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

Interview R-0798

Bobby Wood and Mike Whitmere

27 February 2015

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## **ABSTRACT – BOBBY WOOD AND MIKE WHITMIRE**

Interviewee: Bobby Wood and Mike Whitmire

Interviewer: Katherine Rippey and Stephanie Watkins

Interview Date: February 27th, 2015

Location: Bobby Wood's home near Brevard, North Carolina

Length: Approximately 1 hour, 17 minutes

Bobby Wood is a retired part-time farmer and full time mechanic in Brevard, North Carolina. He speaks with his friend Mike Whitmire about how he inherited his land and figured he should put it to good use. Whitmire is a fellow farmer who has worked with Wood for years. The two are very close, and speak of Whitmire's qualms with organic farming, and the level of perfection that produce must be held, and farming practices thirty years ago versus today in 2015. This interview from Western North Carolina was conducted for the Carolina Cooks, Carolina Eats (AMST/FOLK 375) spring 2015 course to record individuals' personal experience with food, and how it shapes their particular history.

## FIELD NOTES – INTERVIEWEE NAME

(compiled February 27th, 2015)

Interviewee: Bobby Wood and Mike Whitmire

Interviewer: Stephanie Watkins and Katherine Rippey

Interview Date: February 27th, 2015

Location: Bobby Wood's home on his farm near Brevard, North Carolina

THE INTERVIEWEE. Bobby Wood is a now retired blueberry farmer living in the mountains of North Carolina with his wife. He is a mechanic and a self-proclaimed "part-time farmer." Mike Whitmire is a friend of Bobby's, a fellow farmer who once grew many different crops and raised cattle. Mike used to graze his cattle on the wheat that grew on Bobby's farm.

THE INTERVIEWER. Stephanie and Katherine are both students at UNC Chapel Hill interviewing Mr. Wood and Mr. Whitmire for the purpose of recording their oral histories regarding farming in Western North Carolina.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW. Katherine and Stephanie navigated to Bobby's farm on a brisk February morning. The farm lay nestled in the folds of rolling hills at the end of a mile-long driveway, and was barren other than the patches of snow. The interview took place in Bobby's single-story brick home. Neither of the two made much eye contact with the interviewers, but proceeded in natural conversation and were able to prompt each other.

NOTE ON RECORDING. Mike took the reins of the interview, Bobby talked very little. Mike veered off-topic a good amount but always made his way back to the subject matter. In the middle of the interview there is an interruption when Bobby's wife brings Stephanie and Katherine cheese, crackers, and orange juice.