

Uncorrected Transcript of

Interview

with

WILLIAM AMOS
19 and 31 OCTOBER 1995

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]

**WILLIAM AMOS
19 OCTOBER 1995**

JAMES EDDIE McCOY:the 19th, 1995, I will be interviewing Mr. William Amos, date of birth is August 11th, 1932, he's sixty three, his address is 4080 Fairport Road. Mr. Amos, will you give me your date of birth, and today's date? And your address.

WILLIAM AMOS: I am William Amos, born August, I was born August the 11th, 1932.

EM: Okay, today's date?

WA: Uh, October the 17th 1995.

EM: Your addresss?

WA: Uh, 4080 Fairport Rd. Oxford, N.C.

EM: What, what area were you, did you grow up in when you was a kid?

WA: Right here at the home?

EM: Right here? Fairport?

WA: Right here at the home.

EM: Um, did you have brothers under you?

WA: All my brothers was under me but two. That's Lee, Page and Daryl....

EM: They was older?

WA: No, uh, younger, all my brothers was older than I was.

EM: And who was the two under you?

WA: Lee Page, and Daryl.

EM: Lee Page and....

WA: Doug and Lee Page.

EM: Right. Uh, Amos. And you was, how many was over you?

WA: Well, we was, was sixteen of us.

EM: Uh-huh, but I want you to just, with your mother, how many.....

WA: Oh, ten of them was my mother's.

EM: Uh, did, did y'all, did y'all families come visit everybody?

WA: Everybody, yeah, every time we have the holidays, the family would come.

EM: Everybody would come here?

WA: Yeah.

EM: So, you, what your father did, was kept the family together.....

WA: More or less together.

EM: And the community too?

WA: More or less, yeah.

EM: He worked hard both places?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Um, what, where were your father born at? Did he ever tell you where.....

WA: I don't know where my father was born, but he was born somewhere in Granville county, but I don't know.

EM: Did you ever see his mother?

WA: No, no I didn't. She died before I was born.

EM: She did? What was her name?

WA: I don't know, her name was, I swear I don't know. I don't know it either way, I do know, but I can't call it right away.

EM: Okay, okay, you will think of it, that's no problem, um, so, did you know where he grew up at? What area?

WA: Something like, in, I'll say he grew up in Granville county, but where, I don't know.

EM: Did you, ever heard talk of your mother's brothers and sisters, did she have, your father's your grandparents, now we are talking about, not your immediate, I'm talking about your father's first wife.

WA: My father's first wife was, I know, know his first wife.

EM: What was her name?

WA: Rose.

EM: Rose what?

WA: Rose uh, Rose, his first wife's name was Rose, uh, uh, her last name was Rose, Rose uh, I can think of the name, but I can't think of it right now.

EM: Okay.

WA: But you can leave that blank...

EM: I will, and we'll come back to it, uh,

WA: Rose uh, I got it on my tongue, but I can't.....

EM: That's all right, you will be able to tell me, 'cause I'm going to ask you the, the first children, uh, did, what about, tell me the history about your father and who's his father and what happened there, uh, what you was told.

WA: Well, what I was told, my father was a white man. He got a little bit of money....

EM: Your father's, your grandfather on your father's side....

WA: Was white.

EM: Was white.

WA: And uh, we got, I think, we didn't get no money from him, but, I think he had some land when he died, and it going through court and everything, got the piece a land up there where?????? is. He didn't get much, but he got some, you know. 'Cause he kept him here at the house, until we can stay in it, we had to send him up to the county home.

EM: Okay.

WA: 'Cause he said his son and daughter can't stand, you know, white man, you know at that time, a white man was you know.

EM: So you kept, so you are telling me that your father's daddy was white?

WA: White, yeah.

EM: And y'all, and he took care of him, he went and got his daddy, and took care of his daddy, 'cause his daddy was an outcast, for fathering a baby by a black woman?

WA: Right.

EM: That was nice that your father took him in.

WA: He died, and he died at the county home.

EM: Oh, okay, I know where the county home is, will you explain to someone else where it is, or where it was.

WA: It was, county home was right there where Pointer, you know Pointer, right there in that section. 'Cause the uh, the lights, not the lights, the waterworks thing is still up there, where the county home was.

EM: I, I, I understand. This is just to let people know that listen to the tape that you explain where the county home was. I know too, it was integrated too, it was a big white house...

WA: Yeah, big white building, whatever...

EM: Um, so, by his father being an outcast, he got his father's part, of the land, his share.

WA: What he could get.

EM: What he could get?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Of his share?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Now, describe what they said his mother looked like.

WA: Who?

EM: Your father's mother.

WA: Well, I understand she was uh, black Indian woman.

EM: Uh-huh.

WA: But what was the name I can't say, because it was way back before I was born.

EM: Uh-huh, okay. And, name the children that your father had by his first wife, you can think of her name, but name the children.

WA: Charlie.

EM: What?

WA: Charlie, Agrum, Roy, and Moses. Had Charlie, Roy, Agrum, and Moses, that's four.

EM: Four boys.

WA: And, and two girls.

EM: What was, okay, come on with the girls.

WA: Mary and Elizabeth.

EM: Okay, did she die?

WA: Yeah, she did.

EM: And he remarried cause she passed?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Okay. Now who, now the second wife.

WA: Murphy Hawkins.

EM: Okay, how many?

WA: Ten, ten by her.

EM: Can you give me their first names?

WA: Who...

EM: The ten.

WA: Yeah. Dido, well, you got that Robert if you....

EM: Okay, yeah....

WA: Robert, Jerry, Amos, Richard, the two twins, Albert and Frissy....

EM: That's six.

WA: Uh, I mean Richard, Pearl, that's seven, Lee Page, uh, Doug and Lee Page, Douglas and Lee Page.

EM: So, what was it, three girls?

WA: No, two girls and eight boys.

EM: Okay, I lost count of them. Uh, it's amazing, how much reading and writing could your father do?

WA: At one time, he couldn't do any.

EM: He learnt by.....through his kids?

WA: His kids.

EM: Good in math, that's what everybody say.....you didn't have to teach him how to count...

WA: You couldn't count him for nothing..... From a dollar to a hundred, he'd know.

EM: That's what everybody say. And making deals, he didn't, he could do that too?

WA: Make more deals than people today. Today they, people they ain't got?????

EM: Uh, uh, what about writing, did he have good hand writing?

WA: No....

EM: It was poor?

WA: He had to, he would X, until we taught him how to write his name, that's about all he could write, his name.

EM: You know, it's amazing, that God give your father, and give people talent like that, he could do everything, and you never knew he couldn't read much or write.

WA: Couldn't read or write.

EM: That was amazing. But.....

WA: You don't know what people beat him out of, in the offerings and things, but I don't think so, 'cause he had, his uh, attorneys right there with him.

EM: But his wife.....

WA: His wife, and his stepmother, they could read.

EM: Yeah, yeah. That's one thing that protected him, even his first wife had to be able to read....

WA: She had to read too, yeah...

EM: 'Cause she had him for a white, she had a white man, so...yeah. So, he had a white father, so, he, that white man made sure she could read and write if nothing else, well, history and statistics say that. Uh, do you think that by him, being trustworthy and stuff like that, people didn't question that much about....

WA: They never questioned him that much, 'cause.....

EM: 'Cause his talent, over ruled his reading and writing?

WA: Right right right.

JM And you took for granted?

WA: They took for granted.

