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--INFORMANT DATA SHEET--

Collector's Name Drew Beisswenger (1d)

Course _____ Instructor _____

Semester _____ Year _____

Name of Informant: Jeff and Gwen McKinney

Permanent address--Street: Rt. 2, Box 152

City: Lewisburg

State: KY 42256

County: Logan

Phone: 755-4940

Age: 1902 Sex: M

Birthplace: Logan County

Other places informant lived and dates: not really

Religion: Methodist

Ethnic Background: parents from Virginia

Languages spoken other than English:

Occupation: farmed, mined, railroad

Highest education level:

Skills/outside interests/hobbies:

Travel experience:

Community and religious activities:

Marital status: married

Family size: 2 daughters, 1 son

Siblings and their location: 7 boys, 2 girls

Father's name: James Williams

Birthplace: Logan Co.

Mother's name: Susan Kimmel

Birthplace: Logan Co.

Relationship of informant to collector:

Folklore genres collected from informant:

Collector's full name: Drew Beisswenger

Age: 24

Sex: Male

Campus address:

Telephone: 615-297-6809

Permanent address: 3807 Hilldale Rd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Date, time, and place of interview:

Context of interview (i.e., description of setting, people present, etc.)

Please list other relevant data on reverse side.

(Begin side one--Drew Beisswenger interviewing Jeff and Gwen McKinney.)

DREW: Let me get your address so that in case I need to write you, I'll know.

JEFF: Jeff McKinney.

DREW: Okay, is that K-I-N-N-L-Y?

JEFF: Uh huh, McKinney.

DREW: Okay, and address?

JEFF: Lewisburg, Route 2, and(?) (G.M.): Route 2. (J.M.): Hm mm, now you tell him the rest of it.

DREW: That'll probably be enough.

GWEN: Box five two(?), one five two.

DREW: Box one five two.

JEFF: And the code number, I guess(?) you want that, I guess.

GWEN: Four two two fifty-six.

DREW: What county is this?

JEFF: Logan.

DREW: And your name is--?

GWEN: Gwen.

DREW: First name is Gwen. (G.M.): Hm mm. (D.B.): Okay. Okay, I'm going to say the date in here so that I'll remember that.

This is September fourteenth, 1983, and I'm at Jeff McKinney and Gwen McKinney's house in Lewisburg, and we're going to talk about some of the old shape-note singing that Jeff McKinney was in. Let me ask also for this questionnaire, what religion are you?

JEFF: Methodist.

DREW: Methodist? And what year were you born?

JEFF: Nineteen two, sixth month, twenty-fifth day.

DREW: Do you know what, where your folks came from before they came here?

JEFF: Virginia.

DREW: Virginia? And what were their names?

JEFF: Oh, my daddy's name was--

GWEN: Kimmel. (J.M.): Huh? (G.H.): Kimmel, wasn't it?

JEFF: No, my mother was a Kimmel. And my daddy's name was J. W. McKinney, James William, and my granddaddy's name was Jack McKinney.

DREW: Do you know what your mother's first name was?

GWEN: She was Kimmel.

DREW: Is that her-- (J.M.): My mother. (D.B.): last name or, was that her maiden name or her first name?

JEFF: Susan Kimmel.

DREW: Susan. Were they both from around Virginia?

JEFF: No, my dad married her here in Logan County. She was a Kimmel.

DREW: Do you know where they were born?

JEFF: They was born here in Logan--

DREW: Here in Logan County? And you had how many brothers?

JEFF: There was six of my brothers, six brothers, and I made the seventh, six bro--, boys and two girls, ah seven boys and two girls.

DREW: Do you have any sons and daughters?

JEFF: I've got, I've got three daughters, no, two daughters. My boy, there's his pictures right back there. My boy, I lost him about three or four years ago.

GWEN: Four years.

DREW: Umm, what was your main job-- (J.M.): Huh? (D.B.): while you were

(A093)

(DREW growing, what was your main job? Farming or--
CONT.)

JEFF: I farmed, I mined seven years, and I worked on the railroad
about twenty-nine years.

DREW: Okay. That's, that's all for that. Were there any singing
schools in this area back then?

JEFF: Singing schools?

DREW: Around this area?

JEFF: Oh yes, there's lots of them(?).

DREW: When did they stop being so common?

JEFF: Oh, about when my brother died. I've went to three or four
singing schools since he died, and he died in sixty-eight.

DREW: Do they still have any? (J.M.): Hmm? (D.B.): Do they still
have them now?

JEFF: I haven't heard a one in, I don't guess in six years, singing
schools. (D.B.): Hmm. (J.M.): I don't think they have.

DREW: Were they taught at a church? (J.M.): Huh? (D.B.): Were they
taught at a church?

JEFF: Yeah, yeah.

DREW: What church?

JEFF: The last one I was to, I reckon, was Green Ridge Baptist Church.
Fellow by the name of Chester Whitescarver taught it.

DREW: Chester?

JEFF: Whitescarver.

DREW: Whitescarver?

GWEN: Whitescarver. (D.B.): Hmm? (G.M.): I said, "Whitescarver."

DREW: Is he still in this, does he live around here?

JEFF: Yeah, he lives at Russellville.

