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## **R.44. Special Research Projects: Carolina Cooks, Carolina Eats**

Interview R-0797

Tim Stevens

26 March 2015

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**ABSTRACT – Tim Stevens**

Interviewee: Tim Stevens

Interviewer: Carly Griffin & Alyssa Andress

Interview Date: March 16th, 2015

Location: 3411 Stevens Sausage Road, Smithfield, North Carolina 27577

Length: 30 minutes and 5 seconds

This interview was with Tim Stevens, the owner of Stevens Sausage in Smithfield, North Carolina. His company packs meats, especially pork products. It has been a family business ever since his Grandfather had started it. During the interview, Tim talks about his family history, why they got into the meat packing industry, where the meat comes from, how the company has grown and adjusted to the changing economy, and what type of products they sell and which are the most popular. This interview in Eastern North Carolina is part of the American Studies Department's Carolina Eats, Carolina Cooks (AMST/FOLK 375) spring 2015 course to showcase significant food and culture voices around North Carolina.

FIELD NOTES – TIM STEVENS  
(Compiled March 16th, 2015)

Interviewee: Tim Stevens

Interviewer: Carly Griffin & Alyssa Andress

Interview Date: March 16th, 2015

Location: Stevens Sausage Company plant in Smithfield, North Carolina

THE INTERVIEWEE. Tim Stevens is married to Anity Stevens and has two children, Allison and Olivia. He is middle aged and runs the family business.

THE INTERVIEWER. Carly Griffin and Alyssa Andress are students at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW. The interview took place at Stevens Sausage Company's plant. Tim talked about his family's background and history of how and why they got into the meat packing industry. In addition, Tim took Carly and Alyssa on a tour of the grounds and the plant. The only difficulties were trying to take pictures while we were on tour of the plant because we did not want to be rude and interrupt Tim when he was talking about the processes of his business. Also, there are spots in the recordings where it picks up sounds of closer to the mic and can be distracting.

NOTE ON RECORDING. A few gaps and awkward pauses. Tim gets distracted here and there by his phone.