EM: Okay. I see what you are saying. And when his wife, or the children wasn't there, his lawyer handle everything, but he never let people know much, who...how much he....

WA: Well, what he was doing, didn't nobody know, but his lawyer, his lawyer and him, and home people.....

EM: Immediate family.

WA: Immediate family. And he didn't let them know too much. You know, if he go to a, a big????? he sat there for a while and let everybody enjoy theyself, you see him over there somewhere by hisself, picking with his fingers, and....

EM: Nervous....

WA: Not, nervous, but thinking.

EM: Tell me, 'bout how can he know how much wood, the wood man said he going to come cut a timber, how could, he would get, he didn't let the timber man know he didn't know, how to figure, or what, he....?

WA: Well, he, back there then, you could go in a bunch of woods....

EM: And just count a certain amount?

WA: You could??????? a certain amount of trees, and he know how to count, like that you know, and he got this acre land give you so much timber.

EM: Uh-huh.

WA: He know, before he even sell, how much money he was going to make.

EM: He going to come back and count the trees, the area he told you to cut in.

WA: Yeah, yeah.

EM: Reason I know that because I, you know I got some history papers you gave me, that where he sold wood to the schools, and I'm glad you gave it to me, and I see where he sold wood to the school, just from the schools and stuff, so...

WA: They, they couldn't beat him on that, because the wood there, was, I don't know, five or ten dollars a load, and so he kept a load of wood to every school about once a week, you know or something like that...

EM: Within the general area?

WA: Yeah, and then he go up to the thing and get his money.

EM: Yeah. Well, he traveled.

WA: Huh?

EM: When he moved around, or when he left town, nobody, he just always going to go where he wanted to go.

WA: He'd go up to Baltimore, he was, you know, at that time you didn't have nothing but number 1.....

EM: That's right, so you didn't need to read.

WA: There was no need, you know, but you go to know where you are going when you get to the town.

EM: I met one guy, when I was living in Delaware, I didn't believe it, couldn't read and write, 'cause for a long time, because this friend of mine, he had a dealership, sold old cars, and he kept telling the guy, said come on man, let's fix your car, I said why don't you fix it. Sonny, he said, well, I don't know what I'm doing, and he said, well, he said can't read and write, I have to read the book, I said I don't believe that, he said, no all I got to do is go out there and tell him about the boats, and what he need to do, a boat motor, get the paperwork out, and read it to him, and he could do it. You know, I didn't know that guy, I ought to cut one of my hands off, if anybody told me that guy couldn't read or write. It was amazing, do you know he said he would drive long distance truck, and map his numbers, and if he get where he think he lost, call his wife back, and she look on the map, and I said man, I said I know how you did it, 'cause people like me take for granted, and you are, you....yeah...

WA: Go overboard...

EM: Right, and your father had that intellectual talk, that he could mingle with everybody, so you couldn't say he was dumb.

WA: He wouldn't dumb, you done said that, but he couldn't write. He wouldn't dumb, but he couldn't write. He couldn't read and write.

EM: Who, I know he was into everything, how many acres of tobacco did y'all grow?

WA: Back then, we used to grow around forty or fifty acres, back there then.

EM: Now, when you boys, 'cause you had brothers older than you, he wasn't there, he was somewheres different.

WA: Yeah, 'cause he was taking care of business, or had a woman going somewhere, or whatever, you know, we do the thing, he just taking care of business, and he used to take care of business, like?????????

EM: Uh-huh, when he's not taking care of other business, he knows what's going on with the farm?

WA: He knows what's going on on the farm.

EM: But he's regular dealing. Wood, land, wheat, corn....

WA: Taking care of the farm, and go up there and see what he owed this year on taxes, and all of that, he take care of that hisself you know, when he go up to his office. So, he, lawyer, he paid the lawyer some of every,

EM: A retaining fee, every month?

WA: Every, every, yeah.

EM: Uh...

WA: 'Cause if he get in trouble, he call the lawyer and tell him.....?????? that's it.

EM: Now, bookkeeping, did he keep one set with y'all, and another set...

WA: One set here, and one set at the office.

EM: Okay, that's what I what I was leading up to, internal revenue never caught up with him?

WA: Well, they caught up with him, he had his lawyer, his lawyer with him, when they.....you know..

EM: Okay.

WA: His lawyer, he, that's all, you know..

EM: Now, he loaned money, didn't he? A loan shark, more or less?

WA: No, he didn't, he didn't never loan no money, but if he loaned you some money and you didn't pay it back, you wouldn't get no more, and you'd better get out of his face. You don't get nothing off, and say you going to pay him, probably next month or, sometime, you know like that, he looked for it. He, he owned paper, he would put something on the wall, he know what he going to get.

EM: Uh, I'm, you, I'm just letting the people know who will be listening to the tape, that I'm trying to find, to get as much history about your father, and then later on we'll get the other things, but, we, I want to spend about an hour, we can't just talking about him, because I wish I could have been around when he was here, uh, what, he had friends, white and black friends, in this whole area.

WA: Yeah, all over. Well, they said it was friends, but you know.....

EM: I understand, if he needed some, of piece of equipment on his farm or somebody, they could get it from each other.

WA: Yeah, right, they could get it.

EM: Could y'all go out, and work for somebody else, never.....

WA: He had enough work for us here, so we didn't never work for nobody. Black or White.

EM: You couldn't finish this down here, could you?

WA: We couldn't finish this down here.

EM: Okay, tell me about how he come about with the apples, and the trees, and the orchard. Was that before you was born, or that was when you was big enough to know what was happening.

WA: Well, we planted trees, we planted them every year, we work them and....

EM: See, 'cause kids will be listening to this, and they didn't think that blacks back in that day and time, had apple, peach orchards and stuff, so you will have to tell what you raised, and what a orchard is all about.

WA: Well, we used to raise apples, peaches, pears, plumbs, dandralions, figs, watermelons, cantaloupes, biggest watermelon I ever seen was raised here.

EM: What about pumpkins, did y'all raise....

WA: Pumpkins, everything you can name...

EM: Sweet potatoes?

WA: Sweet potatoes, garden, we didn't have to buy nothing but sugar....

EM: And coffee.

WA: Coffee, salt and pepper. Cause he raised everything else, chickens, ducks, turkeys,

EM: He did the selling of the apples, how did he know how many apples to sell, or how much.....?

WA: He sell them by the bushel. You going to give what he want for a bushel, by the time you don't have none.

EM: So, he didn't have to worry about counting his? (laughing)

WA: No. He don't worry about counting, yes sir.

EM: He knew how to operate?

WA: He could operate.

EM: Y'all job, is to produce, tobacco and stuff...

WA: Right.

EM: He can take it from there?

WA: He can take it from ,he carry it to the market, and got there, they, they wont' cheat him either.

EM: Y'all get the plumbs, figs, apples, the pears, all, you get that....

WA: You get that, we can what we want, and if people want to come by and get some, we have them ready, 'cause one thing papa, some things, you know he have his friends, they come by and get what they want, you know....

EM: I understand, but we talking about yeah, he can't read and write....

WA: He can't read and write, but.....

EM: He could sell....

WA: But he could sell that, this house here, and he.....?????? He, heard the radio, what tobacco is bringing and all that, on the radio, he can heard that now, don't get me wrong, he was good....

EM: He listen to news and paper and stuff?

WA: Hear that news, and his wife would read in the paper, every day at lunch time.

EM: That was nice.

WA: Every day at lunch time. Every day. He would say, oh, they got in trouble up there, and things like that, you know.