GWEN: Russellville.

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JEFF: I'll tell you, singing's just about of the past. It's down(?) here(?). All the sing, I don't call it singing. Of course I like old songs, but we used to get the Stamps and Baxter song-books and there was two or three more. I can't remember nothing now. We used to get them every year, and we'd sing new songs. Now, I go to church, they got a fellow up there that don't know one note from another leading, and he just sings the same old songs over and over, over and over. And I don't like it. I like it at a church but when I go to a singing, I want to hear new songs. But I'll never hear any more new songs.

GWEN: They just don't sing them like they did, and that's the reason he(?) don't(?) like it, I guess.

DREW: Do they still use these kind of books in the churches? (Several paperback hymnals belonging to the McKinnys are sitting on a table in front of Drew.)

JEFF: That there, what, that bottom one, they use the bottom one. That, they use it--

GWEN: Well, they use another'n, though(?), dont they?

JEFF: And I've got, I got some more here. (Mr. McKinney looks inside the piano bench.) Now here's ano--, here's one just like that one. I'll bring it over(?) there(?), and here's, here's a Methodist hymnal, and this is a Stamps and Baxter book. Now, they used that one and that one, and here's a, here's one my daughter-in-law or my brother a-bought. She sent me this'n from Wyoming, Cheyenne. See, it's round notes.

DREW: Hm hm. Hm hm. You don't like the round as much?

JEFF: No, sir. On the round notes, they're for a piano player that

(JEFF plays by lines and spaces and letters, ^{plays} these(?) letters. Now
 COIT.) you take a piano player that plays by shape notes, she can play
 an old song. But you, they have to play by letters. Now that
 girl there, middle one there, (Mr. McKinney is pointing toward
 some pictures.) I sent her to, oh she, a-living right out there
 in forty, about forty-four, and she went to taking ^{music} lessons over
 here at Lewisburg, and she took 'til, we moved to other place,
 I sent her to Bowling Green to take lessons, and Alaba--, what
 was it?

GWEN: Birmingham.

JEFF: Birmingham, Alabama, and she took down there from James D. Vaughan.
 Now he was James D. Vaughan's grandson, and she took, stayed down
 there a month or two and took lessons, come back, she finished
 school at seventeen years old. I lived Russellville (Russell?)
 up here then and she went to Owensboro to get her a job, put
 her application in for a job, and when she got there, why they
 wanted her to come right on and go to work.

GWEN: G.E. xxx (J.H.): Huh? (G.M.): G.E.

JEFF: Yeah, G.E., and she started there and she decided she wanted to
 take some more music lessons, and she did. She went to a fellow,
 some old man there, he teaching, and he taught her for a while,
 and he told her, he said, now he had six or seven pianos in
 there, the room, he(?) said, "You go in there and play," he
 said, "Play just like you generally play."

GWEN: At home.

JEFF: Yeah, and he said she went in there and played two or three songs,
 come back, he said that he just looked at her and said, "Don't

(JEFF CONT.) you never come back to me," says, "you know more about it right now than I do." (Laughs.) Now I xxx she's my girl, but now she can play the piano.

DREW: Huh, wow. So why did you go down to Laurenceburg, because, was the school better there?

JEFF: Oh, yeah, I--

GWEN: There wasn't any music schools like that around here.

DREW: Oh, that, this is more the short singing schools, and they had a long one.

JEFF: Yeah, they didn't, around here, they'd just teach ten lessons. But mostly we went for, oh before(?) we, we was any size(?), we had a sing. I know I've been church, and dad said, "Jeff, get up here." Maybe I'd set there and wouldn't go, but when he said the second time, now I went. They, you had to mind then, don't, like--

GWEN: This daughter xxx he's talking about, you should hear her play now. She plays for all the big churches in Toledo.

DREW: Hmm, oh.

JEFF: She's good enough, they'd give her, they payed for her organ lessons. (D.B.:) Hmm. (J.M.:) She's just as good on the organ as she is piano. (D.B.:) Hmm. (J.M.:) Now, I went mostly for voice lessons out there, is what I went for.

DREW: What part did you sing?

JEFF: Alto. I sung alto from when(?) I's(?) that high 'til^{I's} forty some odd years old.

DREW JEFF: Now, were most of the people men who went to the singing school or were there men and women?

JEFF: No, men and women, all.

DREW: Umm, in the si-- , in the shape-note book that we use, usually the men sang the bass and the tenor, and then the women sang the alto and soprano. How does it work for you?

JEFF: Yeah, well--

GWEN: The bass(?) xxx

JEFF: Well, in the way we was, the four brothers, it's(?) first started out quartet. Jim was a soprano, and I sung the alto, and Les sung the tenor, and my brother Lewis sung the bass. And that's the way it was.

DREW: And you sang songs out of these books?

JEFF: Yeah.

GWEN: Then whenever June grew up big enough, why she was the player.

DREW: Okay, you had a piano player then?

JEFF: Yeah.

DREW: I see.

JEFF: Yep. And here's another mess of those hymnals. (Shuffling sounds.)
Now both of them--

DREW: That's the Broadman, yeah.

GWEN: We(?) used to go to the singings sometimes(?) nearly every Sunday.

