AW: No...

EM: Put sawdust in the tires....

AW: Couldn't buy no tube...

EM: Oh, okay that was a smart, put saw dust in the tires...

AW: Yeah, in the tire...

EM: And put it back on?

AW: Yeah.

EM: And as it turned it got up it gathers air....

AW: Yeah, it gathers air...

EM: It takes in air

AW: Yeah.

EM: What, would it make the tire last longer, or it would inflate it?

AW: Make it last longer, make it last longer. And when one went on the rim, on the rim...

EM: Run smoother.

AW: Run smoother.

EM: Okay. Okay. So, who passed first, mother or daddy?

HA: My daddy.

AW: My daddy passed first.

EM: Where was he buried at?

AW: Uh.....??????

EM: He's buried down there...

AW: Yeah.

EM: How long did mother live, after father passed?

HA: She lived, about five or six, about six years I reckon..

EM: Who did the sewing, for mother, a sewing machine or hand or what?

HA: Sewed with a sewing machine and hand.

EM: Uh, where did y'all get your water from when y'all lived in Camp town?

HA: We got it from.....

EM: Before they had a spigot?

HA: I don't know nothing about that.

EM: Did you always have lights, when you lived in the city?

HA: Yeah. ...

AW: No, we didn't have to light but lamp light.

HA: Yeah, we had lamp light.

EM: That's what I thought, the streets weren't paved or nothing.... You remember when Granville Street wasn't paved.

AW: I remember when.....??????

EM: And you had to now, you say that you had lamps....

AW: Yeah, had lamps...

EM: Okay, but you got, the city had spigots, running water?

6/27/95

AW: Yeah, running water..

EM: They did?

AW: Yeah.

EM: Okay now, tell me about the lamp and the light at night. How did you get the city lit up at night?

AW: Well, they weren't no city light then, weren't no light, couldn't see.

EM: Okay, now I'm going to help you a little bit, you, tell me, you know Mr. Garrick, live over in Garrick alley. What was his name?

AW: Garrick?

EM: Uh-huh, it was Garrick, over there, you know, where Mr. Little Rogers and them used to live, it was called Garrick alley.

HA: Uh-huh.

EM: You ever see Mr. Garrick?

HA: No, I ain't never seen him.

EM: Okay, let me tell you what he used to do. You had lamps on every pole, he would go around and light them at night, he or somebody would go back in the day, and put them out, now I'm going to tell you where the only pole is in Granville county, and I would like to have it. Charles Cooper cleans the.....?????? cleaners, you look at that pole, when you go by, and you will say, I remember that pole, it still has the arms, and everything. That's the only one I have seen in Oxford, might be another one, but I have been looking for one, and when you ride by there, you will remember that, and when you see me, you'll say, Eddie, I remember those poles, and they was all over town. Because see, that's a black area, and if they put one there, you know they was all over town. I know you forget, but that's what Mr. Garret did, is what I was told, by Mr. Uh Jones, and the people on Pent Avenue told me that Mr. Garret would light the lamps, and put them out the next day. You knew, that's what you had too. Uh, so you, you people had lamps, what about what school did y'all start off in?

HA: I started at, I was at the Grady School there on Orange Street and .....????????

EM: Okay, let's walk it slow now.....

**END OF SIDE A**

**SIDE B BEGINS A DIFFERENT INTERVIEW**

JAMES EDDIE McCOY: November the 9<sup>th</sup>, 1995, I'm visiting with Mr. Theodore Roosevelt Parker, the month, the date he was born is October the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1907, he is presently 88..... Okay, we are ready now, Mr. Parker, what area did you grow up in, uh, down in the Wilton area?

THEODORE PARKER: Wilton, well, we called it Grover Hill....

EM: Uh-huh..

TP: Grover Hill.

EM: Grover Hill?

TP: Yeah.

EM: But it covers both, some say Wilton, some say Grover Hill?

TP: Yeah, but we always say Grover Hill, such called it near Grover Hill....