EM: How old were you when your father passed? Just guessing?

WA: Uh, my father passed in '84.

EM: Oh.

WA: And he was 84 years old when he passed.

EM: Oh, okay.

WA: And I was about, I was, papa in sixty eight I think, I was grow, I was grown, I'd been in the army and got out....

EM: Okay, that's what I mean, you spent a lot of time with him, before he started going down hill?

WA: No, he didn't go down hill....

EM: Just went right on out, oh, okay.

WA: Right on out, he didn't stay sick long, 'bout a month, I guess it wasn't a month, 'cause he had locked bowels, and all that stuff....

EM: Back then they....ok, now...

WA: My stepmother, my mother died with, with uh, she didn't supposed to have no kids, my mother, ..????????? she died with birth, she died with birth.

EM: Giving birth?

WA: No she died with birth, 'cause I don't know, he, I don't know what happened, but she died with birth. See, It wasn't, it wasn't uh, time for the birth, but something that, you know...

EM: Uh, how old were she when she passed, how many years, what year was....

WA: I was uh, I was just finished going to school at Fairport, and uh...

EM: Oh, you was young, when she passed...

WA: I was, my, my baby brother, Lee Page, and Doug, don't even know the mother.

EM: Oh, okay.

WA: I don't know her either....

EM: As far as knowing her...

WA: I just know some of the things, and Pearl, my sister Pearl, she know her very slightly.

EM: Uh-huh.

WA: But, Alma, she know, Ricky, they know her pretty good.

EM: Uh-huh.

WA: 'Cause they was in high school then.

EM: Did your, half brothers and sister, live with y'all?

WA: At that time, yes.

EM: Did they get along, with their stepmother?

WA: Good.

EM: Weren't no problems?

WA: 'Cause Pop, he brought a woman in his house, you better get along with him, or else you going to get a stick upside you head, you going to get a stick upside your head.

EM: Alright, then, let's talk about...

WA: My stepmother was the same way, we, we, we, loved that woman just like she was our real parent.

EM: Let's talk about him getting y'all to go to college, and the school, he knew that's where y'all had to go.

WA: He didn't play that, he didn't play not going to get an education. That's right.

EM: Don't some of your brothers have masters and doctors degree?

WA: My younger have a doctor degree in psychology, one of them, he dead though, one of them is lawyer....

EM: Oh yea?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Where, up north?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Whereabouts?

WA: In New Jersey.

EM: Uh-huh.

WA: One of them was a lawyer, one was a doctorate of psychology at Rhode Island University, and uh, he was a lawyer in Jersey, all them went to school to Johnson C. Smith, all five, seven of them went to school at Johnson C. Smith.

EM: Can you name all seven of y'all that went there?

WA: Uh-huh.

EM: Okay.

WA: Theodore, Jerry, Richard, Moo, myself, Doug, and Lee Page.

EM: Everybody graduated?

WA: I was the only one that come away with a, a B certificate, but I graduated.

EM: Okay, okay.

WA: I graduated in Economics and critical science.

EM: He wasted his money.

WA: For what?

EM: All you do is come back and ran everything that needed to be run.

WA: No, I was up north for a while.

EM: I know, I was just kidding...

WA: Yeah, but uh, I was planning on going to law school, but, but, my thing ran out.

EM: How did he, know that y'all needed to go to school and get a degree, and he didn't, he worked so hard, he just knew that's what you needed in life?

WA: Well, at a certain, well my oldest brothers and sisters, they didn't go, but they finished Mary Potter. But, when we started up, Robert Theodore, he finished Mary

Potter, and he was going to college, I think when one go, everybody going, you know, 'cause that's the way you raise your kids. If you go to college, everybody go, that's why all of us went to John C. Smith. 'Cause you ain't going to get no degree nowhere else, John C. Smith, now, you can go there.

EM: That was nice.

WA: You know, because at that time, Mary Potter was a, was uh, Presbyterian and Johnson C. Smith was Presbyterian.

EM: Oh, okay.

WA: That's the reason...

EM: Oh, recruited out of Mary Potter?

WA: Right, right.

EM: Now, did your step brothers and sisters, did all of them finish high school?

WA: Yeah.

EM: But didn't none of them go to college?

WA: They didn't go to college.

EM: But they all finished high school?

WA: Some of them went to business school after they left here, but you know, they didn't go to college.

EM: So, still that education, your father knew that way ahead, because he was lacking, but had a challenge. That he wanted to make sure his son...

WA: Thing about it, if you didn't go to school, he going to wonder, what's wrong with you. You going away from here, and if you don't go to school, he going to ask the teacher did you go to school. And she says no, you going to get a ass whopping. Yeah, that's the way he was.

EM: Did he have enough of y'all that was older, as you had to go to school each day, or did he keep you out a day for some business?

WA: No, no, We, nothing like that.

EM: You won't stay here.

WA: No, you have to stay here sometime, to help do something on the farm, one day, one day you going to stay, nothing like that, just something like that, you know.

EM: I bet he talked to the teachers, didn't he?

WA: Yeah, he talked to them, 'cause we went to Elementary school, he talked to them every week, 'cause he carry wood there. Teachers down here at Fairport, they stayed here.

EM: Who did? Name the teachers that stayed.

WA: F. Dell Hauley.

EM: Rev. Hauley's sister?

WA: Yeah. Sam.....????? he didn't stay here, stay here two or three days, 'cause it was uh, uh, snow and stuff...

EM: I understand, when the weather's bad.

WA: When the weather's bad.

EM: What did you say his name was?

WA: Uh, Sam Johnson, he finished Fayetteville St.

EM: Who is his relative?

WA: He married uh, Willa, Willa Hauley.

EM: Okay, Rev. Hauley's...?

WA: No, not Rev. Hauley, he married, you know Annie.....?????

EM: Uh-huh.

WA: He married Annie McGee's mother's sister.

EM: Oh, okay, okay okay, I know who you are talking about now.

WA: She live out there on the, uh, 158 out there by...

EM: I know who you, Mrs. Ollie Johnson...

WA: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, that's it, that's his aunt, I mean his wife, Ollie Johnson was his wife.

EM: Oh, so Mrs. Ollie Johnson, and her husband was teachers?

WA: Yeah.

EM: I didn't know that.

WA: Yeah.

EM: Oh, okay, but she taught somewhere else and he taught....

WA: Down here.

EM: Okay, how did he come, on buggy back then, or what?

WA: No, he had a, 'bout a, I think that thing he was driving was about a 38, 40 Chevrolet, something like that, you know.

EM: Uh-huh.

WA: Yeah, 'cause when he first come down here, he didn't have nothing, you know, 'cause Papa had to take him home every day, when he come up here, and then when Papa get here, he say he wanted to eat, my mother would feed him, then they would go on.

EM: Uh-huh, who else teachers that stayed here?

WA: Uh, what was the name, Mrs. Pearlman..????? Uh, her sister stayed here, she was away, married now, but she stayed here for a while. Yeah, I don't know when, after that, I left too, myself, I don't know....

EM: I know, you got some gaps.

WA: Yeah.

EM: Uh-huh. Uh, how did you get to Mary Potter?

WA: By bus.

EM: What, y'all bought a bus in the community?

WA: No, the bus.

EM: Oh, they had buses?

WA: Yeah, then, 'cause Pop was the first one to get a bus out here, my brother was the first one rode the bus that come out here.

EM: How did you father get that done?

WA: By, I don't know how, but he got it going through the board of education or something.

