

Trigg County African-American Oral History Project

By
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and Lorna Thigpen

A project completed for the Pennyrile Arts Development District
and the Kentucky African-American Heritage Commission

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INTRODUCTION

This project was conducted by a student group in the Cultural Conservation class at Western Kentucky University, Fall semester 1995. It was funded by a grant from the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission for the Pennyryle Area Development District (PADD) to document African American heritage in Caldwell, Christian, Todd, and Trigg. The type of heritage project conducted in each county was established by local committee organized by PADD. The intent in granting funding for these projects was two-fold. The first purpose was to give recognition to a relatively unrecorded and unrecognized heritage. Second, it was hoped that projects conducted in these four counties would spawn an interest to continue these or similar projects.

Trigg County's committee consisted of Virginia Alexander and Flora Sholar. The student group included Julia Morgan, project leader, Andrew Oberdier, Candise Clemmons, and Lorna Thigpen. Interviews for the project were conducted during the months of October and November 1995 in the homes of the informants. Photographs were taken of all but two informants and accompany this packet.

In Trigg County, the project involved interviewing select members of the African American members of the community. The oral history interviews included in this collection are of the life review format. As the first project of this type conducted in Trigg County, it serves as a foundation from which future projects can be based. Four themes emerged from the following interviews that are excellent points of departure for heritage projects to develop in the future. First, the predominant occupation of those we interviewed were farmers. Farm sizes ranged from

ten to hundreds of acres. They were worked by either share croppers or African American land owners. Second, education on the elementary school level was discussed either from the student point of view or from the teacher's. Third was the beginning of documenting oral histories of African American communities and towns in Trigg County which are no longer existing for reasons such as TVA flooding the area to create the Kentucky Lakes.

This project has many promising possibilities. Interviews collected to this point discuss people and places that were important aspects of every day life of Trigg County between the early 1900s and the 1950s. The points of departure listed above serve merely as suggestions. With examination of the following interview indexes, other options may emerge that are of more immediate interest for development by those who will carry on this project. There exists a rich African American history and heritage that will be valuable to the history of Trigg County. It needs only to be uncovered.

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF ROSETTA BACON

[No donor or data forms]

Rosetta Bacon has returned to her roots after living in a variety of locales. Born in 1950 in Trigg County, Rosetta grew up loving the freedom of the country life she lived. An honor student, she graduated from Murray State University in 1972 where she helped establish a black sorority for women and studied radio and journalism. She has the distinction of being the first black news reporter in the area (1972). Her work took her to Nashville and a stint in the military followed. She has returned to take an active part in the community, helping her minister father with church music and looking forward to career in sales in the community.

"I grew up in a poor family as far as financially, as far as finances are concerned . . . but you can always overcome that if you have the willpower (from tape at 403+)." Rosetta contributes much of her success to her former teachers and the opportunities provided by helping establish and be a member of her sorority at Murray.

Her experiences growing up are reflective of the times and her location. She combined long afternoons of "running a mile" to the neighbors' house to play with friends with afternoons of rock and roll watched on television's American Bandstand -- when her father wasn't around!

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Rosetta Bacon
DATE: November 11, 1995
PLACE: Cadiz, Kentucky
INTERVIEWER: Candise Clemmons

Side A

- 001 Introduction
- 004 Named after a famous singer of religious music from the 1950s: Rosetta Ban [?]
- 012 Born February 17, 1950 at Caledonia (about 10 miles east of Cadiz)
- 019 Attended Murray State University when she was 18; studied radio, TV, and journalism
- 025 After college, she became area's first black news reporter (1972); she was a field reporter, did interviews, broadcasting, and a weekly talk show on WHOP (Hopkinsville)
- 036 She didn't have many problems working in this field being a woman and black. She had the support and assistance of her station manager and the mayor, George Atkins. They were both instrumental in introducing her to the people she needed to know.
- 046 Worked at radio station for two years
- 052 First female to sell insurance in area (1972), moved to Nashville and entered radio work again, followed Oprah in one job at WVOL radio where she was a news reporter and weekly talk show host
- 063 Back to Trigg County (1984) following being in army and has been in Cadiz for the past 5 years after a variety of job activities, including a lot of tele-marketing
- 076 Murray State career -- helped to establish a sorority for black women based on academics at the school, discussed college life, and the activities of college and sorority and what she learned and gain from them
- 105 Explanation of where she lived, parents, and family life