EM: Were the only child in your house?

TP: No.

EM: How many were y'all?

TP: Uh, five.

EM: How many girls?

TP: Three girls.

EM: How many boys? Two boys?

TP: Yeah. Three.

EM: Three boys and three girls?

11./9/.95

TP: Yeah.

EM: Uh, you want to name the girls first?

TP: Mozella, Francis, and Emma....

EM: Okay, now you got the boys.

TP: Theodore, Charlie, and Richard.

EM: Okay, uh, did your father share crop, or he was on his own land?

TP: Owned his own land.

EM: Was that granddaddy's land, or was it....

TP: No, he bought it.

EM: He bought it? Your father bought, so, your granddaddy was he a sharecropper?

TP: Yeah.

EM: He was?

TP: Yeah.

EM: And your father bought the land, that they sharecrop on?

TP: No, he bought it straight out of his daddy, didn't never....????

EM: His father didn't?

TP: No.

EM: Where did your granddaddy come from?

TP: He was from around what we call around.....?????

EM: Talaho?

TP: Talaho, back up there, called it..

EM: And so uh, was your father born up there in Talaho or was he born down where he was now?



11./9/.95

TP: I think he was born up there in the section what they call Talaho, up in that section, I don't know exactly where abouts.

EM: How many, do you know how many brothers and sisters your granddaddy had? Your father's daddy had?

TP: No.

EM: You don't know, you never heard them talk about?

TP: No, I sure didn't.

EM: Okay, uh, did your father, were you old enough to remember your granddaddy?

TP: Yeah.

EM: 'Bout how old were you when he passed?

TP: I was about, I guess I was about ten, twelve years old when he passed.

EM: Oh, you knew what was going on then.

TP: Well, just about.

EM: Did he come to live with y'all?

TP: No. He died over there in the.....??????, he never did live with us.

EM: Was one of your father's sisters or brothers looking after him?

TP: Well, one his sisters looking after him.

EM: What was her name?

TP: I mean, one of Papa's sisters.

EM: I know what you are talking about, Yeah. I understand what you were saying.

TP: Ewell.

EM: Ewell?

TP: Yeah.

EM: She was the one that he stayed with?

11./9/.95

TP: Yeah.

EM: 'Cause they lived close and stayed right in the same area?

TP: Well, he lived with her after his wife died.

EM: Oh, okay. Uh, what was Ewell's name?

TP: She was Ewell Parker.

EM: Okay. And what was your granddaddy name?

TP: June Parker.

EM: Uh, did you know how many sisters and brothers your daddy had? Your aunts, your uncles and your aunts on your father's side?

TP: Um, Tom, and uh, Theodore, and Eddie, and um, Lee, one more....

EM: You got four...These are four boys, you ain't named no girls yet.

TP: I think that's all the boys. Tom, did I say Tom?

EM: Uh-huh.

TP: Well, that's all the boys.

EM: What about girls?

TP: Uh, Annie, Mary, and Corella, and Ewell.

EM: That's eight, four boys and four girls. Uh, did, as far as you know, did all of them stay in the same area, or did any of them live up north or live somewhere else?

TP: Some of them lived up north, after they got grown, they left....

EM: They did?

TP: Yeah.

EM: Did they.....

TP: Wait a minute, there is one more girl....

11./9/.95

EM: Okay.

TP: Lowell....

EM: Lowell?

TP: Yeah, you know Lowell Hawkins, live up there, right there across from the first Baptist church....

EM: oh, Yeah, Yeah.

TP: Lowell Hawkins...

EM: Yeah, I know who you are talking about.

TP: She was sick for years.....

EM: Okay, so that's nine?

TP: Yeah.

EM: Um, did your father read and write?

TP: No.

EM: Um, could his, his, your grandfather on his side, he couldn't read and write either?

TP: Not that I know of, he didn't, but his wife did.

EM: Could your mother read and write?

TP: A little bit.

EM: Um, what I'm going in is this now, your father could read the bible?

TP: No.