EM: He knew how to get a bus, too. Without paying for it?

WA: Yeah, through the education board or something, before then, they had to ride back and forth in cars you know, A-model Fords, you know, uh, they had a A-model Ford, they would get in it, go back and forth to school.

EM: Did the first set, uh, go to Antioch school or where did they go?

WA: Fairport.

EM: Okay, everybody came, went to school Fairport?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Okay, now, Fairport school, was, was, that's not the first school?

WA: What?

EM: Fairport?

WA: First school for what?

EM: That arrived down here.

WA: That's the only school we had down here, no, it wasn't but two or three schools down here, in Vance County.

EM: You had Falling Rock...

WA: Falling Rock..

EM: With children that went over the line, Okay, and then you had William Hill.

WA: Had William Hill down there...

EM: Mrs. Parker went to school down there.

WA: Yeah, yeah.

EM: We are talking hearsay now.....

WA: Yeah, that's hearsay, I don't know.

EM: Yeah, that's what I need, hearsay, in, 'bout I know, I can verify it. It was a school, Mr. Bivey and them started a school.....

WA: Yeah, that's the school.....that's the store down there....

EM: Yeah, well, you carried me to it, and then it went to a pack house, well, you carried me to that place, that were a school, and Sunday school..

WA: Yeah, right, right.

EM: 'Cause Mrs. Uh...

WA: Parker.

EM: Yeah, Mrs. Parker live over right over the line, and Mrs. Uh, can't think of her name, anyway, she uh, she went to that school, there is quite a few ladies down here that uh....

WA: Uh ,what, what was her name.....????? Hargrove, his wife, but you don't know them...

EM: hu uh, hu uh. I'm too young for them, but uh, Mrs. Wortham went to uh that...

WA: That school too...

EM: Yeah, back in there. And she went to Sunday school there too.

WA: Yeah.

EM: Uh.....

WA: One or two people living today, went there. Not too many...

EM: Right.

WA: Not too many...

EM: Yeah.

WA: They old, they are old people....

EM: Yeah, they in their eighties....

WA: Yeah, like uh, Mrs.?????? Shirley's mother, she old....

EM: Mrs. Wortham, and quite a few, Mrs. Parker cross the line down there, they went, went there at the end.

WA: Yeah.

EM: Uh, cause you showed me where it was, Ernest said he was going to clean that spot up, and uh, fix it up, and where it will always be known, you know..... Yeah, he going to put a marker or something up, uh, Now, your father went back to Antioch church, back and forth, he came up in that church?

WA: Well, we did, I don't know, he went to Harris Grove some too. Harris Grove right up the road there...

EM: I just found out 'bout a couple of months, somebody told me, I....

WA: They got a cemetery and everything back there...

EM: Yeah, uh, I got that straight, with Mr. Peace, we going to go down there, and the man told me it's not in his deed, the man don't pay taxes on it, we do what we wanted with it.

WA: Yeah, it's a path...

EM: I see, did you go there much?

WA: No, I didn't go there, but I went there to a couple of burials....

EM: Okay

WA: I some first cousins that was buried there.

EM: That's buried up there?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Okay, well, I'll get with you too, and we'll get that straight, when I start working on my cemeteries again, uh, he, go to church all the time?

WA: Papa was a church man.

EM: He was?

WA: We were to get up in the morning, we had to go to Sunday school, if something happen we can't go to church..

EM: You would leave here?

WA: You got to leave here.

EM: That's what all people said, but now a child don't have to do nothing if they don't want to.....

WA: If they don't want to, they don't have to do nothing, you know.

EM: Isn't that a shame?

WA: Another thing we would have, every Sunday morning, somebody would read the Bible.

EM: That was nice, that's family.

WA: We would read the Bible and then pray, one of us would pray...

EM: Before you leave home...

WA: No, before we had breakfast.

EM: Oh, through the weekday?

WA: No, on Sunday morning.

EM: Oh, okay, that was nice.

WA: We would have scripture and somebody would pray, before we eat breakfast on Sunday morning.

EM: He had morals, and standards?

WA: Yeah, he said that's what take us through the week, you read it next Sunday, you know, you read something, everybody didn't mind, that's right.

EM: I know he was on the finance committee of the church, weren't he?

WA: Yeah.

EM: How could he count money, he didn't know much about it? (laughing)

WA: They didn't cheat him, damn, the didn't cheat him, I'll bet you that. They didn't cheat him.

EM: He was on that one.....(Laughing) He knew about money, didn't he?

WA: Oh, he'll tell you what he need up there, and he....

EM: It's amazing, I'll tell you, that they can do that, I know a guy, he could do that, he didn't have to measure nothing with a ruler, he could look at it almost, and tell you.....

WA: All this house here, he built here before he died, this house was done before he died.

EM: How many rooms did you have when you first came here?

WA: We had everything you see now, when we came here.

EM: Where was his house at, before he came here?

WA: It was here.

EM: Oh, the first set of kids was born here too?

WA: No, they was born somewhere else, but he moved here.

EM: Okay.

WA: Cross the hill over there, and I think that some of them was living up at Peacy's Chapel, off the road a little ways, and he....

EM: Where is Peacy's Chapel, that don't ring a bell to me, is that a church?

WA: No, no it's...

EM: Name of an area?

WA: Yeah,

EM: Okay.

WA: At that time, it was Peacy's Chapel, I don't know why they call it Peacy's Chapel..

EM: Where is up, what part of the, where about was Peacy's chapel, area?

WA: Well, if you leave here, you know that church on the right up here...

EM: Going to Oxford?

WA: Yeah, after you leave here, church on the right up here, you go down in that, go down the hill and up, Peacy's Chapel is on the left over there, that's farm land over there....

EM: Okay, I know where you are talking about. Okay. Bethel Chapel?

WA: Bethel Chapel, I don't know where that is...

EM: That's a white church.

WA: Where up here?

EM: Well, they changed their name.

WA: To Bethel?

EM: Yeah.

WA: Oh, yeah.

EM: Uh, I was going to ask you this, we talking about hearsay, you probably never heard, uh, blacks went to that church, I have that part.

WA: Blacks did go to that church?

EM: Yeah.

WA: I didn't know that.

EM: Yeah, I have that part, but another part I have, I know you are too young, but you might have heard of it, uh, blacks and white went to that school.

WA: Went to what school?

EM: Bethel.

WA: Yeah.

EM: The white house on the left hand side after you pass the church...

WA: Yeah.

EM: That's where the school was.

WA: Well, that was before my time.

EM: Yeah, I was just letting you know. Uh, so uh, part uh that tell me when they had their anniversary after, I got that one, that tell me when they had the anniversary at the orphanage, he made sure everybody was set up, everything went ok, didn't no sheriffs or nothing, he was in charge of the area, and he was the deputy sheriff of this area.

WA: At that time, when the had the anniversary.

EM: Now, how many years, how did they, what did they do? Your father was auxiliary or he was a deputy?

WA: I don't know how they do it, because I was too young, I think I went to the anniversary one time, before they cut it out.

EM: Well, how, how did he get to be the deputy for this community, they just didn't have nobody, or they felt like he was....he knew everybody?

WA: Well, he got the deputy, down here by people uptown, I guess.

EM: Okay, and by his family being white...

WA: Yeah, some of that could go to it too, you know. 'Cause Hicks man up in Antioch was the deputy up there.

EM: What was his name?

WA: Bud Hicks.

EM: Bud?

WA: Bud.