JEFF: This here is, this here is a Baptist book here. (D.B.:) Uh huh.
(J.M.:) And that's a Methodist. I call them catalogs. (Drew laughs.)

DREW: Tell me again how long ~~xxxx~~ you stayed down at Vaughan--

JEFF: Oh, I guess a month at a time.

DREW: For two years, or--

JEFF: No, just went, we went along about February and stayed the month of February. Then we, next year, me and Jim went. Well, all of

(JEFF us went the first time, but the next year just me and Jim went.
CONT.)

And while we was down there, we had to leave Les. He's(?)

Nashville Hospital and we had to leave him.

DREW: That was in twenty-seven and twenty-eight?

JEFF: Yeah-huh.

DREW: Okay. Did you ever go back again?

JEFF: No, oh I didn't. Jimmy(?) did. Jim went back there once more(?).

DREW: Did they give you a diploma or certificate that you got through?

JEFF: No.. He did him. Now Jim was a singer. I've seen him take
tunes--

GWEN: Jim was the leader. (D.B.:) Oh.

JEFF: Yeah, he was leader. He, I've seen him take new books, and
they've, they've tested him out right over here. He'd call
him, give him new book, call him over there, I've seen him miss
the second, the first and second verse a little, but when he
got to third verse, he had it down. Don't think he didn't
have it.

DREW: How many people were in the singing schools down in Vaughan?

JEFF: Oh, I don't know, just ever, I couldn't, couldn't even tell
you.

DREW: Was it a lot of people?

JEFF: He had, yeah, he had a great big place. He told me, Mr. Vaughan
told me, that's when I was out, he said, "My income's around
sixty thousand dollars a month, then.

DREW: Did you ever teach a singing school?

JEFF: Me? No.

DREW: You didn't?

A300

JEFF: Hm mm(no).

DREW: But your brother and your father did?

JEFF: Yeah, oh yes. I went with my dad to a lots of them when I wasn't that high. (Chuckles.)

DREW: Did a lot of the people who went to the Vaughan schools go so that they could start quartets, like you did?

JEFF: Ah yeah, me and, me and my brother, we sung in one quartet for, I don't know, five or six months.

GWEN: Well, he means others, though xxx

JEFF: Oh, yeah, yeah. That's what--

DREW: Did most of the quartets sing out of these books?

JEFF: Hm mm. (D.B.:) I see. (J.M.:) Yeah, Vaughan.

DREW: Hmm. Well ah, tell me how the singing schools have changed over the years. How many were there around, have you lived around here all your life? In Lewisburg?

JEFF: No, I was born about s--

GWEN: xxx

JEFF: About seven miles from here. This, yeah, I've been here all of my life, up around--

DREW: Were they a lot more common back in the nineteen twenties? Singing schools?

JEFF: Oh yes, yes sir. I know, we was talking about, I know of, every, nearly every Sunday evening when I was a boy, there'd be people come in there, high as forty, to sing xxx but they don't do it now. I ain't, they don't have a singing nowhere, only to make money out of it, you see.

DREW: Hmm. They sing every S--, they used to sing every Sunday night?

JEFF: Ah, they'd, used to sing, they'd have a night or two a week, they'd meet and sing, practice on new songs.

DREW: Family, or just--

JEFF: No, just everybody.

DREW: Everybody.

JEFF: Uh huh. When e--, nearly everybody sung then.

DREW: Was that at a particular church?

JEFF: Ah, that, yeah, just any church.

DREW: Any church?

JEFF: They'd have a singing and we'd go.

DREW: They'd switch from church to church?

JEFF: Yeah, hm mm. I know, I was working on the railroad, and I was working, my dad was teaching a singing school at out in Browder and me and my brother, yeah I was working in the mines then seven year. He and my brother went out there, and one Friday night, he taught at, it's closing, night he'd have a big singing, the closing(?) of his schools, and on Sunday he died. Next Sunday, he died.

DREW: Hmm. When was that?

JEFF: That was, ah, twenty-three. Nineteen twenty-three.

DREW: Would there usually be one person who'd lead the sing? Or would they switch?

JEFF: Oh yeah, that's, that's what it's for. You see, the singing school, that what it's for, to teach leaders to sing. And, so if he had any would lead, why he put them up and let them lead what they wanted to.

DREW: Have they changed much over the years?

A356

JEFF: Ha, yeah.

DREW: The ones that you went to ten years ago, were they a lot different?

JEFF: Well, I ain't been to a singing school, I don't guess, ten years. I don't know when the last ones were over here at Green Ridge (?).

GWEN: Hardly ever hear of a singing school any more.

DREW: When they had the singing school, would they, would they have people who would get a certificate after a while or would they just keep coming as long as they wanted to?

JEFF: Well, there wasn't a singing, what we'd call a singing school here, didn't last but ten nights. You just had the rudiments books, and they've got ten lessons in it.

GWEN: xxx

JEFF: They had ten lessons in it, and then they'd study them ten lessons for ten nights, any school would(?) be out.

DREW: Would that be ten nights in a row, or just on Sunday?

JEFF: Oh, most of the time it was.

GWEN: Ten in a row.

DREW: Ten in a row?