EM: Okay, if your father couldn't read and write, and he could work and buy land, we going to go back and try to find out why, how could he do it without reading and writing. You know that's all, you understand, that's what....I know that.....???????? It's amazing how those people can do it ain't it? And that's what I always say, on almost all my tapes, how strong those people were. They had strength. They was strong, we are not strong as those people were. We are not strong, they had strength. He had, he took on the world, and didn't even, couldn't even, and he could maneuver hisself enough, that you, that he could do what, do what little he could, with what he had, he knew what to do with it.

11./9/.95

And he worked hard too. Because, they was sharecroppers, how many times do you think they moved around?

TP: Yeah, that's hard to tell, I ain't even try to think of that....Oh, my daddy didn't move but one time....

EM: From Talaho over there.....

TP: See, he uh, moved right there close to Wilton store, to, when he bought this land. He lived right there close to Wilton store. And he moved from there to where he bought, he bought it several years before he moved to it.

EM: What did you call that place he bought?

TP: Uh...

EM: What area, was it a name? Was it poplar hill, or whatever?

TP: Just, uh, Grover Hill.

EM: Grover Hill, Ok. Now, Wilton store, is that the store that's still down there, sets in the.....

TP: Yeah.

EM: But it's a different store?

TP: Different store.

EM: But that's where it was?

TP: That's right.

EM: Okay, what did your father and them do? Did he raise any cotton?

TP: That's about all he raised.

EM: Was cotton?

TP: At that time, Yeah. Until he bought the land , and we moved from there, and we got big enough to help him, and we started raising tobacco.

EM: So, he was working for a white man?

11./9/.95

TP: No, well, he rent the farm for two or three years, they was renting the whole farm, and they paid the man, I'd say a five hundred pound bail of cotton, and rent that every year.

EM: How could he, I know you don't know, he had sense enough to know how to rent, Mr. Parker, so if he could rent, he could do a lot more things, couldn't he? He knew how to rent.....?????

TP: If you'll allow me, I'll tell you something smarter than that.

EM: Go on tell me.

TP: He, he kept, have cotton, and carry a bail of cotton in town, that weigh five hundred pound, and man say I'll give you 3 cent and a eighth, he could figure it before that man could do it with a pencil.

EM: That's amazing. Well, you know, that's what this tape is for, it's just a learning....

TP: You don't find many people that use that now.....

EM: They will buy a calculator if they are going to do anything. We can go in a store, and we know how much change we supposed to get back.....

TP: That's right...

EM: But, these children now can't, they have to look up, you know they can't....Yeah, and see we know how much they owe us back before they ring the calculator, 'cause we can count. Uh, there was a lady I interviewed, told about her father could read the bible, and he thought it was a curse or something to read any other piece of paper, but he could read it, she say, inside and out. But he just, that's what he had faith in. And it's strength, a man, take your father, he go out and rent a farm for three or four years, and knew he could make it. Your mother was good, wasn't she?

TP: Very good.

EM: She had to been. So uh, were, you wasn't old enough to go to school when he was in Wilton?

TP: No. No.

EM: Okay, any of your brothers and sisters was?

TP: No, none of them was old enough til we moved.

EM: Everybody was born.....

11./9/.95

TP: Yeah. Except one..

EM: He kind of had a start, though, 'cause they didn't have any children, did they get married when they was up at Talaho or did they get married when they got to Wilton?

TP: Yeah, he married while, he was working 'bout for somebody else at that time, but his daddy was still living up in that section.

EM: Okay, and so, when he got married, he still didn't have kids right away?

TP: No.

EM: Okay, so he had about three years before he started his family, because....

TP: Two or three...

EM: Yeah, 'cause he was up there, and then moved down there, And uh, how did he pay the man for the, how many acres did he buy from the man first, or did he buy it all at one time?

TP: He bought ninety-six acres at first.

EM: Ninety six acres? And what did he have, just his team, and stuff like that/

TP: That's right.

EM: And how long, how old did y'all have to be for him to buy some more, just guessing.