EM: Bud.

WA: Hicks. He was the deputy up there.

EM: Was, and you father was the deputy down here?

WA: Down here.

EM: Okay.

WA: Because I know one time this man down the road here, somebody broke in his smokehouse and stole meat, and so that man down here called, called Papa, come up here and told Papa somebody stole his smokehouse and got all his meat, and he called the deputy at uh, at uh, Antioch, and they said well, they don't know where, let's go here then. And they went to a house and the meat was cooking and eating it and all, so that's something I understand, you know. By me being in, being in the family, I understand what it was.

EM: Um, let's, I'll come back to your father again, tell me something about the Hawkin's, your stepmother, who are they related to? Or how did they come to...

WA: The Hawkins.

EM: Your, your mother was a Hawkins?

WA: My mother was a Hawkins.

EM: Tell me her name, maiden name and everything.

WA: Uh, Murphy Amos.

EM: Have to spell that.

WA: M-U-R-P-H-Y. Amos.

EM: Uh, Hawkins first?

WA: Yeah. Murphy Hawkins Amos.

EM: Where, where did her family come from?

WA: Right here in, around, right here.

EM: She's got family here now?

WA: Well, most of her family is gone, like uh, William Bibby's wife was a, Bibby's wife was her uh, was her uh nephew.

EM: Your mother went to what school? Did she ever tell you what school she went to?

WA: I don't know where she went, I don't know when she went to school at, but uh, one of her brothers finished over here in Kittrell College.

EM: One of your mother's brothers?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Finished at Kittrell College, went to Kittrell College?

WA: Yeah, finished over there.

EM: So, how, did you ever see your grandparents on her side?

WA: No, because they died before I was born.

EM: They did?

WA: Yeah.

EM: On what area, do you know where they farmed at, or was they a farmers or sharecroppers or what?

WA: Well, uh, one of her brothers, uncles used to live over here in these woods over here, but they, he bought a house over there, they moved from over up from????? Wood.

EM: Did she have, your mother have brothers and sisters?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Uh, what was their names?

WA: I can't think of them, I swear, I know 'em, I know 'em, but I can't think of the name right away.

EM: Okay, about how many was it?

WA: Uh, One, two, I know there is, One, two, three. Three of them.

EM: Uh, hu, do they have children living in Oxford, or did they marry Oxford people?

WA: One of them did, but I think two of them didn't never have no children, and they lived up in New Jersey.

EM: Okay, so, Mr. Willy Hawkins, you have, your mother came from a different set of Hawkins?

WA: No, no, Wilford Hawkins is my first cousin.

EM: Oh yeah.

WA: Wilford Hawkins is my first cousin.

EM: He was your first cousin?

WA: Yeah, and uh, his daddy was my mother's sister.

EM: Oh, okay, so I can go to Mrs. Hanna Jane, and she can get me that part?

WA: yeah, yeah, yeah.

EM: I'll go interview, okay. So that, okay. Uh, who else in this community did y'all marry into the family? Did any of your brothers marry anybody in this area?

WA: No, nobody but Charlie.....

END OF SIDE A

(Begin Side B)

**WILLIAM AMOS
10/31/95**

JAMES EDDIE McCOY:31st 1995, I'm James Eddie McCoy, and I visited with Mr. Amos about a week, and so we are going to continue and finish our interview. Uh, I'm, we are going to finish your interview, give me your name, and today's date.

WILLIAM AMOS: William Amos, October the 31st 1995.

EM: Uh, your father was a man that worked hard, helped everybody in the community, done what he could, things he done, he didn't want people to know about it, it was just, his nature, probably to do things, he didn't want no recognition. And I think, your father probably when his funeral, when he died, he told everybody, he didn't need you to tell what he done, what school he gave wood too, who he helped in the community, couldn't afford wood or clothes. What do you think about your father in that?

WA: I say, well, he helped everybody, he could help, you know what I mean. And uh, he helped them, and he helped his family too. And uh, that is one of the best things in the world, you know, to uh, try to help people and help your family. And get along in the world like people. That's the only thing I can say about it. He helped his family and helped other people's, too.

EM: Did he try to, you know, want all his kids to kind of be that way, when they go out in life?

WA: Yeah, he did. 'Cause we have, we have our family home to take care of, and he, he uh, he uh, wanted you to be in your house just like you are in the street. The house, it's a foundation of going in the street.

EM: So, he worked hard, preparing his children for what they are going to face?

WA: In life?

EM: In life, and the, the first thing he got them an education?

WA: Right.

EM: Okay, how many of y'all went to school, graduated from John C. Smith?

WA: Uh, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Seven of us.

EM: Seven of y'all graduated from college? Your father started when you was about the first or second grade, training you, letting you know what you faced, momma was there, to care for you and nurture you, and try to work with you too.

WA: Yeah.

EM: How much did she, influence did she give, about make sure you get your work, everything is?

WA: Well, at that time, well, the younger brothers and sisters have older brothers and sisters too here at that time, so all them, everybody just piled in together in doing what they can do, you know what I'm saying.

EM: A lot of love in the family?

WA: Yeah, it wasn't that uh, one person have everything to do, like, in the evening, I got to bring in wood, one, two, two or three of us that bring in wood, and others milk the cow and others feed the hogs others feed the pigs, you know, we got an accepted thing to do everyday, in the week, you know what I mean. That's the only thing I can say. And

then from there, we in the uh, family love, we have that together, you know, we have that together. You know what I mean.

EM: How did your mother look, when you marched down that aisle, each one of y'all, and get a degree? I'll bet she wanted to cry she was so happy.

WA: I, I don't know, because my mother died when I was young, my mother died when I was about 5 years old, six years old, something like that, I don't know.

EM: So, uh, did you have a stepmother or somebody?

WA: My stepmother?????? she came in about, I don't know what year they married, but my sister's stepmother came in then, my stepmother came in, wouldn't nobody here but myself, Lee Page, Lee Page and Doug, and Chrissy and Alvin, all the rest had gone, you know, when my stepmother got here.

EM: What was her name?

WA: Viola?????

EM: Where did she come from?

WA: Clarksville.

EM: Virginia?

WA: Yeah.

EM: Uh-huh. So, in preparing y'all, your father made sure y'all look nice, and made you work in the, y'all had participated in the church?

WA: Right, right. We had to go to church every Sunday, that we could, unless it was cloudy, bad weather something like that, sick or something.

EM: Did he, talk to the teachers, and they was concerned about.....?

WA: Well, if the teachers would write him a note, he would go over and talk to them then, but other than that, he didn't.

EM: Why he, he carried wood to all the schools almost, so he, everybody, you knew he was carrying wood to your school. So he had to opportunity....

WA: Yeah, talk to them then, but, everything was alright, with us and the teacher.

EM: That was nice.

WA: Yea yea

EM: Cause y'all had to set example, and standard, your father had y'all on pride.

WA: You are right, on pride. You got to be this, or else get a whopping, that's what I think. 'Cause during that time, at elementary school, I mean from first to the seventh grade, the teachers would whoop you, you know....

EM: Me too....

WA: Then, you come home, you get another whopping, so you better be prepared for all that.

EM: My father would like to let them stack up on me, like....

WA: 'Cause, if he didn't whoop you, he give you something to do extra, you know. Yeah.

EM: Uh, this is what we are talking about, this is what we need more to let kids know that each on of y'all had a job, everybody pitched in, it was togetherness, kept the family together.

