

Uncorrected Transcript of

Interview

with

**RUBY ANDERSON
WILMER TABORN PEACE
28 AUGUST 1996**

by James Eddie McCoy, Jr.

Transcribed by Wesley S. White

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

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[START OF SIDE A]

**RUBY ANDERSON and WILMER PEACE
08/28/96**

JAMES EDDIE McCOY: Today's date is August the 28th 1996. I'm James McCoy, I'm visiting with Mrs. Ruby Anderson and Mrs. Wilmer Taborn Peace. Uh, we going to talk to Mrs. Peace and Mrs. Ruby Anderson going to explain to Mrs. Peace how she is related to the Days, and the Andersons, because Mrs. Peace lost that piece, the connection by moving away from Oxford. Okay, Ruby, uh, what church did you go to, and the Andersons was going to?

Ruby Anderson: New Light Baptist.

EM: Uh, what road, or what highway was that on?

RA: 158.

EM: So, that was on the Andersons' property, and your family graveyard?

RA: Yeah.

EM: You still have family in that graveyard?

RA: Yes.

EM: Uh, who is the name of the people who is in that graveyard?

RA: Well, my mother, my father, my sister, I'll give the names is you want them. Karen, Linda, Myrtle, and my mother Artelia, and Alfred Anderson.

EM: Okay, Uh, Mrs. Peace, uh, they, the church has the deed to the graveyard, and they sold the deed to the Peace for property, because it was so small, but the graveyard is still there, and the deed, the church has the deed. So the graveyard at New Light, is still the Andersons' property. Uh, now, Ruby, you went to school where?

RA: At Mary Potter.

EM: Okay, uh, the Anderson's uh, people out here, before they went to Mary Potter, they went to school in New Light church first. Uh, New Light Church came out of Hester church, Mrs. Peace, which is Hester church is on 96, it was a Mr. Curtis, was a slave, and the master asked him what he wanted, wanted to give him some land for a house, and he said he wanted a church. And, I'm giving you some history about how New Light church got started, and I think they probably started out of????????...or whatever, or some frame building, and then Mr. Curtis probably got enough members, and they decided to move up to Roxboro road, and that's how New Light is one of the oldest, is the oldest

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black church, that's on paper, that they have records of, that I have researched. That is the oldest black church, that I have researched that I can prove with paper documents. Now, what community did you grow up in?

Wilmer Peace: Uh, Olive Grove.

EM: You came up in Olive Grove community? And where did you go to school at?

WP: I went to Olive Grove school,???????

EM: Uh, was that uh, how far did you have to walk to school?

WP: Four miles.

EM: Four miles?

WP: Uh huh.

EM: Every day?

WP: Every day.

EM: Uh, who else walked with you?

WP: My, my uh brother, and my baby sister, I went, after my mother passed, I would take my baby sister, and carry her, leave her at Aunt Bessie, and then Charles and I would go to school.

EM: What was your baby sister's name?

WP: Louise, Louise Taborn.

EM: Okay, and then, what was your mother's name?

WP: My mother's name was uh, Jettie Jones Taborn. Her maiden name was Jones.

EM: Uh huh, and where was she from?

WP: Tallyho, up at Stems. Stems, North Carolina.

EM: Your mother was a Jones?

WP: Uh huh, yes.

EM: What was her full name?

WP: Jettie Jones Taborn

EM: How you spell that, Jettie?

WP: Yeah, J-e-t-t-i-e

EM: Jones?

WP: Yes.

EM: Okay, she was a Taborn?

WP: Yes. She married a Taborn, Eugene Taborn.

EM: Okay, now, Ruby, I have been talking with Mrs. Anderson, and we been trying to work in your family, and you came down, and I'm glad you came today to help us, what we can find, Dr. Anderson, and we are trying to get our doctor's in the family straight, and who's side of the family they came on, so now what you and Ruby will be working with me on today is trying to explain how the Taborns and the Days and the Andersons got married, now, Ruby, you start with your mother, married your daddy's sister married a Taborn?

RA: Yeah.

EM: Okay, you start with that, and explain that.

RA: Well, after mother and daddy got married, my daddy's sister married my momma's brother. To that union, they had two children, Ernest Day, and B.B. Taborn, then momma's brother passed, and then daddy's sister married again. And that time, she married John Day, and they had five children: Abraham, Lila, Pearl, L.D., and it's one more, I can't think of her name. And uh, other than that, I really don't know, one of them lived in Newport News, but I don't know her name. Uh, Ruby, how did, with me trying to do, talking back and forth with you, I got, I got mixed up when it came to, when the Days on the other side was Taborns and was not Days. And that mixed me up. How did...