TP: We had got, my sisters, they were probably eight or ten or twelve years old, something like that. Around twelve, I'd say.

EM: Okay.

TP: And uh, I was probably five or six, something like that. I might have been six.

EM: How many brothers and sisters is younger than you?

TP: Uh, two.

EM: Just two...

TP: Two boys and a girl, younger than I.

11./9/95

EM: Okay, did you wonder where he got the money from? That's what I always ask people?

TP: Well, Yeah, I uh, the fellow run up Wilton up there, named Nat ....????, he, and he had moved, I mean, he run the store, and uh, 'cause the man he bought the land from was the same man he had rented his farm from, uh, working for, well, he was just paying the man rent, that's all. Well, he bought the land, he offered to sell papa the land, and then, Papa went to this man Nat and borrowed money to pay for it.

EM: Was he a black man or a white man?

TP: All white, both of them was white.

EM: Uh, how did your father convince Nat, was a white man, that he could buy ninety acres of land and pay for it?

TP: Well, now, best I understood is, ever since then he just knew he was a good farmer, a good worker, and they, and they just knew how....it would be.....

EM: Honest, Yeah. ..

TP: And see at the time he was, before he bought that land, before he moved there, he was buying the stuff from Nat.....????

EM: Okay. Okay, so that's where he, he had established credit, and his wisdom and his drive as a hard working man.....

TP: And Nat saw that he was a business man, and he decided to look out for him that much.

EM: Um, it's amazing what, you know, you talk about, you talking about nine children, and then a man with nine children, they gotta have clothes, your mother had to know how to sew, and you have to know how to do a whole lot of things, and your father had to work, and keep with what's going on, and knew how to buy and everything, he taught y'all values, didn't he?

TP: Well, Yeah. He sure did.

EM: He taught y'all what hard work would pay off.

TP: That's right.

EM: HE gave y'all pride.

TP: Right.

11./9/.95

EM: And y'all working for something, and you knew you was working for something.

TP: That's right.

EM: And you knew you needed, everybody needed, and you had to sacrifice.

TP: That's right.

EM: How could they do all of that?

TP: I started out just like my daddy, I lived with my daddy, I didn't have but five dollars, and went and rented a farm, rented a farm and bought a mule that same year, and didn't pay the man nothing down on, yes I paid him twenty-five dollars down on the mule, and started on my own farm, but when I left my daddy, I didn't have five dollars.

EM: My father told me, if you work for a man, and if he pay you fifty dollars a week, and if you could work for yourself and take care of yourself off of twenty five, he said take the twenty five.

TP: That's right

EM: And learn to live off the twenty five.

TP: That's right.

EM: Yeah, that's what he told me, he said that's what to do. Uh, y'all have a, your father and them was strong, wasn't they? Your mother.

TP: Yeah.

EM: They sacrifice, y'all always had bread there, didn't you?

TP: Always.

EM: Always had what it took to make it.

TP: That's right.

EM: And all y'all knew what it took, 'cause your parents set examples.

TP: Set examples.

EM: And everybody had to pull their share.



11./9/.95

TP: Did do it.

EM: I know what you mean, you don't have to tell me, I have cut wood at night, or a stick of wood hit you at night, kill you. That's just like I like to ask y'all what you do on Sunday, you said you knew what you was going to do on Sunday, 'cause.....Or what, what your children now, they think you're crazy, wouldn't they? I told them too, you were right, you knew where you were going when Sunday come.

TP: After, I'd say after I got five or six years old, after all, but my two sisters, momma would get them dressed, dress me, and we'd walk to union Sunday school every Sunday.

EM: How many miles one way?

TP: Uh, around five.

EM: Oh, Yeah, that's s.....don't make no difference, I know four or five miles is what y'all start out with.

TP: That's right.

EM: Okay, now, did she go with y'all or y'all go on ahead of her?

TP: No, she didn't go with us.....she...

EM: That was nice, send y'all on?