WA: Right. We didn't come in the kitchen at 1, eat this minute, two, two of them eat the next minute, we sat down at the table together and eat, and all of us get up, come in there?????? all day, like you know, they do today. Go in there, I'll cook a egg, and I'm gone, next one that come in might cook a hamburger, you know, you got three meals, breakfast, dinner and supper, that's what it is, that's what it was then. You know, if you want to miss dinner, you miss it, you know, but it's serve on you.....???

EM: In order to work in the community, get the community to work for you, you and kids has to set example for your father. That's what I always tell people.

WA: Yeah, you have to set examples.

EM: 'Cause I represent my parents.

WA: And what he does, he is gone, he do what he want to do, but you got to set an example too, yeah.

EM: 'Cause, people expect that in the south, in the country, they like to say, there go Robert Amos son, there go Mr. Peace son right there, and so and so. And when you was in church, everybody was in charge.

WA: Everybody was in charge of you at the church.

EM: I told Rev. Joyner, that's the problem, too.

WA: That's the problem right now too.

EM: Nobody is in charge of the church.

WA: Not the church, not the kids or nothing. They get up there and do anything they want to, go to the bathroom ten times, and all that stuff. They don't, I mean, I don't know, and only thing they want in church is money, they want money, money, money. And the church is, was uh, run uh, fifty years ago, they didn't know what money was. Now the preacher got to get up there, and he got to have six or seven hundred dollars a month, no not month, a week. Twenty five, and thirty, three thousand dollars a month, and all that, got to give every month, house to live in, and all that crap, and what he had to do? Nothing. Go over there and preach every Sunday, he go in church during the week, and bullshit, you know, I don't know what he doing. I don't know what he doing.

EM: I was talking about talking to Mr. Gregory, was a teacher of mine, he said when you got twenty five cent back then, that equaled to ten dollars, or fifteen.

WA: Right, you spent twenty five cent in church, and you put a nickel in Sunday school, you doing something.

EM: Back then, it was more appreciated though.

WA: Yeah, yeah.

EM: You know, now, I want you to explain just to me too, why the black church don't put nothing back in the community as far as recreation or do something?

WA: I don't know why.

EM: They take enough money in.

WA: They take enough money in, they should have something there for the kids to play on, they should have lunch room, they have a lunch room there, but it's for the people like they have a burial service or something like that, you know.

EM: You are right, don't nobody in the church get together to eat until somebody die. And then everybody come.

WA: And they have a singing, they go then. Years ago, the preacher would go around to every house, if he invited to your house on this Sunday, somebody else would invite the next Sunday. And preacher at Antioch where we went, he will come here on Saturday evening, and stay all night....

EM: With y'all.

WA: Yeah, we used to keep him, 'cause he was from Raleigh, Rev. Cheeks, he was from Shaw University, he come in stay all night, Friday and Saturday night, and get up and have his breakfast, and go on to church, and come back he have his dinner, and then go on back to Raleigh, you know, that's the way I think, that's the way he done everywhere he went, 'cause he only preached here at Antioch second and fourth Sunday.

EM: What was his first name?

WA: Rev. Jillis Cheeks.

EM: Jillis.

WA: Gillis.

EM: Oh, Gillis.

WA: Yeah.

EM: Well, couldn't the church, now, on Saturday and Sunday, have computers at the church where kids could come in and practice on computers, and giving something back to the community.

WA: They could do that.

EM: But why?

WA: Ain't nobody got time enough. That's what it is. They can go to church on Sunday morning, and take Sunday school, and all that stuff, but they can't come on like in the week, on a Thursday or Friday or Wednesday, and teach them community, I mean, that stuff during the week, one or two days during the week, because they got uh, they got where they, you don't have to stay upstairs in the church, you can go downstairs in the, in the uh,

EM: Basement?

WA: Yeah, where they stir food at on the table, you know.

EM: And computers don't cost a whole lot, you can get them that's outdated, to let the children play on and practice on, but they won't get em

WA: Yeah, and let them play on, yeah. There is so many things they could do in the church, but they ain't doing it. They ain't doing nothing. Have prayer service once a

week, and then, sing with the choir on Thursday or Friday night, so they sing Sunday, and that's all. All the minister want the money.

EM: That's all, though, that's the problem.

WA: He want the money, he, he. And other words, the minister shouldn't have nothing to do with money.

EM: But most of them do.

WA: Yeah, they said we going to pay this minister two hundred and fifty, two hundred dollars of funding, he ain't got nothing else to do with it.

EM: It's a minister in Oxford that takes, the deacons can't count the money, the have to give it all to him, and he give the report.

WA: He and his wife give the report. He and his wife give the report, now ain't that something. And he don't have no business doing that. The trustees and deacons should do that, somebody in the trustee and deacons should do that, though. And what they say they going to pay him, that's it, when he finish preaching, that's it. But, they can have so much money, he go out and have his dinner or do anything he want to, about three thousand dollars a month, what the hell?

EM: Some of them want to look at your W-2 forms, over in Creedmor.

WA: Yeah, I swear, I swear to God.

EM: And people doesn't see 'em.

WA: Yeah, and they fools, they are nothing but fools.

EM: We lost it somewhere, Bill, where did we loose it at?

WA: I don't know where we lost that at, somewhere along the lines.

EM: We lost pride and everything.

WA: One thing about it, I think one thing, the sisters ain't together, that's one thing. In the church, the sisters are not together. You can, you can find more of the men together than the sisters.

EM: And that translates into the father, the children, right on down, no pride, no self esteem, nothing.

WA: That's right, nothing.

EM: Just do your thing.

WA: They do their thing, if the kids don't want to go to church, they don't go.

EM: When Sunday came, we knew where we were going.

WA: You going to church. You going to church or else you get up next morning, better be something wrong with you.

EM: And we used to have to go back in the afternoon to B.T.U.

WA: Yeah, you got to go back like me, sometime we were up there, we go to Sunday school, and church, then, if you had to go up there sometimes at night for something, you go up there at night, you know what I mean.

EM: Uh, I think the church is the training ground for the future of your life, that's where somebody teach you how to read.

WA: Church is the standing ground for the future of your life, this is well going to school in the first grade. You get what you have getting at home, you getting that at home, you know, home school, church is next, because you go to church before you go to school. And then from school you learn it there, then all three of them together.

EM: That's why that I'm, in my history research, I want to say what come first, did the church come first come first, or did the school come first, or did the family come first?

WA: At home, the family come first, then the church, then the school.

EM: So, it take all three of them?

WA: All three of them together. 'Cause teacher, little boy and girl, he at home before he go to school. Before he go to church, then he, get that in church, then he go to school.

EM: Okay, that's what I do with my granddaughter, I take her to church where she know you don't write in books, where she know that that's the training ground, she went to church before she did to school.

WA: Right.

EM: That's why you have uh, you have Sunday school, Mrs. Brodie told me that what she teach in the school, she teach on Sundays too. Or what she teach on Sunday, in Sunday school, she teach it in school.

WA: Right, right, right.

EM: But you can't do it now.

WA: No. You got to go spend money to got the nursing home up here, or going somewhere, you know, spend money there, in church, like sometime in church, they could have a thing there for the people to come carry their babies into the church, and have somebody there to recognize them, until their family get from work, you know, it doesn't have to be up there, it don't have to be up there at the nursing home. The church is more than one thing,???????

EM: The church is like a tree root.

WA: Yeah, like a tree root.

EM: And everything else got branches, and you go, so your home, which, your family comes first.