RA: How did that come about?

EM: Yeah.

RA: Well, my daddy's sister, Cappy, she was a Anderson, okay, she married Esker Taborn first, and then after she had, to that union was two children, Ernest Day, and B. B. Taborn. Ernest Day, and B. B. Taborn, then momma's brother passed, and then she married John Day, and he had children and she had children. And Aunt Cappie just made

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Ernest as Ernest Day, instead of Ernest Taborn. And B. B. Day, she changed them all, so all of her children would be the same.

EM: So when she changed Ernest and B. B. Day.....

RA: Uh huh, she had got married to John Day. Had Lila, Pearl, uh, uh, L.D., I know it was five children. And then she wanted all of the children to be Days.

EM: But the first one's was Taborns?

RA: The first one's was Taborns cause they was my uncle's children.

EM: Name those, the Taborns.

RA: The Taborns?

EM: Uh huh.

RA: Ernest.

EM: Taborn?

RA: Ernest Taborn and B. B. Taborn.

EM: Uh huh, she had two from your uncle?

RA: That's right.

EM: Okay, when he died, she married the Day?

RA: Yes.

EM: What was his name?

RA: John Day.

EM: She married John Day?

RA: That's right.

EM: And how many children she had from John Day?

RA: I think it was five, to my remembering.

EM: And she wanted all her children to be Days?

RA: That's right.

EM: She did not legal, by court, by record, and by family let everybody know she had changed their names?

RA: No.

EM: Now, you found out, explain to Mrs. Peace, when I talked to you, uh, one day, we was talking about history, and you told me, where about did you work in New Jersey?

RA: I worked at the old memorial hospital.

EM: And you was a nurse?

RA: Yes.

EM: Where did you go to nursing school at?

RA: East side nurse.....??????

EM: And you told me, in talking, when we was talking that day, that you knew Joe Louis, which was the boxer?

RA: Yes.

EM: And I said, Ruby, how did you know Joe Louis, get to know Joe Louis. Now, you tell me that you lived in the same street, a coincidence that Joe Louis lived in on or what?

RA: I didn't live on the same street, Hickory street was in the back of me. And I was living on Hill street, with my sister Emma, and uh, Joe Louis's mother in law, they, Joe's wife was named?????? and somehow or other, I don't know how they became buddies, but Joe and Ernest Taborn, they were good friends.

EM: So you got, you and your cousin Ernest, was friends?

RA: Yeah.

EM: But you didn't know Joe Louis was his friend, and he knew Joe Louis.

RA: That's right.

EM: So, one day in talking or whatever, a conversation come up, as he told you he worked for Joe Louis.

RA: That's right.

EM: Okay, now let's get Mrs. Peace straight now, go back and tell Mrs. Peace, Ernest name was a Taborn. And that's how she, did you know then in New Jersey he had changed his name?

RA: No, I didn't.

EM: When you was running around....

RA: No, I didn't.

EM: You thought he was Ernest Taborn?

RA: That's right ,that's all I did know.

EM: And because by y'all being friends, you kept calling him just Ernest?

RA: Ernest.

EM: And never questioned the last name?

RA: No, because I know he was a Taborn.

EM: Okay, what was Ernest doing for Joe Louis?

RA: He was in with Joe Louis as some.....

EM: Management.....

RA: Management of something like that, but I never would ask him too much of his business, I sure didn't.

EM :And Ernest told you that he worked in Joe Louis's restaurant too?

RA: That's right.

EM: And the conversation came up with you , you had part, you had took the time in the afternoon.

RA: Yes.

EM: And he asked you, did you want to work for Joe.

RA: Yes.

EM: And you went to work. Tell about his restaurant and who he was.

RA: Well, he, he had a restaurant, and Ernest would come over and pick me up, and I would go to Joe Louis's place....

EM: What street was it on?

RA: Oh, Lord, I can't remember the street.

EM: Okay, 125th street?

RA: Something like that, yeah, it was like that.

EM: It was in Harlem?

RA: Yea, yeah.

EM: Joe Louis had a restaurant?

RA: Yes, he sure did.

EM :Okay, and still, you thought he was Ernest Taborn?

RA: I knowed he was Ernest Taborn.

EM: Okay, and so, you did what in the restaurant?

RA: I would help serve, I, I'd work on the cash register, you know, whenever the customers would come in, and help clean up.

EM: Uh, huh, and how was Joe, as far as a business man to his help and everything?

RA: He was very good.

EM: And all the time, Ernest was, you didn't question him about what kind of business, all you know is he would come to the restaurant, make sure everything was ok?