TP: That's right, and I don't remember my sister going without me going.

EM: Did your father have a role in the church? What church did y'all go to then?

TP: Union. Union Chapel just over there just before you get to Wilton.

EM: Okay, that's where y'all went, that's where y'all was brought up at?

TP: Yeah.

EM: Okay, um, did your father visit much, was he a community leader by being a black land owner or, did he help people like, that didn't know how to negotiate?

TP: No, I'd say he was, well, I won't say he was a leader, but he was, he knew the community, and the community knew him. 'Cause he mixed with....

EM: And y'all was family?

TP: No, not....

11./9/.95

EM: I mean the whole community was.....

TP: He'd, he'd go around.....

EM: .....and look out for them...

TP: I won't say look out for them, but they knew him well.

EM: Was he easy to help somebody?

TP: Yeah, he always would help somebody.

EM: Your mother?

TP: Yeah, my mother would too, you see, I'll tell you this about my daddy, the way he was, back then, 'cause the way I can tell it, it ain't going to sound much to you....

EM: Oh, just tell it...

TP: See, on his farm where he, you may not believe this, but in the winter time the poor people's around, I call them, didn't have nothing to go from but what they could work about a little work to do in the wintertime. Go out and work for women, and they, papa would plant peas enough sew peas enough, and let the community come down and pick them on half shares, and so they could have something to eat through the winter.

EM: That was nice.

TP: Now, he done that. They come down there and pick them on half shares. Well, he could probably help somebody from this time a year, from now on, help somebody kill hogs, and give a piece of meat that they couldn't go to the store and buy.

EM: Were a lot of that acres of land cleared when y'all went there or y'all.....

TP: Mighty little was clear.....?????????

EM: You know what I thought? Guess what I thought how y'all dig, get a tree up. I thought y'all cut the tree down half and then dig the stump up. And a man laughed and said, he laughed at me, he said how in the world you think we gonna get the stump up, he said no, do it make sense if you dig the roots up before the tree fall, I said Yeah, that do make sense, he said Yeah, and you know, I didn't know any better, it make sense, they were laughing at me.

TP: Well, when you don't know, you don't know.

11./9/95

EM: No, you don't know it, right. Why did y'all, why could you cut so much wood?

TP: Well, we saw the wood, what we cut, we cut ....???? wood we call it, know anything about cutting cobble wood? You cut it eight foot long, and split it, cut it out a tree about like that, make four pieces out of it, pine tree. Eight foot long, and split it, and you have pins, and about thirty six to a pin. And three pins would make a cobble.

EM: I'm lost now what you talking about pins.

TP: Well, they pinned it up, make four corners up, you know pinned up....

EM: You put a wrapping around....

TP: No, you pin it up just like this in the air, stick cross here....

EM: Okay okay,

TP: And there is about thirty-six sticks, I think thirty six, and it takes three of them pins to make a cobble. That's what you would sell at first, a cobble. Know about what you get for a cobble?

EM: Huh uh.

TP: Five dollars. You cut it like this winter, sell it next winter and carry the .....???? which was about nine miles, carry it down there and sell it for about five dollars. Your own wood.

EM: Okay. Now, what about saw mill, and lumber company, who was the lumber man or who did the sawing, who had a saw mill?

TP: No, it was uh, I can't think of the man's name. It was uh, maybe I can't think, but anyway, he uh, bought this timber, and uh, cut the timber, and we'd get right in behind him, get up what he left, clean it up, and the trees that he didn't cut, if they were too big for us to grub up, we'd just cut them down and use them for wood. And then, I'd sell dog wood and different size trees, where it wasn't so hard to get them, we'd leave them and grub them up. And we would clean it up. I have started in July cleaning up land, and cleaning up all the winter, 'cause we wouldn't raise no tobacco, just had cotton.

EM: Now, uh, we wouldn't be strong enough to do stuff like that, children now would they?

TP: Yeah, they do it, yes they could too. If you say about that, they could do it. The trouble is, you have them get grown before you start doing things, then get lazy, and they won't do nothing.