WA: Then the church then the school.

EM: Okay, after your, after you learned what your Sunday school lessons are learned, then you go into the other school.

WA: You are right.

EM: And you will be prepared?

WA: Prepared.

EM: Well, what happened, Bill?

WA: I don't know, I swear I don't know. I just learned some things in the uh, when I was going to Sunday school, that I knowed them before I went to elementary school. Jesus wept and all that stuff, you know. You know it then, you could go in the school, you know. And now you, I don't know.

EM: Well, if the preacher buy the computers, that's money he won't get.

WA: That's money he won't get, and that's it. He gettin' everything he can. Everything, and boy that's a shame in a way. And most of them need to get out there and get them a job five days a week too, when most of them ain't. Ain't getting no job, they, they just sit around here.....They don't have the like, uh, in the summer time, each church would have something like a, a, convention or something.

EM: Yeah, we would have picnics, you are right, Bill.

WA: Yeah, go, go out to picnics, then you come back and all the church get together, somewhere, and have like a...

EM: Little association.

WA: Yeah, association, everybody bring something, and....

EM: You are right, 'cause every time if my church going to somewhere, going on a picnic or something, you could go to the next church, and the next church, everybody could go, it didn't make any difference...

WA: It didn't make any difference then, and you could have associations, during, during the summer, and everybody, everybody, all the churches be there, but now you don't have?????? You don't have nothing but revivals, so they can get money....

EM: And tell you how much each member had to pay...

WA: Yeah, at the revival...

JM: What, you had to pay ten dollars, for the week.

WA: And then they got a rally, you got to pay so much on a rally, and all that shit. Well, they would have that too, but you didn't have to pay, Pop used to pay family thing, you know, family thing, like he said you know, this year, for this year I think I'm going to get the family, and everybody in the family, five hundred dollars, you know. And that's for the family, if he go to church and all, you know, he give you twenty five cent, or fifty cent to put in church, maybe a nickel or dime to put in Sunday school. And that was it, you know, it's a little higher now, but that's the same he did, you know.

EM: Teacher giving?

WA: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

EM: 'Cause church and school is the background of your life, and both of them go hand in hand.

WA: Hand in hand, I swear but.....

EM: But they been split now.....

WA: Yeah, they split because, ain't nobody giving nothing to the church, and they got no, bull up about it.

EM: You are older than I am, you remember them putting everything in one pot, why they got to separate it?

WA: Like now, when we was coming up, we would have church money.....

EM: And building funds.....

WA: Building funds and church funds are not together, they are come up, and you give so much of the building fund, and then they come up, and say, well, uh, you give this to the church, you know whatever you want to give on the building fund, and uh, if you go into Sunday school, the Sunday school money different, all three of them is different, but now you don't know what's there, you don't know, all of them is in the same damn thing. Take up some for the.....

EM: The sick. Yeah, we give offering for that.

WA: Yeah, we give the sick.....

EM: Then mix that.....

WA: All of it in there together. All of it together.

EM: And you are older than I am, and you know the honest truth, when those people took up building fund money, that's where it stayed, them people, they would go, they would fight, that's where that money stayed.

WA: In the building fund, in the church, it stayed in the church. And the Sunday school stayed in the Sunday school.

EM: What happened to us?

WA: I don't know what happened. And if they want to go, they give up and say, you know, Mr. So and so is sick, or Mrs. So and so is sick, and tell, they'll send the basket around for her, and that goes straight to her, it don't go in the church and all that, it's to go straight to her, 'cause somebody take it to her after church...

EM: A special offering?

WA: Yeah,????? it off to her after church.

EM: Maybe now they can keep good books, and they can mix it together.....

WA: I don't know, it something ain't right. They have a sick fund, but all of it together, and the secretary well, I'm going to give William Amos twenty-five dollars, well, I might give Mrs. Something over there fifty. And I might give over here a hundred. You see, that's where they going now, you know, if your cousin, your friend, is sick, they going to know it, they going to give him more than they give you. And all that stuff.

EM: Why did they took over all the organization?

WA: I don't know, I don't know why, they just did.

EM: They took over decent organization that we had was functioned, they took that too.

WA: Yeah, I don't know.

EM: They should have a big fund.

WA: But I guess the first Methodists, they are building the first Baptists up now, you know, building up.....????????????? I heard some people say that church shouldn't have run down like that. It run down.

EM: 'Cause the minister do not do his job. He has repairs at home, but he live in a????? so he don't have to worry about look ahead or let's do this, or let's, catch this before it get, you know, get where it cost a lot of money. And it get to they almost kind of trifling. You know...

WA: Yeah, yeah.

EM: They don't worry about nothing, it ain't mine.

WA: And another thing they want to do now, on fifth Sunday, there is no church, you go to Sunday school. And then, have uh, uh, deacon and minister, deacon and uh, deacon and what other thing in the church.....

EM: Trustee.

WA: Trustee and the sons, go somewhere to a, some every fifth Sunday.

EM: Conventions...

WA: Yeah, but they don't, everybody want to go to church now on Sunday.

EM: Now you and I are not here bashing the church, and we are not bashing the people, we are, we are just having a conversation about our feeling....

WA: Toward the church.

EM: Towards the church....

WA: And it's not the church, it's the people in the church.

EM: And we are making comparisons.

WA: That's right, and when you get it all together, the preacher did more than the church did, he done it all, and you walking out empty handed.

EM: A lady told me, if a lady get sick in the community, the husband and them didn't have to worry about nothing, they had special days, the ladies would come wash, iron, cook, and help her until she get back on her feet. And the man, the men in the community did the same thing.

WA: Oh yeah...

EM: Until they got back on their feet.

WA: Right now they doing it?

EM: I don't even know my neighbor's name!

WA: Yeah, right now they doing it, if they died you don't get no food from 'em, you don't get nothing, the church, the members bring the food their, for to feed them, after the funeral. The members, and all that stuff.

EM: So that's why your father had a neighbor thing, if, if it's a family, family affair, a little get together, it's everybody?

WA: If she want to come, some people think he's a big shot 'cause he's having a family affair, well, that, that ain't it.

EM: No, knowing your father, who want to come, come..

WA: Yeah, come, come.

EM: You know...

WA: But one time, I'd say, for a long time, we was the only people that a family reunion. You know, we used to have it every year, on the fourth of July, it's that's when Papa would have it, you know. On the fourth of July, had hot dogs, barbecue, and stuff like, all that stuff, you know, fried chicken, but then, people, only thing he had to go and get was the barbecue. Only everything else we cook right here in the house.

EM: And was raised right here in the garden?

WA: Right, right. We didn't go out and get this and that, and so when you come, look out on the table, don't say nothing to him, if you go over here and get it, if you don't want it to go ahead and get the whiskey, you get the hell out of the yard...

EM: You respected everybody?

WA: Yeah, you respected, if you want a taste, you have a taste. Sometimes he don't?????? and in the later years, with my father, he will put the bottle on the table, you know, but 'cause everybody was young sometimes then, he would have it in the house, you could go in there and get it.

EM: What is things that you and I think that would take that, to try and turn things around again, what do you...?

WA: You got to start at home first, get the childrens together. At home, that's where it is.

EM: But the law says you can't do but so much at home.

WA: And that's another thing, the law.

EM: Where was, what would happen, a lady said, told me, said do you imagine what would happen if the law was back there when we was kids, it wouldn't be nobody out here grown.

WA: No, nobody.

EM: Where would they be?