Rosetta Bacon--November 11, 1995

- 110 Her father is a farmer and minister. She had 7 brothers and 1 sister. Her father is the only minister to have 2 churches in one area, one which is the Little River Baptist church she attended as a child
- 121 Father was and is a minister of two churches; she is member of Little River Baptist and plays piano at both churches (Lafayette, Kentucky)
- 135 Role of the church in the community; first white member joined their church recently; church history - her church is over 100 years old (congregation, not the building)
- 172 Schools attended: which include a one room school at Rocky Point which housed 8 grades. In first grade there were only 2 other students her age. By third grade a new school was built (McUpton in Cadiz). She participated in speech, 4H, Betta club.
- 203 Her mother's history: housewife with 9 children, active role in encouraging children to attend and help her father
- 216 Her father's history: in addition to being minister he was tenant farmer for 40 years growing tobacco, wheat, and corn
- 227 4 brothers are ministers: Jerry at Pleasant Hill and is moderator of this district of churches. Bobby is assistant moderator for the district and is pastor of a church in Catawa. The oldest brother is a minister but doesn't pastor a church. The other brother came to the ministry last May. Her sister, Anthea, is a supervisor at a Hardee's restaurant. Her youngest brother does farm work in the area.
- 245 Closeness of the siblings: they are scattered but get together on holidays
- 256 Family traditions: they had a special New Years celebration that Aunt Sadie was in charge of as she was the historian of the family (she is dead now). She collected family's furniture and a piece of her furniture is on display at the Hopkinsville Library. Rosetta helped her aunt clean holiday dishes and special pieces of silver and gold for the family celebration.
- 308 Grandparents: father's parents were killed in a flood in Trigg County in 30's or 40's and mother's parents were from Clarksville, Tennessee, but she was born in Trenton
- 332 Reasons she came back to Trigg County -- she wants to contribute to the community
- 362 Not married but has 25 nieces and nephews
- 368 Hobbies: music, singing, reading, writing. Her musical background

- 403 Favorite memories as a child: country life style, watched American Bandstand when father not at home. " I grew up in a poor family as far as financially, as far as finances are concerned . . . but you can always overcome that if you have the willpower."
Contributes much of her success to her former teachers and sorority at College.

Side B: Military experiences: jobs, duties, travel

- 486 1980 she entered the military. It was a short but challenging experience. She joined to go into radio in Europe. She began training as a lab assistant because that is where she scored highest on her aptitude test but later transferred to telecommunications. Stations: Trained in South Carolina; San Antonio, Texas; Fort Gordon, Georgia (discharged)

- 503 Conclusion

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF CHARLES BAKER

[No donor or data forms]

Charles Baker was born and raised in Trigg county. His father was a farmer, growing wheat, corn, and tobacco. Leaving school after the ninth grade, he began working on his father's farm. Charles served in the army during the Korean War and met his wife on his return to the United States. A farmer himself until his retirement, Charles also worked at Fort Campbell. Now Charles attends Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and works around his house, continuing to work his land.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Charles Baker
DATE: November 10, 1995
PLACE: Cadiz, Kentucky
INTERVIEWER: Andrew Oberdier

[Technical problems make the first half of this tape erratic.]

Side A

- 018 Charles quit school after the ninth grade to work on his father's farm.
- 033 He remembers his first school having only one teacher and perhaps 30 children.
- 046 The thresher used on his father's farm was owned by Jonny Thomas.
- 057 Charles's father also worked at Fort Campbell.
- 068 He remembers his family taking their wheat to a local milling company and exchanging it for flour.
- 070 His mother often made aprons out of the heavy flour sack cloth.
- 077 The family would also take corn to the mill for corn meal.
- 079 Charles thinks farm life now is expensive and remembers farming used to provide nearly everything.
- 103 Charles describes how dark tobacco is tied but burley tobacco is baled.
- 148 Charles attended Pleasant Hill Baptist Church after it split from Dawson Creek Baptist.
- 192 He went through basic training for the army at Breckinridge, Kentucky.
- 216 Charles served in the army during the Korean War.
- 238 He remembers several experiences from the war.
- 283 Charles was eventually discharged in 1956.
- 286 He met his wife while still in the service and would visit her when on leave from Fort

Hood, Texas.

- 339 Returning from his service in the army, Charles worked at Fort Campbell, both in the laundry and in the post engineering section.