11./9/.95

EM: You know, I go to barber shop, and you are right, and you name the things we used to eat, and you couldn't give it to a child. A raw sweet potato...

TP: That's right.

EM: Turnips, cinnamon, locust and all that stuff, them children would die if they put that stuff in their stomach. But they wouldn't die if you put something on their butt and worked them....

TP: That's right, that's one thing, I'll say this and I'll stick to it, we was raised all, me, .....?????? and every fall somebody kill a cow and go around and sell it, and peas and everything we could save for the winter dry, and canned, and that's what we eat through the winter. All that, and do that at home. And getting about, find out how many women can can stuff.

EM: That's what you said.....??????????? You are right, they, I don't know, it's, we make up too many excuses.....

TP: That's right, you go to, I ain't never been, and you go to the army, and you tell me you don't have no choice about eating.

EM: It don't rain in the army, it rain's on the army. Uh, I'm going to tell you what happened just the other morning on TV, this herb, now, I know we, if we go out here and tell somebody we ate honeysuckles they think you are crazy, if you show them that, do you know them people dry them honeysuckles out, we was eating them, we just eat them cause we was kids, I was just playing, I guess y'all did the same way just show people you eat honeysuckles, and that's one that that lady, I don't know if she had it dry, like corn flakes, she had it on TV, and one morning this week, and honeysuckles, I told .....??? I said you remember we used to eat honeysuckles just to show children we could eat them, and we were playing, and here this lady done found out, pick them and dry them out, and use them.....well, it was some kind of cereal, like corn flakes, it was a, it was a, a, just a, a cereal, and a whole lot of things she was naming, that they learned how to dry stuff, that we was eating, and we didn't even know that it was good for you. But I'm going to tell you one thing that I used to get killed with, green apples, my father said boy, at four o'clock in the morning, three or four, my stomach would be killing me.

TP: Well, some children just couldn't eat it, their stomach wouldn't take it.

EM: You know I would keep doing it and get killed 'cause I would wake them up.

TP: Uh, did you ever knowed anybody ever using fire weeds for medicine.

EM: What?

TP: Fire weeds?

11./9/.95

EM: What is fire weeds?

TP: It's a weed that grows in the woods, it grows about that tall, you pull that up, now I don't know how you make it, but you pull it up and dried, and use it for medicine.

EM: Fire weed? Why did you name it fire weed?

TP: I don't know why, but that's all we ever hear it. If I could find some, I'll try to find it, and I'll try to save it for you.

EM: Okay, uh, how did your uncles, your father's brothers and sisters, did they work hard to have something too?

TP: They just sharecropped all their life, all of them that I know.

EM: They just didn't have the drive?

TP: Now, you take my uncle Eddie, he run a cafe there in Oxford for a long time.

EM: What was his name?

TP: I mean Tom.

EM: Where was it at?

TP: Uh, let's see, what building is it.....no, they remodeled it, you know where uh, Western Auto used to be?

EM: Uh-huh.

TP: You know the back back there? You know that little one way street, used to be one way, you know that used to be a lot of old buildings up in there....

EM: There was a service station in there too..

TP: No, no service station....

EM: .....????/ House, and then the warehouse.

TP: You pass the warehouse before the toll both, Mitchell's warehouse there?

EM: Uh-huh.

11./9/.95

TP: Well, back there, there where he ran the cafe, right there end of that warehouse back there. A little place back there, he run a cafe. Named Tom Parker. Well, he lived there.....

EM: He did?

TP: Yeah.

EM: Now, um....

TP: And uh, he run that for several years, 'cause I was running around, and he died and just went .....????? they think he did.

EM: Uh-huh. Uh, so, uh, your father, you mean he got it from his father, the strength and everything to have something, to want to have something?

TP: Well, no, I think he just had that in mind, just to do something like that.

EM: Do you think your parents was ever in slavery?

TP: No.

EM: What, why? What did they tell you?