RA: That's right.

EM: Okay, and so, when you and Ernest would come home, you still thought Ernest was a Taborn?

RA: I know he was a Taborn.

EM: Okay, now, when did Ernest name come up, or when did he appear as a Day. When did you find out, and how did.....

RA: When I found out that, Aunt Cappie had changed Ernest from Taborn to Day, was when they started the family reunion. She announced him as Ernest Day.

EM: And what about the other boy?

RA: B. B.? B. B. Taborn.

EM: Did she announce him as a Day?

RA: Yes, yeah.

EM: As a Day?

RA: As a Day.

EM: Along with the other five children?

RA: Yeah.

EM: And which was that Ernest and B. B.'s half brothers and sisters.

RA: That's right.

EM: Now, who was his half brothers and sisters? Haddie?

RA: Wait a minute, his half brothers and sisters, you talking about Ernest and B.B?

EM: Uh huh.

RA: It was Pearl, Halie, Lila, Abraham, and L. D.

EM: Okay. Okay, uh, Mrs. Peace, uh, who did you want to ask, what child did you want to ask about?

WP: Beatrice Boon.

EM: Beatrice Boon?

WP: Uh huh.

RA: Well, as far as I know about Beatrice Boon, I understand that Beatrice Boon was one of John Day's children. And she lived in Providence community.

WP: Uh huh, she lived at the Bernet's place.

RA: Yeah.

WP: Uh huh, that's where she lived, I used to go over to her house. But I didn't know whatever come of Beatrice.

RA: I think she passed.

WP: Uh huh, okay.

EM: Uh, was Beatrice, who's cousin were Beatrice Boon? Was the Beatrice something else before she married a Boon?

WP: I'm pretty sure she was, yeah.

EM: Okay. Okay, now, now, I want to know, Mrs., your aunt????????? didn't you have your daddy's brother.....

RA: My daddy's sister.

EM: Sister. Tell me, who did she marry?

RA: Well, my daddy's sister Lull Anderson, married momma's brother. And to that union, it was three children. Early, Marie, and Ophelia. Then??????? passed, and later, Uncle Moody married Henry Locklear's daughter, Mary Locklear. Locklear.

EM: Mary Locklear?

RA: Uh huh.

EM: And Mary Locklear had how many children?

RA: Oh, gosh, I don't know how many of them.....Doc, Lonnie, L. D., he had quite a few.

EM: Name just some of them, if you can.....

RA: Uh, Lonnie, Doc, Henry, and uh A. D., there is three or four more, I just don't.....

EM: But their mother was Locklear?

RA: Yeah.

EM: Okay, now, Early your aunt had him out of wedlock, before she married the Taborn, or what?

RA: No, she, she, she married daddy, daddy's uh, my uncle married daddy's sister, and that union it was three children, Early, Marie, and Ophelia.

EM: Okay.

RA: And Aunt Love, she passed, then Uncle Moody married Mrs. Mary Locklear.

EM: And that's Mrs. Mary Locklear, is the one that I did the research on, that is a Indian. A full-blooded Indian.

RA: That's what they say.

EM: Did she have children for the Taborns or the Days?

RA: She had uh, Aunt Mary didn't have no children, she had uh, children by momma's brother, they Taborns.

EM: She did?

RA: Yes.

WP: I want to know who was Conlardy, Conlardy Taborn, she was, she was a Indian, she had, she was, her skin looked like velvet, and she had long black hair, come all the way down, and she lived in a little log house, not too farm from us, and when it snow, papa, momma would tell papa, to go get Conlardy.

RA: I heard that, that lady that you was talking about, Mrs., was Mr. Henry Locklear's sister. That's what I heard, that's what was told to me.

WP: Uh huh.

RA: 'Cause I asked uncle Moody about it, I asked Aunt Mary about it, and she said that was my daddy's sister.

WP: And she wore the prettiest black dresses, all the way down. And she had on high top shoes, you know, lace up shoes. And she had the prettiest hair, and the prettiest complexion.

RA: Wew, yes sir.

EM: Did you ever see any of her sewing, or any of her work, or anything?

WP: No, Papa would go get Conlardy and bring her home, because she lived over there in this little small house, it was a little hut build, it just was one room, and momma said a snow would come, and Conlardy would be over there in the cold, Papa would go get Conlardy, and she would stay with us during the winter.

EM: Did y'all just call her Conlardy, or she was related to your father?

WP: She was related to Papa.

EM: And your papa, is that your daddy or your granddaddy?

WP: Who?

EM: That's your daddy Eugene?

WP: Yeah, Eugene is my daddy.