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INFORMANT: Charles Baker

DATE: November 17, 1995

PLACE: Cadiz, Kentucky

INTERVIEWER: Andrew Oberdier

Side A

- 017 Charles remembers how the old community of Free State is now called Pleasant Hill.
- 045 He explains how he would play as a child, rolling tires down hills.
- 080 To plow their fields, Charles remembers his father using two mules. It would usually take several weeks to plow all their land.
- 100 His father grew tobacco, and Charles can describe the work involved.
- 158 Livestock was also raised on their farm, and he can explain the process of hog-killing.
- 260 Charles's mother was born and raised in Cadiz, but his father was born west of Cadiz.
- 267 Besides their two mules, Charles remembers the family's milk cow and how they made butter.
- 289 A farmer in his own right, Charles can describe the difference in curing dark and burley tobacco.
- 332 When asked about the local "honky tonks" in Cadiz, Charles remembers them as rough places.
- 356 His father once told him to always be home by midnight because the Devil came out at twelve.
- 360 Instead of going to the clubs, Charles would sometimes go to the movies in the old Cadiz movie theater.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF NORRIS BAKER

Mr. Norris Baker comes from a long line of Trigg County residents. He was born, the second eldest of five children, on December 25, 1916. His mother was from a small community about five miles east of Cadiz, and his father was raised in the Jackson neighborhood.

He was raised on a farm on which his family raised tobacco and corn. He and his brothers helped their father with the farm duties, usually working a full day which meant sun up till sun down. They lived in a tenant house on a farm of about 300 acres.

Between 1942 and 1946, Mr. Baker was enlisted in the United States Army. During this time he was stationed in many counties where it was his job to drive trucks.

Mr. Baker is most noted for his contribution to the community as a math teacher for 30 years. He graduated from Kentucky State in 1950 and returned to Cadiz to teach math until he retired in 1981, one year following a stroke. He taught at Dunbar, McUpton, and Trigg County High School. While he taught, he also worked other jobs, including bus driver, farmer, and carpenter.

He and his wife Alma are the parents of twelve children, but lost one.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

[No donor form]

INFORMANT: Norris Baker
DATE: October 6, 1995
PLACE: Cadiz, Kentucky
INTERVIEWER: Julia Morgan

[This tape has background noise of a fan that was near by. It was turned to the lowest speed setting but not turned off for the interview. My microphone picks up this noise when Mr. Baker spoke softly, so it can be difficult to understand all of the tape for transcription purposes.]

Side A

[1916]

- 004 Born in Trigg county December 25, 1919. Trigg is the only place he has lived.
- 010 His family consists of four brothers and one sister: J.C., Norris, Albert [?], [sister], Luther
- 018 He lived on a farm of 300 acres. On the farm were two tenant houses and one big house. His family lived in one of the tenant houses.
- 027 On the farm his family grew tobacco and corn. He and his brothers and their father worked on the farm.
- 034 Typical work day: work till lunch (11:30 am) then back to work at 1:00 pm till dark.
- 040 School lasted for the six months of the farming off season. It would start after cutting tobacco and last until Christmas-time. A new crop would be started in January.
- 054 Starting a January crop entails getting plant beds ready to sow tobacco seed.
- 059 His childhood school was a little country school about three miles east of Cadiz.
- 067 His father was raised in Jackson neighborhood, six to seven miles northwest of Cadiz. His mother was raised four to five miles east of Cadiz.
- 078 Mr. Baker attended Dunbar High School until he finished. After high school he worked at a few different places before joining the Army. After the Army, he went back to school at Kentucky State and studied mathematics.
- 092 Army: 1942-1946; Kentucky State: 1946-1950.
- 101 He was stationed over seas in Germany, the Philippine Islands, Canada, and the Panama

Canal. In the service he was a truck driver. "All I cared to do was drive a truck." He enjoyed this job because he didn't like people telling him what to do, and in this job all they said was just drive the truck. The trucks he drove transported large weaponry.

136 When asked what his favorite country was he responded that it was the United States.

143 [Discussion with daughter on an unrelated matter.]

152 Talk about his brothers' and sister's occupations [difficult to hear because of a clanking sound]. He was the only member of his family, aside from his father, who joined the Army. He was not sure what his father did in the Army, but his father was enlisted for two years.

182 Norris was married in 1949 when he was lacking one year in school. Following graduation (1950) he returned to Cadiz to teach school. He had a job offer elsewhere which he turned down, so he could return to Trigg county.