WA: Everybody would be like the white man. That's reason we are separate from the white man, 'cause he made the law, and if you....

EM: He knew what he was doing, 'cause we, our parents control us, didn't punish us just for fun, they was teaching us right from wrong.

WA: Right, right right.

EM: And so we did wrong, we got punished for it.

WA: Right.

EM: And we didn't have no problem with it, because all blacks was being punished.

WA: Uh, hu, and his white, doing everything they wanted to do.

EM: And they still can't control their children.

WA: No control whatsoever. And what is law, law ain't nothing, something that somebody put in a book, from, some, some of that law is from slavery time, ran all way up. What, what did the white man do with the Indian? Kicked him out of the country. Kicked him clean out of the country. And he took over. That's the thing, and then the little black man,????? as a slave.

EM: But, why is blacks back then was stronger than mens now? And we got all the help, I mean, family could go through anything, they could go through the struggle.

WA: I don't know, I swear I don't know what it is now, I don't know what it is now.

EM: They was strong, Bill.

WA: They was men, they were men, men.

EM: Every problem they could handle.

WA: Every problem they could handle, man, they was men. And if you get in trouble, let your preacher or somebody in the uh, uh, what is it the Masons come up and say something for you, and you out, out of the trouble. You out of it. But now, you go up there, you see a Mason, see, you 'bout to go in jail. You will probably go to jail.

EM: You think we can turn it, I want to help turn it around.

WA: I swear it need to. Like Tony, Tony.....

EM: **Cazalt???**

WA: Cazalt, he don't know shit about what he doing, he don't know shit. He don't know shit, he don't know how to uh, he uh, in school, teachers, or principals, he don't know shit about principals. Tell you the truth. He rather learn what's in the book, and what he know about.....

EM: You got to have a little street life.

WA: Yeah, yeah, yes sir.

EM: You got to have a little of that too, in you.

WA: And what he doing around here ain't shit. An old man could do much better than a young man, 'cause he don't know shit about what's going on in the community.

EM: He don't have time, that's what we been talking about.

WA: He don't have time.

EM: Why, your father did a thousand things in one day, my father worked two jobs, Saturdays and Sunday, carried us to Raleigh, and did everything.

WA: But I don't know why, he, right now though, when the father and mother leave home, tell the children do this and do that, shit, they out in the street before he get out in the yard. They out in the street, and you going to tell that the kids, on Saturday, got to uh, probably go up town and wash clothes or stay home and wash clothes, you all go out and cut the grass, and tend the??? You might as well look up at the moon....

EM: They won't do nothing...

WA: They won't do nothing.

EM: That's another thing.

WA: When you go out there, they out there playing ball, and ain't doing nothing you would tell them.

EM: Television.

WA: Right now the television get all of it, I don't know.

EM: And when we came along if you had television, you couldn't get but two stations.

WA: Yeah.

EM:??????????

WA: And then, you can't look at it then, 'cause you are out there doing something. You are out there doing something.

EM: All you had was a radio.

WA: Yeah, a radio, you can listen that every night if you want to, but if you, on Saturday after you go to school all week, you got to get out there and do something, but now what do kids do, nothing, nothing, some of them get a good job on the weekend, some of them got a job after school, but how many, how many?

EM: I wish I could have met your father.

WA: Because now all the kids go to high school, going to high school got cars.....

EM: And a gun, too.

WA: Yeah, and a gun too. The mother and daddy out there working their fool selves to death trying to teach them to do something, and then when they get off on Friday, Saturday go up there to the clothing store and want this and want that, damn shoes cost \$80.

EM: Or a hundred.

WA: Damn. So, I don't know.

EM: You hope it change?

WA: Yes, I do.

EM: I do too. There's a lot of work to be done.

WA: There's a lot of work to be done...

EM: But it can be turned around, but everybody have to share in it.

WA: Share in it, and talking about getting away from the uh, the white, the Republicans saying they going to cut the aid of, you know, they did cut that, I'm telling you the truth, you know what I mean.

EM: But they didn't cut nothing out of their pocket.

WA: No, that's what I'm talking about, they are getting something in their pockets...

EM: Uh-huh, they hitting these old people.

WA: But I don't know, I swear. They should, I don't know, everything in the White House should get the hell out, everything, I swear.

EM: I told a man the other day, the reason we have so many problems, the government going to have us like Russia or something. We upset, we mad with each other, mad at your family, everybody mad...

WA: And every race you can stand is in America.

EM: Taxing you to death.

WA: And every race is in America now, every one of them.

EM: Now they won't to go back home.

WA: Nobody can't want to go back home. And they slowly pressured them in, I swear.

EM: Uh, I appreciate you setting down today chatting, and we had a nice conversation, I enjoyed you.

WA: Well, I can't speak to, you know.....

EM: But you experience that your, and moved around and everything in life, you just, it's you going to share with somebody, maybe they can take it, and go in the right direction, try to help turn it around.

WA: Yeah, I swear.

EM: Because there is no more fathers going to look out for everybody, nobody is going to look out for family no more. And so we going to have to do it our own way, and stop pointing fingers.

WA: Right, right, you got to do your own, that child is, you got to do it, you can't help from nobody else, you can't help nobody else raise their own child, they got to raise it their self.

EM: And that's why we got so many prisoners, a lady aksed me, said where are these children going that won't learn, won't do nothing? I said don't worry, they warehouse them every day in these prisons, that's all they do is build prisons for them, they know where they going.

WA: Yeah, they know where they going. And then the mother and father don't do nothing....

EM: Yeah, they go too.

WA: They going too. I swear. It's a shame.

EM: Uh, I appreciate it....

WA: But, these big shots out there in the White House don't see it. They don't see it.

EM: They got eye glasses, them colored lens.

WA: They don't see a thing. I swear they don't.

EM: I'm Eddie McCoy, and I enjoyed sitting down with Mr. Robert Amos son, I learned a lot about the family, they are very intelligent, the man worked hard, I would like to have seen Mr. Amos, and would like to have known him, because from the amount of education he had, and the far sight, he knew that his kids could not hustle, and be able to do the same thing that he did, in order for them to have an opportunity, he made sure all

of them go to college that want to go, and a man that had seven children that graduated from college and earned a masters and doctor degrees, I admire the man, no matter what they say, he was a great man for the community, because he worked for the community, he represented the community, I got proof that he gave wood to the churches that didn't have no schools, schools that didn't have no wood, he gave it to them anyway. So, Robert Amos was one of the, what you call role models, for Granville County. You look for black history, and somebody, Martin Luther King or other people, black history and role models, and they had them right here then, Robert Amos, and quite a few more, Bivins, a lot of those people we was fortunate to have right here in our home town, right where we could touch them, feel them and see them everyday in church, provided for his family, and everyone else that needed, so, everybody make mistakes, do this and do that, but he still looked out for his family, and I think that, if it wasn't for mens like that, to have the strength and the know how, what it takes, and just did everything, make sure that his family, and his children would have a good decent life. And what color his mother was, he didn't have no control over his mother, and that's life. That always have gone on, together white and black, so, I, my summary is I wish I could have seen him, and met Mr. Robert Amos and I think he was good for the community, I think he was a great man, role Model, he was just like everybody else, he wasn't perfect. He had his faults too, but still was a man who could hold his head up high, and walk the community, look out for them, protect them, he was the deputy sheriff, but people now spend time, they want to talk about him, but back then he was godfather. He was what you had, he was left with land, he used it, and I admire the man, and I think he was a great man.