TP: Well, in asking and talking about slavery, to the best I know, none of them didn't know about.....

EM: They were free blacks...Okay, Okay, and y'all was free, it was a certain, it was about three hundred free blacks in Granville County, I don't know how many free blacks after the war, you know after war was free blacks, and then after slavery, it was a whole lot of free blacks, and you can tell by your landowner and stuff like that, that uh, what about, let's go, what about your mother, where did she come from?

TP: She was raised in Granville County.

EM: Up in Talaho Stem, she come from that area too?

TP: No, I think she was raised most around Cinnamon Grove, in that area.

EM: Okay, okay, over in Tar River road, over in Tar River. Oh, okay, uh, what was her family, her maiden name?

TP: Wortham.

EM: Okay.

11./9/.95

TP: Her daddy was named Mose Wortham.

EM: Well, I think all the Worthams are kin too. Yeah, so that's another family, on both sides yours is easy, because everybody is almost in the family in Granville county. Okay, what other Wortham did your mother, did she have uh, a lot of sisters and brothers?

TP: Yeah.

EM: That was Worthams?

TP: Yeah.

EM: Did they live, which way did they go, up north or did they live in Granville county?

TP: They left and went north after they got grown anyway, after they got up, I'd say grown, they left and went north. There was a bunch on them, I don't know whether I could call all their names or not.

EM: Now, let's go back to Parkers. Nick Parker, Wolla Parker.....name them, go with their daddy or whatever you know.

TP: Nick Parker's children?

EM: I knew them all, but was his daddy named, Wolla Parker's daddy was named Nick?

TP: Yeah.

EM: Okay, so nick was named after his daddy?

TP: Yeah.

EM: Did you know his daddy's brothers and sisters?

TP: No, I didn't. I hear people call their name, but I don't, didn't know them.

EM: Did you know they lived down there too, in Wilton?

TP: Yeah, at uh, they lived down in Fairport. I don't remember them living in Wilton.

EM: I mean Fairport, that's what uh, Wolla Parker told me.

TP: Yeah.

EM: Did they sharecrop too?

11./9/.95

TP: I don't know.

EM: Did your father, was, could your father carpenter too?

TP: Carpenter?

EM: Yeah, could build things?

TP: No.

EM: Okay, that's just, that's Parkers, they the ones that was talent, and .....

TP: Yeah, they taken that up.

EM: 'Cause Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hicks used to teach carpentry over at Mary Potter. Uh, so, your father and your mother was members of union chapel?

TP: Yeah, my mother was a member of cinery grove.

EM: Okay, after y'all, your father bought the eighty acres, how many did he buy next time?

TP: I think it was a hundred and some, I don't know exactly how much.

EM: And y'all was, you knew you was helping him buy it and everything?

TP: yep.

EM: That's good, and then he bought some more another time?

TP: Yeah, he bought some more, several years later, he bought some more....

EM: So, he had about three hundred acres of land?

TP: 'bout three hundred?

EM: Did he divide it between y'all or did y'all?

TP: No, no he didn't make no will.

EM: Do you still have it?

TP: Nope, they lost it.



11./9/.95

EM: Because of taxes?

TP: No, because ,well.....tell the truth, the one that.....????????????? and he just got in debt and got rid of it..

EM: I know what you are saying, all the work y'all did was in vain?

TP: Just about.

EM: With the house coming in, you couldn't help it, because you couldn't help it your father, your mother died, he remarried?

TP: No, she was living but they separated, and he remarried.

EM: Okay, okay. That's a twist a piece of ball thread for a lawyer to do that. Um, how you, how you think about, and you know I been coming around here talking to Mrs. Parker about different things, and I'm trying to get as much history as I can, what do you think about it? Do you think I'm doing a good job, or is it needed or what?

TP: Well, I think it's a good job to get the history, but now what are you going to do with it?

EM: I'm going to try to, I'm gonna try to write a book, and my research papers I'm willing to the library, where every family can go in there and research their family....

TP: The history of it?