JEFF: Yeah, ten in a row. Now some, once in a while, it'd be on Sunday nights, they have preaching or something, why maybe they wouldn't have it that night, but they generally went continually(?). Yeah, singing's just the past now. They tell me they're writing songs with no time to them. Now that, you take a song and no time to it, it's just nothing then(?). That's what them singing schools for, was to learn the notes and learn the time, and that's all there is to singing, time.

A388

(JEFF I heard ^{one} 2 young fellow way he went to my brother's school
CONT.) and he said he never took no part in it, and he said in ten
nights, said he knowed all about the time, and I've been here
eighty-one years and I don't know all about the time, yet.
Now, there ain't no end to music. You know that?

DREW: Yeah. Well you, you said there's singing schools that might
last ten days--

JEFF: Hm mm.

DREW: And then there's singings on Sunday night. Would they be
different from each other?

JEFF: No, no, they wouldn't be xxx if they's teaching a school,
well they'd just teach you one of the lessons and go on(?).
We got, I, we got the cup up there, ^aour church. We used to have
a singing here at Logan County Court House every, in, second,
first or second Sunday in June and in October. And we'd sing,
we'd have judges and sing. And we got the silver cup up there
at our church yet. My wife asked me the other day, "What become
of it," and I told her they had it put back.

DREW: They had what put back?

JEFF: They had it put back out to where you couldn't see it. They
don't know nothing about singing up there.

DREW: When did that stop?

JEFF: Oh, it stopped, oh; I guess ten, fifteen years ago. (D.B.:) Oh.
(J.M.:) I've heard some singing there. (D.B.:) Hmm. (J.M.:)
Vaughan's quartet and, oh they'd be just quartets from all over
the country come.

DREW: And they'd have a competition? Or not really?

A418

JEFF: They would for Logan County. Stewards, Steward Ridge over there, they'd sing. They'd, and I can't tell you who else. Us and Steward Ridge was the ones that generally had the cup. And last time we sung, why, why xxx we got the cup. They's(?), Steward Ridge, ah, Stewards, why they, they sung one song in one time when it was wrote in another, and we got the cup. Now when they, they's good singers all right, but they, they just didn't know nothing about it. I, you, you ever sing any after-beat songs?

BREW: I don't know. I don't know what that is.

JEFF: Well, that's what they done. They, they, one time we was, we used to sing o--, me and my brother used to sing over the radio. And we used to go up near(?) Hopkinsville, and they told me that, another singer told me that Stewart Ridge heared us sing a song over radio at Russ--, at Owensboro, no, at Hopkinsville, and it was a after-beat song, and said that, that they didn't even know what a after-beat was. Now I'll tell you, we, when they first come out, that'd been(?) twenty-seven ay (eight?, May?), we's in Nash--, ah, in Laurenceburg, Tennessee, and it took me pretty-near to all night, we set up, they's about fourteen boys going to school, we all at the same boarding house(?). We'd set up of a night, all night, and sing, and so it took me a long time to catch that after-beat but when you get one, why you got it all. (D.S.): Mmm. (J.H.): I don't know. I've got looks here that's got them after-beats in it, but I don't know where it's at.

BREW: Well, I'll probably find out some time

xxxx

A454

JEFF: Yeah, I've got books here.

DREW: Do you?

JEFF: Here(?) It's got it.

DREW: Are they in these here? (Looks at the hymnals on the table.)

JEFF: I don't know, I'll look, sort of, in this'n. No, it ain't and I don't think there's any in that one. I imagine there's one in here somewheres, but I, this here, we, we just get-- (Ten seconds pass as Jeff looks through a book.) I've got a book laying up here, and I don't know. (Thirteen seconds pass as Jeff looks for another book.) Yeah, here's one, sixty-seven. See if, see if I can find one. See if that sixty(?) is in here. xxx Oh I've got a bunch of these books up

there. I think there'r one of the songs. I'd show it to you but I, it's just like this, when you, when you say a word, I'm supposed to say it on the after-beat after you. (D.B.:) Hmm. (J.M.:) (Sung) He bore it all, all (end singing). Now that's; he bore it all, that's the way it goes. (Sung) He bore it all, all, that, that, I, I, might, might, live in his presence, live (end singing). Let's see, I believe that song is in here. I don't know. (Twenty seconds pass as he looks through more books.) Maybe it's in this one. (Twenty-five more seconds pass as Jeff looks.) Ah.

DREW: I think I kind of know what you mean.

JEFF: Huh?

DREW: I think I know what you mean, a little bit.

JEFF: Uh huh, yeah, it just, it's on a after-beat, that's what it is.

I can't, can't find one. Well I oughtn't a layed that up there

A501

(JEFF on that.
CONT.)

DREW: Oh, I think it's all right.

JEFF: I know it in here but if I just, I could just find it. (Twenty-five seconds pass as he looks.) There, there's one of them. Now, I'll show you. Now, you see, you see, that's the first beat right there, and there's your, see, he says the first, "Leave him," and you'd say, "not grieve, not grieve." You see, there's your after-beat. Here's your, start your first beat, and see that's your after-beat, and that's your next beat, and that's your after-beat, and there's your, see it just goes on.

