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Interview with Ella Trulock (FA 98)

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Attitudes of the Hart County Community Concerning Basket Weaving
as seen by Ella Trulock

Geo. Simpson,
Collector

George S: "Did the patience required in making a basket change your view toward extravagance of others?" V-A-1

Ella: "Well people are awful extravagant, yes." V-A-1

George S: "Would you want your children to make baskets?" V-A-1

Ella: "I would just as soon they make baskets as do anything." V-A-1

George S: "Were basket weavers clannish and sticking together in some kind of society?"

Ella: "No, we were individuals. Everybody would do what they wanted to just like raisin' hogs and cattle to sell or makin' butter to sell." V-A-2

George S: "How did the community as a whole see basket makers, on what level of status?"

Ella: "Well I'll tell you, people who didn't make baskets kind of looked down on those who did a right smart. I think they were a little bit jealous." V-A-2

George S: "I think you're right."

Ella: "Yes, well there's hardly nothing where somebody ain't contrary and trying to get up trouble. That goes everywhere." V-A-2

George S: "Did trouble ever come from basket weaving?"

Ella: "No, well somebody would say 'they're basket weavers' and that's all that would come of it. Making baskets wasn't really any different from sellin' eggs and butter. It was a way to feed my twelve kids." V-A-2

George S: "Did the people of the community then see you as an artisan?" V-A-2

Ella: "No."

George S: "Then they saw you more or less as a laborer?" V-A-2

Ella: "Yes."

George S: "What about today?"

Ella: "Oh, it's really something to make baskets today." V-A-2

George S: "Did you ever have people, perhaps little children, come and watch you out of interest?"

Ella: "Yes, but most people weren't that interested; it was pretty common then." V-A-2

George S: "I guess people appreciated basket makers if they suddenly became ill and couldn't fill orders?"

Ella: "Yes." V-A-2

George S: "So they pretty much valued your trade?"

Ella: "Yes, sometimes they'd give me the awfulest sight for just one basket." V-A-2