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U.19 Long Civil Rights Movement: Breaking New Ground

Interview U-0920
Warren Thomas
4 August 2012

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Abstract –Warren Thomas, Sr

Interviewee: Warren Thomas Sr

Interviewer: Ashley Moore

Interview date: August 4, 2012

Location: Prairie View, TX

Length:

This interview was organized around several themes, all connected to the early life and family history of The Oldham Settlement: Major William Oldham, Spanish Deed, 1280 acres, 320 tracts of land, Union Well School, 136 years John the Baptist Church, Chance Farm 19,000 acres, prison, plantations, oil rigs, early Italian settlers, Hispanics, Korean War, World War II, Cecily Texas, orchard, pears, peaches, watermelon, peanuts, corn, milo, chickens, milk cows, sweet potatoes, cotton,

Field Notes-Warren Thomas, Sr.

Interviewee: Warren Thomas, Sr.

Interviewer: Ashley Moore

Interview date: August 4 2012

Location: Caldwell, TX

Length: 1:05:08, 33:58

The Interviewee: Warren Thomas, Sr. was born December 25, 1926 on the Oldham Settlement. Thomas owns a tract of land, 340 acres, on the Oldham Settle. He has farmed all of his life. He has three brothers and three sisters. Thomas was drafted into the military service in 1945. He served in World War II and Korean War. He spent 3 years in the service. He later married to his now wife Stella Thomas. The coupled has one son and daughter. He is the historian for John the Baptist Church located on the Oldham Settlement.

The Interviewer: Ashley Moore is a Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent in Harris County. She has been working as an Extension Agent for over eight months and is a current student at a historically black university. She resides in Houston, TX.

The Interview: The interview was conducted in Caldwell, TX on the Oldham Settlement. Thomas is by far the best historian I've ever meet in person. He recalled the early history of Oldham Settlement vividly recounting events like a true historian. At some point in the interview the batteries died out and new ones were added. Then the sd card was full but Thomas continued talking. It was difficulty to get him to quiet him as I erased some older dated interviews from the recorded. Some words were also difficulty to understand. He recalled the land deeds begin written in Spanish language. Spoke happily about members of the Oldham family and said some were just a plain fool. Thomas said the family also owns 50 acres in Cecily Texas. He owned 29 cows and 1 bull until the 2011 Texas drought. He sold all his cows and bull. He seemed sad saying "this is the first time I ever been without cows". He land has an oil rig and he receives a check every month. Thomas is open for a follow up interview at any point.