DREW: I see what you mean. So you sing that while they sing the other?

JEFF: Yeah, yeah, after-beat. That's what it is, on that after-beat.

DREW: Hmm. Do you remember if there are any other of the regular sings, singings, like they have--

JEFF: Huh?

DREW: Were there any other singings that happened every year, big ones, besides the one at the municipal building.

JEFF: Oh yes, used to go to Nashville, Tennessee every year to a singing. You know, we went to Knoxville, Tennessee.

CWEN: One at Murfreesboro, too.

JEFF: Murfreesboro and, we went to xxx They'd have a singing everywhere, every state, and ah, or place, once a year. The best ones I's ever at, I, me and my brother went to Nashville of a night, and I can't tell you how many quartets was there. And they had a big auditorium. They had a piano over here and one over there, and they had all them quartets and things(?) between

A535

(JEFF: them pianos and they were singing, and that's the best one I
CONT.)
was ever at. Oh, Little Joe, what was, what was his name?

xxx

GWEN: Ben, wasn't it.

JEFF: Ben who?

GWEN: xxx

JEFF: Him and his daddy; they was a family of singing.

GWEN: I just can't think, right now.

JEFF: It was a boy and his daddy, and the boy, youngest boy, he sang
soprano. Ben sang soprano and his mother sung alto, Speers.

GWEN: Speers.

JEFF: You've heard of them.

DREW: Oh yeah.

JEFF: Speers, his mother sung alto and his daddy sung tenor, his
brother sung bass. They's good too. He, I don't know where
I, he used to be Vaughan quartet.

DREW: Did a lot of them sing out of the Vaughan books?

JEFF: Yeah, yeah.

DREW: Most of them, or--

JEFF: Huh? Yeah.

DREW: Did most of them sing out of the Vaughan?

JEFF: All a, whenever we have a singing, they'd all, only when the
quartets come up, they'd all sing out of the same book. That's
what I said, there the best singing I was ever at. When they'd
get, sing out of the Vaughan, they had new books. When they
sang out, the Vaughan's leader, they'd sing out of a Vaughan,
and the Stamps-Baxter, they'd sing out of their books, you see.

(A556)

DREW: So they'd have both of them?

JEFF: Yeah, and there's, there's another, Winstont's(?) (Winsett's?), I believe they, they had a new book too. They's about three or four of them. I can't remember nothing no more.

DREW: Do you think the Vaughan was the most popular one? Most--

JEFF: Well, I've always thought they was. Reading, I thought, now you take that book, could you see any plainer? (Jeff shows Drew a hymn out of a Vaughan book.) Anything in it plainer?

DREW: No.

JEFF: Now you, I've got the Stamps books here, but they are different colors, and they ain't nothing like as plain as that song is. I always liked the Vaughan's. I've got Stamps books here. I've got, I guess I got twenty, twenty-five different books up there stair(?), electric organ. xxx

DREW: The major singing around here, though, was at the municipal building? Is that what you said?

JEFF: xxx when we have our county singing, it'd be at the courthouse.

DREW: Courthouse.

JEFF: Something like that.

DREW: And that'd be once a year? That'd be the main one for the county?

JEFF: Yeah, twiced a year we'd have it.

DREW: Twice a year?

JEFF: Yeah, we'd have it the first Sunday in June, and October. (D.B.:) Oh. (J.M.:) About the first or second Sunday in October.

DREW: Did they have any, many other sings in other counties right around here?

A579

JEFF: Yeah, ^{I've seen} different quartets from everywhere.

DREW: When did your, ah, when did your brothers and all, last, when were y'all singing mostly? In the forties, or thirties?

JEFF: Ah, we, we started in, oh, in the twenties, since(?) my dad died. That's when we started, the twenties, and we sung up to about forties, fifties. Oh, we sung, used to go and sing at the funerals(?) for funerals xxx They'd want us. We got to where we'd sung, and we just had to quit. They'd have some place for us every Sunday, and when our church, and in our church, we just quit going so much. When we, leaving our church so much, we just quit going, and we, I guess, our quartet broke up in the forties or fifties.

DREW: Did you get paid for doing it or did you do it for free?

JEFF: (Laughs.) Most of the time it was for free. Where's that other book that I took(?), I had like that, little(?). Right there, I don't see it. K. B. Jenkins, yeah here it is, he was a kinfolk xxx One of 'm, brothers, quit singing and went off, and he, this feller here, he sung with us for years. K.B. Jenkins, he died a little over a year ago, eighty-eight years old. (Fourteen seconds pass.) No, see you couldn't find no plainer music than that is, no easier to read. I could go up and get you some of them other books, but I don't xxx

DREW: Um, do you have any books that go back to the eighteen hundreds, or not really?

JEFF: Well, these here, here. No, I don't think so. These here, they're old songs.

DREW: I meant the book itself, the ah--

(A619)

JEFF: Here's one, eight--, eighteen fifty(?), Jerry Jeffery. Now that, eighteen and thirty-two and eighteen and, nineteen through(?), I guess that's when they, when they wrote them songs or that xxx

DREW: If, ah, if you're get--, if you start to get real tired of talking, be sure to tell me, you know.