EM: Uh-huh, Yeah. Uh, that's what I'm going to do with it.

TP: Well, that will be nice.

EM: Yeah.

TP: Now, reason I asked that, I've known a lot of people to do research like that, and still they never did do nothing with it. Drop it somewhere or another, it get lost. And you never did hear nothing about it.

EM: That's true.

TP: And that's why I wanted to see what you had in mind doing with it.

EM: I have so much of my money, I have about three or four thousand dollars in this thing, of my money, so you know I'm going to try to do something with it, if I got my money, you are right. What I'm going to do is, um, will all my papers and stuff to the

11./9/.95

library, and your tape and everything, your family will be there. Ask a question...you might let me have some money! (laughing)

TP: How long you think it will be before you put the book out?

EM: I uh, this summer I want to hire the person that come in that did it together, to be read, to go through my stuff, and prepare, prepare for, for, for a person that can write the book, I think about a year. I think, 97 I'll be starting.

TP: Well, I hope to see it.

EM: Well, I hope you do too, just keep hanging in...

TP: Try to.

EM: That's all you do, is just hang in here, y'all is real nice to me, I worry you to death, but Mrs. Parker know so much, had to ask her everything....Uh, Mrs. Parker, while you are here, we need to verify some things too, uh, let me, who stayed at home with your parents, as your parents got older?

TP: Uh, well ,uh, myself, and my brother, Richard stayed there.

EM: Uh-huh, did you have to milk cows?

TP: Yeah, milk cows, feed hogs....

EM: Everybody had a job?

TP: Everybody had a job, that's right.

EM: Your father bought what he could for you, didn't he? Good provider?

TP: Yeah, he, he provided for us.

EM: Did people know he.....did they know he couldn't read and write?

TP: Yeah.

EM: They did? He still was willing and dealing? That's what.....?????????????  
Robert Amos, I didn't know that either.

TP: Well, I knew Robert pretty good after I moved over here, but first, business.....???? in business. I don't think Robert, I don't reckon he could read and write.

11./9/.95

EM: He couldn't. He couldn't. Bill told me.

TP: Yeah, I know....

EM: And that's the same thing about your father, you know, it's amazing.

TP: And they was good buddies. They were good buddies. I hear my daddy talk about Robert Amos before I ever I knew anything about Robert Amos. He see him at different churches, you know.

EM: He sent seven children to college, and all of them graduated. His second set, and the first one.....

TP: Yeah, my daddy, he was a good provider, as I told you a while ago, they would pick a black man there, all of them I call, most of them were women working by the day, through the summer time, it was raising a family.

EM: Who built the school for y'all to go to?

TP: Well, to tell the truth, the school was built when we moved down there, I don't know who built that, when we moved there, it was built.

EM: How would they, did your father start giving them wood and taking care, blacks in the community.

TP: Well, he, he give wood, for a regular while.

EM: What was the teacher down there name?

TP: Martha Owens.

EM: Martha Owens?

TP: Yeah, she lived right back our church there, that's where her home was.

EM: How long did Mr. ....?????? teach? A long time?

TP: Yeah, I don't know how many years, but she taught there a long time.

EM: She was related to Thomas Owens, and that Owen, or that's a different set? Did Mrs. Martha go to college, or she went?

TP: I don't think she went to college, she went to high school, and she might have taken up lessons somewhere.

11./9/.95

EM: Uh-huh, how many years did she stay, a long time?

TP: She stayed there a regular while, I, I really don't know how many years.

EM: Did you ever know another one come in after you left?

TP: Yeah, I know another one come in.

EM: What was her name?

TP: Uh, girl from Franklin, ....?????? anyway, I don't know....

EM: Was there ever a man teacher ever taught there?

TP: Yeah, uh, Canada...

EM: Mr. Canada?

TP: Yeah.

EM: Who else?

TP: And then, uh, Martha Anderson.

EM: Martha Anderson?

TP: Yeah, she's a Anderson over there used to live back up here 'bout, back.....