192 Norris's wife is Alma. Together they had 12 children and lost one: Nathaniel, Vivian, Jenita, Betty, Norris, Junior, [inaudible], Wendell, Alma, [inaudible], Tenisha, Celeste (youngest and is 20 years old).

253 [Paige, a granddaughter, walks in] Paige got her name from a woman who took in Betty's family when they needed help.

270 His mother, Rosetta, did when he was a child. Then his father married a girl "much too young for him."

282 Norris's father's mother died when he was young and his father lived until he was 80 or 85.

295 Many generations of family lived in Trigg county.

300 Family name: at the end of slavery they had a choice between Cunningham (the name of the family owning slaves) and Baker. Baker was shorter, so it was chosen. By right they were supposed to be Cunninghams. This storied was told to him by his father.

340 This story about the family name is the only story he knows related to his family's slave heritage.

363 Mr. Baker taught math for 32 years in Cadiz. He taught math beginning with his first year of teaching until he retired in 1981. A stroke ended his teaching career.

390 He taught a woman at the radio station how to do math. He also helped teach others so

they were able to pass the GED.

408 He feels that he was a very successful teacher.

420 He taught at Dunbar for three years (1953-1955); McUpton for seven to eight years; Trigg County High School the "huts" for three to four years. The "huts" were temporary buildings built when the main school burned. He taught at the main building for five to six years.

461 State drew money on his work as a teacher.

Side B

004 High school burned and the "huts" were used as temporary classrooms.

016 The state paid \$100-180,000 for all of his work with the math program, but he didn't see any of it.

019 The school board couldn't find anyone to fully fill his shoes, so they had to eventually end the program he taught.

031 After his stroke he was told that he needed to retire (he had a one year break).

050 His daughters were among his students. One is a teacher in Bowling Green and another is teaching in Louisville (has been there for twelve years).

074 Mr. Baker had a large family, so it was necessary for him to always work to take care of his family and to earn money for retirement since teachers do not draw social security. He worked a small farm on his own property. He also worked other odd jobs such as carpenter, bus driver, and painter.

098 He drove a school bus for eight to nine years concurrently with his teaching position.

116 He described himself as a jack-leg carpenter. In this job you do anything your boss tells you to do.

123 [Telephone rings]

141 [Discussion of oral history project]

- 148 Return to discussion of Army experience: He was drafted December 16, 1942, while he was working in Indianapolis. His job in Indianapolis was to count the number of bags put onto railroad cars or on trucks. After being drafted, he went home and stayed until April 6, 1942, at which time he reported for military duty. He was indifferent to being drafted. He thought he would be able to go home prior to being transferred, but went straight from basic training to Alaska where he helped build the Aleutian highway. Before he was drafted, he was "indirectly engaged" and was going to get married after basic training, but since he went to Alaska quickly, she married some other man.
- 202 "Indirectly engaged" does not imply arranged.
- 214 Friends from Indiana did basic training together, but most of his friends were back in Cadiz.
- 230 Discusses job in Indianapolis again.
- 253 [Asked Paige if she had questions for her grandfather. She quickly left--that was not my intention.]
- 270 Memorable events in Cadiz/Trigg: The white school burned. The black school did not burn but he wished it had.
- 288 Politically, he tried to promote the democratic ticket.
- 308 Teachers still do not draw social security, but they do draw medi-care.
- 313 He feels he is different from other people because he worked so much to help his family survive. He was able to do laboring kinds of work.
- 357 When you have eleven children, you couldn't sit around and wait for bread to com to you, you had to get out and work. He had always had a plot of tobacco. The profits of which crop he used for groceries and other bills rather than save it for retirement.
- 403 His oldest son left home first and spent some time in the Army.
- 422 He made enough money to buy a tractor, plow, disc, and other tools.
- 439 [Mr. Norris talked to Betty.]
- 453 End of tape.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ONIE GRUBBS BAKER

Onie Grubbs Baker was born on April 11, 1916, in Linton, Kentucky, a Trigg county community. It was the last settlement near the Cumberland River going south out of Trigg county. Her parents raised Ms. Baker and her siblings (seven siblings) on her grandfather's farm. On the farm she learned to work just as hard as her brothers and the hands working in the fields. She spoke often and fondly of life on a farm. On a farm, she says, everyone takes care of everyone else. Her family was self-sufficient, raising everything they needed except for sugar and coffee. It was a clean life, and a life which she would like to return to if she were younger and more able.