JEFF: xxx There's a song wrote nineteen and, Keep On The Firing Line, nineteen and thirty-five.

DREW: Hmm. I meant the actual book, you know, when it was published. They did, they made some way back in the eighteen hundreds, but I was wondering if you had any. They're pretty hard to find.

JEFF: No, no, I wouldn't have none of them, no. There's one wrote, Eastern Gate(?), wrote nineteen and five. (D.B.:) Hm mm. (J.M.:) Ah, I guess there's some in here wrote back in there.

GWEN: He said the book though.

JEFF: Some of the songs, well, they's, the year they was wrote.

DREW: Hmm mm. When you sang at, at a singing, would they sing old and new songs?

JEFF: Well, that's what I call a sing. Singing, now, they would have sung, they'd go sing new songs at a singing. But at the church, now, they'd sung old songs. (D.B.:) Okay. (J.M.:) Most of the time.

DREW: At a singing, would it all be new songs?

JEFF: Yeah. (D.B.:) Oh. (J.M.:) Like that court house up there, we'd all have, have new songs, new song books. The Steward's Chapel over here, they sung, they used the Stamps-Baxter's books xxx xxx They used that, and we used's(?) Vaughan book. Of course, we had them all. We used, we used the Vaughan books at my church,

A650

(JEFF CONT.) you know, all the time, ever since I can remember, and that's been a long time ago.

DREW: Hmm. In churches, would they sing harmony the same way, or would they try to just sing un--, unison, or all the same, just the melody?

JEFF: Yeah they'd sing all, all sing the same(?). When we xxx went to singing, everybody welcome to sing, anybody that wanted to sing.

DREW: Um, what I meant is, sometimes in churches, they want you to all sing just the melody line. They don't want the four parts.

(J.M.): Oh, now-- (D.B.): But would the churches around here like the four-part?

JEFF: Yes sir. Now the Baptists, now this here, they, they put out their(?) books that they said the Baptists, all of them was Baptists that wrote the songs, you see. You any, you have ever(?), much dealings with the Baptists.

DREW: I'm not Baptist, I'm a Presbyterian.

JEFF: Well now, they, last I heard of them, they was going to put out a book with nothing, they didn't want no Methodists, other demomination songs in their book or nothing. (D.B.): Hmm.

(J.M.): I don't know ^{whether} ~~if~~ they ever got the book or not, but this is one of them. (Jeff shows Drew a Baptist hymnal.) Now where this come from is the Baptists. I had, we raised two daughters, granddaughters, their daddy got electricuted, and when one of them was about seven or eight months old xxx Did Hop(?) get killed before Tracy was born?

GWEN: (Too distant to hear.) xxx

A 677

JEFF: Well, and we, we, we raised them. We kept them 'til, two years ago the last one left. She finished high school over here. No she didn't, she went to Madisonville and went two years.

GWEN: I thought she xxx

JEFF: And now she's going to Murray, now she's gone. And the oldest girl, why, she, she finished up two years ago, and the youngest girl finished at Owensboro last year.

DREW: I'm going to have to turn this over.

(End of side one.)

A686

(Begin side two.)

DREW: How often would y'all practice?

JEFF: Oh, two or three nights a week. ^{They} ~~we~~ do, did then. They don't practice at all now. Do y'all?

DREW: I'm not in a group right now. Not really.

JEFF: No, the singings is about gone. You noticed(?) the singing schools, now I just wonder what'll happen, just sing the same old song, I guess, over and over.

DREW: Hmm. You, there's a lot of gospel groups out now, but you think that's a lot different than back then, don't you?

JEFF: Yes, I do. You take, you take a lot of things(?) that I see, they got a quartet over here somewheres, they'll take a good song and change it up, you know, and it don't even sound like the song. What is that old quartet, that Nowell(?) Steward's son-in-law sings in?

B030

GWEN: xxx

JEFF: xxx Huh?

GWEN: Tennessee, it's up at the place up there in Tennessee.

JEFF: Yeah, I know it is, but I can't think of it, what they call
the xxx (dance?)

GWEN: xxx

DREW: Do they add different instruments now and all like that?

JEFF: Ah, shee--, that's what ruined music, these old loud speakers.
You know that? They'll turn them up so loud that you can't, I
can't understand; anything too loud, I can't understand it. And
so they have all, everything, guitars, and accordians, everything
they have xxx I've got to where I won't go to a
sing.

DREW: What instrument, they have accordians sometimes?

JEFF: Yeah.

DREW: And guitars?

JEFF: Guitars, and stuff like that.

DREW: Are they electric or just regular?

JEFF: Drums. Huh?

DREW: Electric or just the regular kind? Are they the loud electric
kind?

JEFF: Yeah. (D.B.:) Oh. (J.H.:) All that--

DREW: And drums?

JEFF: Drums, yeah. Now I, I just don't like(?). xxx

xxx Well, I've heard it, just like it used to be
Grand Ole Opry over here. First time I, thirty, forty years
I heard it, why I heard the same thing 'til I, I got tired of

(JEFF singing. I know what I would hear before I looked(?). And I
CONT.) just got to where I don't go to, had one singing over here last
Sunday, first Sunday, at Steward Ridge. I didn't even go to it.