EM: Eugene Taborn?

WP: Uh huh.

EM: Was...

WP: My father.

EM: He would go get...

WP: Conlardy.

EM: Conlardy. Which was his cousin?

WP: Uh huh.

EM: Okay, now Eugene was related to Mrs. Locklear, to your cousin, what relation is that, can you tie that in for us?

RA: Let me see now. Where did you put it. Uncle Moody married Mr. Locklear's....

EM: Uh huh, Mr. Locklear had a sister....and Mr. Locklear,??????????

RA: Mary, Mr. Locklear's daughter.

EM: So, Mr. Locklear must have had two daughters.

RA: He must have.

EM: And the one that she talking about didn't get married?

RA: Not that I know of.

EM: Or, y'all was too young.

RA: I was too young.

EM: Okay, and those two ladies was sisters. And so that, that, Mr. Taborn, and Mr. Eugene what, fist cousins or what?

RA: It would have to be, wouldn't it? Yeah.

EM: Okay, it was two cousins?

RA: Uh huh

EM: And one of the cousins married the Locklear, and Mary, and the other, what was her name?

RA: Conlardy.

EM: Conlardy, was by herself, was a widow. Okay, so, that's how, they came about, she were a Indian, and I have that documented.

RA: You do?

EM: Yeah, I have that documented, that they were Indians.

RA: But that's what we were trying to figure how the Indians come into the family.

EM: Okay, now the Andersons was married to any of the Days?

RA: Not that I know of.

EM: The Andersons married the Taborns?

RA: Uh huh .

EM: And the Days came in to, did any of the Days marry any of the Andersons?

RA: Well, Aunt Cappie, was my momma's uh, my daddy's sister.

EM: And your daddy's sister married.....

RA: John Day, see?

EM: Okay, your father's sister, which were a Anderson, married a Day? And she married John Day?

RA: She first married Esker Taborn, then after he passed, she married John Day.

EM: Okay. Okay.

RA: She was married twice.

EM: Okay. Now, how did the Mangums come in? I know and you know how the Mangums, uh, Mr. Taborn, we call the blind man, what's his name?

RA: James.

EM: James daddy, and his brother married two sisters which was Mangums, now, what relation is you to James?

RA: We supposed to be cousins.

EM: What cousins are y'all?

RA: Yeah, same me and Wilmer is.

EM: You and Wilmer supposed to be what?

RA: Yeah, cousins.

EM: Okay, y'all supposed to be cousins?

RA: That's right.

EM ;Okay, now, can you explain about Doctor Anderson, the one that was here, that delivered your baby, tell me about him.

RA: Well, I remember Dr. Anderson, Lyle Willis Anderson, was our family doctor. And at mine, in 1935, I, Dr. Lyle Willis Anderson delivered my first child.....

EM: And what hospital was you at?

RA: Right over there in the home house.

EM: Okay, what did you think, tell me what we always talk about, uh, tell Mrs. Peace what you and I always talk about your cousin, uh, delivering a baby, looking up your dress, you know, how did you feel, or what did your mom, or what did you say?

RA: I honest to god, I ain't never been no 'shamed in all my days, and I asked my momma, why you get cousin Anderson to deliver my baby for? And we had a, you know how mother and daughter can talk, and that was the most shamest part of my life, for Dr. Anderson to come and deliver my first child. But he had delivered momma's babies, all the rest of them, I think he delivered all my sisters and brothers, if I'm not mistake. But I couldn't stand...

EM: Just because he was family?

RA: That's family, that's true, I couldn't stand that, Wilmer, you know how I am....I couldn't stand it.

EM: Tell Wilmer something about Dr. Anderson's daughter, the one that you knew.

RA: Well I know.....

[TAPE STOPS]

[TAPE RESUMES]

EM: Today's date is August the 29th, 1996, I'm continuing with Mrs. Wilmer Taborn Peace, we are at the original home house property of Mr. Isaiah Taborn's property, which been in the family over a hundred years, and still is, and we, it's wood and it's growed up, and she going to be describing the property and where the house was, and where they played, on this particular piece of property, it's now her nephew's property now. Okay, Mrs. Peace, now tell me where the house was, and go on describe which.....

WP: Uh huh, the house was right up here in front of these, by these trees, you know over by the trees. It was a big, big, big house, it had uh, a stairway, in the front, and it had a stairway through the dining room. And it had a stairway in the kitchen, where his store was, he had a store, he had uh, in the store he sold uh, oil, candy, flowers, sugar, and different things like that. And uh, he had a beautiful house, he had oriental rugs, he had uh, tables, he had the fireplace, it looked like it was made out of iron.