DREW: This year?

JEFF: Yeah I, first Sunday of this month, er no, first Sunday in July.
That's when it was xxx They'd have that every year
over there, and I li--, I went last year, xxx oh,
I'll tell you, it didn't(?) suit me.

DREW: Because they didn't have new songs or because they had different
intruments?

JEFF: Yeah, that's what I say, they sung the same old *things*. I hear
them every time I go.

DREW: You like new ones, eh?

JEFF: Yes, sir, I liked new ones.

DREW: How would someone like me find out where the sings are going to
be? Or do you know--

JEFF: Where the singing's going to be.

DREW: Yeah, if I wanted to go to one around here--

JEFF: Well, I get, I get an old county paper. They, they tell
where they at.

DREW: They do?

JEFF: Last of the month. Yeah, they, in the county paper here. You
don't live in Russellville?

DREW: ^{no}_^ I live, you see I, I work at Land Between The Lakes, but I'm
taking some courses in Bowling Green. (J.M.): Uh huh. (D.B.):
And so I kind of go to Bowling Green a lot, so I don't know
exactly where I live. But I come through here every week,

(DREW CONT.) you know, between places. (J.H.:) Uh huh. (D.B.:) But yeah,

I guess the library here would probably have those papers, wouldn't they?

JEFF: Yeah.

DREW: I could find out there.

JEFF: Well, they had a singing up there at my church last Saturday night, but I didn't go.

DREW: Is that right?

JEFF: Boy(?), the one that leads the singing up there, he's got a quartet, and his tenor singer, I noticed ^{him} when he's singing, he'd sing maybe one place in the, in the song, he'd get the tenor on it, and the rest of the time he'd sing the alto, sing the soprano just like the leader. Now I--

DREW: He'd get mixed up, huh? Or--

JEFF: That's right, yeah, I can tell one wants(?) to sing the right(?).

DREW: Ah, is the melody of the song in the soprano? Is the main melody in the soprano part?

JEFF: I think so.

DREW: You know what I'm saying? Ah, just the, the main melody of the song. Or, or do you think they all have, all the parts have melodies really?

JEFF: Oh, yeah, all the parts have melody. (D.B.:) Okay. (J.M.:) And you take a, you take a m--, where they all parts sings right, well that melody sure comes out. They claim a family that sings together, the melody is better than just picking up one here and yan(?).

DREW: Yeah, I've been missing hearing that music 'cause, see ah, I

(B148)

(DREW CONT.) hadn't lived in North Carolina for about three years, and , ah, I didn't know if there was any singings here or not. When they have singings, do they have a, any kind of, well, since they're religious songs, do they have any kind of prayer at the beginning and, and any, do any ministers ^{over} come up and say a few words like that?

JEFF: Oh yeah.

DREW: So it's sometimes like a service?

JEFF: Hm mm, yeah.

DREW: I see. When they have singings now, do they switch the leaders, or does usually one person lead.

JEFF: Ah, yeah, when they have, yeah, when they have singings, they'll generally start out, maybe have two leaders to lead a song or two. Then, the rest of it's, we got it's quartet.

DREW: Do you know if there's going to be a sing soon anywhere?

JEFF: There's going to be a sing?

DREW: Going to be a sing soon?

JEFF: No, I don't know. I don't know.

DREW: I'll check the paper, I guess.

JEFF: I'm, just like I told you, I haven't heard of a ^{singing} sing school around here, I don't guess, six or seven years.

DREW: Well, I meant the sing, just a regular sing at a church, singing, not the singing school really.

JEFF: Oh.

DREW: But just the sing, singing, that I could go listen to. Like you said is in the paper, you know, those kind.

JEFF: Well, you, they generally tells where a thr--, last of the week,

(JEFF CONT.) yeah, last of every week. Now tomorrow, I'll get this Logan County paper, and it will generally have three or four singings--

DREW: Is that right?

JEFF: Somewhere or another around over the country, yeah. Tell what quartet will be there and all. Yeah, it's onced, every onced a week, they have the back page with the Sunday School lesson and singing in church where they'll have preaching and things(?).

(D.B.:) Oh. (J.M.:) Now, you get that in Russellville every, every Thursday. I'll get it tomorrow. We take it and the old Courier Journal.

DREW: I'll ah, I could probably go in and get one, or it won't come out 'til tomorrow, will it?

JEFF: I don't, I don't think they print them 'til tonight.

DREW: Oh, do you know what the name of it is?

JEFF: xxx yeah. Now, here's a Leader, Logan County Leader, but more, Democrat. It'll be the Democrat. That's, that's the same, they publish that on, get that Monday and they get the Democrat in off tomorrow.

DREW: Okay, does this ever show the sings?

JEFF: No.

DREW: No.

JEFF: No, we, I got a, I save these for my brother's wife, save the paper and take them to her, Jim's wife. No, on the back page of that, it'll all be for singings and church and Sunday School lessons tomorrow. You get it tomorrow if you're up in there. And ah, through this year. She likes it but I wouldn't give a dime. (Laughs; he's talking about the Leader.)

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DREW: Do you remember the names of any of the teachers? You mentioned one. I wrote it down, Nester Whitescarver?

JEFF: Chester.

DREW: Chester.

JEFF: Uh huh. Well, Taylor, Taylor Chapman used to teach.

DREW: Taylor Chapman?

JEFF: Uh huh.

DREW: Okay. Does he live around here?

JEFF: He xxx

DREW: He's dead?

JEFF: He's in a rest home now.

DREW: Oh yeah.

JEFF: He used to come down here and, three or four or five years ago, me and him would sing, just-- (D.B.): Hmm. (J.M.): He'd have the Vau--, ah, he'd have the Stamp books and I'd have the Vaughan. (Coughs.) I can't think of any other--, Carlie(?) Yons(?)--, ah, what was that, Johnson, wasn't that a Johnson used to teach them(?) singing schools? Was it Carlie Johnson?

GWEN: R. K.

JEFF: Huh?

GWEN: R. K., R. K.

JEFF: No, R. K. Johnson, he never did teach.

GWEN: Well what--

JEFF: That mu--, he lived up around Kirkmansville.

GWEN: I don't know of any other Johnson.

JEFF: Carly Johnson, I believe(?), about the only one I can think of.

DREW: And he lived around where?

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JEFF: Kirkmansville. It's just hard for me to remember about a thing.

DREW: You've been remembering real well, it seems to me.

JEFF: My dad and my brothers, they, they taught around here just a while.

DREW: How would they go about ^{doing} ~~do~~ it? Would they advertise in the paper and then--

JEFF: No, see that's before they had any paper xxx here.

DREW: Did they just, by word of mouth?

JEFF: Hm mm, yeah, give a, announce it, where they's going to xxx

DREW: At a church?

JEFF: They got, I think they got about fifty dollars. No, I don't believe they got that much way back then, teaching school.

DREW: So they'd get, at the beginning they'd collect the money from--

JEFF: Well, they'd make up the money and have it ready before they'd went to school, you see. (D.B.:) Oh. (J.M.:) Yeah, they'd make up the money and have it ready.

DREW: Would they usually do it for one church?

JEFF: They'd do it at any kind of church.

DREW: They'd do it in the church?

JEFF: Any church that wanted a singing school, they'd teach it.

DREW: Would the churches sometimes ask him to come?

JEFF: Preachers.

DREW: Preachers and churches ask him to come to help their congregation?

JEFF: Yeah, yeah, yeah, they, yeah, they'd all go in together xxx

xxx He Died But Lives Again. Guess that's one xxx turned down before he died. Way back there in seventy-four I believe that book, yeah, seventy-two, the second

(JEFF book. Now, that's the second book, seventy-two. xxx
CONT.)

kept them, fifty, fifty-six, and a hundred and fifty. He run'm
through'm and what he wanted to set down, ah, sing again, he'd
go back. There's one he's got, gospel(?), mighty as God. There's
one he, I think you just got to, now there's a after-beat song(?)
sure enough. (Jeff is looking through a hymnal.)

DREW: There's what?

JEFF: There's a after-beat song, sure enough. (D.B. :) Uh huh. (J.M. :)
You see it there?

DREW: Yeah, huh.

JEFF: You see, you see that--

DREW: Drifting With the Tide. Now I've heard that song.

JEFF: Huh?

DREW: I've heard that song.

JEFF: Well, sing it for me.

DREW: No, I don't think I've heard it like that though. I, maybe I
haven't. Maybe I'm thinking of a different one.

JEFF: No, I xxx I've, I've heard the Drifting With the Tide
too, but I don't think it's like that one.

DREW: That doesn't look like the way, it might be a different song
that I'm thinking of. I'm not sure.

JEFF: Yeah, now that's, that's what I call the after-beat. (Twenty-
three seconds pass.)

DREW: Am I keeping you from lunch?

JEFF: No, we, it's about time. Will you eat with us?

DREW: Well, I don't want to put you out any trouble at all.

JEFF: She's getting ready, I think. Now xxx Drifting In the Tide

(JEFF and I'll xxx in that'n.
CONT.)

DREW: Well, let me ask one more question and then I'll quit for, but um, I'm ah, doing a history project and they ask me to do a interview with some person that would be a in-depth, they say, so that I'd ask them about, you know, growing up and what they did, and a lot about the history, and it has to be with a person. I was wondering if you'd mind if I came back and interviewed you more. If it's, you know, if it's too hard for you or you'd rather not, that'd be all right, but I'd be real interested in hearing more about it.

JEFF: Well, I'll tell you, I'm just for--, I'm just forgetful. I can remember everything back, but now, I can't remember people's faces or nothing. I don't know.

DREW: Well, I'd try to think up better que--, I didn't come with very many questions today, but see, if I had good questions, I ah, I don't think it'd be very hard.

JEFF: No, I wouldn't care if you come back sometime.

DREW: Okay. Well, I'll try to give you a call this week again sometime.

JEFF: Okay.

DREW: And--

GWEN: Don't you want to come and eat a hamburger.

DREW: Well, I'd hate to put you out to any trouble.

GWEN: I've already fixed it.

DREW: Oh my.

GWEN: You won't get xxx Come on. (Drew laughs.)

DREW: Okay, well, I'll turn this-- (End of interview.)

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