She attended school until she was twelve years old when she took her first job cooking for a neighbor. This began a life-time of cooking for other families as a means of supporting herself. The most prestigious person for whom she worked as a cook was a rabbi in Ohio. She has also done piece work for the Red Cross during the flood of 1937.

It was near this time when she was doing piece work that she met her husband, Herbert Baker. After a four month courtship they were married in Cadiz, Kentucky. She never had any children, but raised her husband's children from a previous marriage as if they were her own.

The philosophy of life for Ms. Baker is a religious one. She speaks of it often and freely. The essence of this philosophy can be found in the following two quotes from an interview on October 6, 1995. "If you never get hurt till Onie Baker hurt you, you would never be hurt. And "I'm preaching my life as I live. After I'm gone, they don't have to say a word because if I lived it, they know it, and if I haven't, they know that too.

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INFORMANT: Onie Grubbs Baker

DATE: October 6, 1995

PLACE: 124 Wallace Avenue, Cadiz, Kentucky 42211

INTERVIEWER: Julia Morgan

Side A

- 007 Onie was born on April 11, 1916, in Linton, Kentucky. There were 7 children in her family [listed oldest to youngest]: Willie, [sister ?], Bluford, Gilford (lived in Hopkinsville and died in 1988), Odel (died in a car accident), Onie, Lorene (lives on Jefferson Street, born January 5, 1920) [?].
- 040 Mother: Lula Fuqua
- 045 Family lived on a farm that they owned.
- 052 She loved living on a farm because it was clean and all the surrounding people are friendly. Those with farms adjoining their property were Mr. Nepworth, Mr. Charlie Nunn, and Mr. Charlie Crenshaw.
- 058 Everyone shared their food with their neighbors.
- 070 Purpose of life is love. "If we don't have love in our hearts, we don't have it."
- 076 "I'm preaching my life as I live. After I'm gone, they don't have to say a word because if I lived it, they know it, and if I haven't, they know that too."
- 082 She was taught to say "Yes mam, no mam" as a child and commented how manners are different in Ohio where she lived for a time.
- 084 She did sewing for Mrs. Jim Taylor/Miss Annie.
- 113 Her family was a religious one. She grew up attending the Baptist church but now attends the Church of Christ.
- 120 A person needs to live the Bible, not just read it.
- 130 She describes values of honesty and integrity she holds for herself.

Onie Baker--October 6, 1995

- 145 Story: returning payroll bag to a man who left it on the bus she and her husband were riding on. The man's reply, "I thought all the honest folks was dead."
- 168 "If you're honest God will always make a way for you. But you be a crook, and you never get nothing right."
- 178 Lesson of integrity taught by parents: The children in Onie's family couldn't pick up apples or peaches from the ground to eat without asking permission of the owner of that tree. One time she did and got in trouble. She had to walk back with her mother to apologize for taking the apple.
- 206 On the family farm wheat, corn, tobacco, and white and sweet potatoes were grown.
- 217 There were also working hands on the farm that needed support and feed in addition to the family.
- 224 It was her grandfather's farm, Tom Grubbs, on which her family lived. Grandmother: Sue Grubbs.
- 228 There were approximately five hands working on the farm.
- 240 Onie and siblings worked in fields with the hands. She wore overalls and would work until it was time to go to work.
- 247 Onie started work when she was twelve years old. She would go to work, return to work in the field, and then go back to work to cook for ten to fourteen hands at another farm.
- 257 The girls in the family worked just as hard in the fields as the boys to help the brothers.
- 276 When all the work and homework was done, they could go out to play. They would play checkers, horse shoes and running races, the latter is what Onie was best at doing. Their father would run and play with the kids, too. Her mother would play, but not at the running games.
- 301 Parental and spousal responsibility: Wife was a helpmeet for her husband and should let the man be boss. Parents should respect the other in parenting and stick with it [not let the children work the system to get their way].
- 326 Love at first sight story about meeting her husband, Herbert Baker.
- 367 "God, He works. And if you trust God in everything you do, He'll work these things out." [Referring to finding the person you are going to marry.]

Onie Baker--October 6, 1995

- 389 She had dreams about the man she would marry and knew she would recognize him when she saw him. Herbert was married when she first met him, but his wife passed away one month later.
- 438 At this time Onie was staying with Mrs. E.L. Bogart on Highway 68.

Side B

- 003, The work at which Onie was employed at this time was piece work. She pieced together quilts and other items for the Red Cross to give to flood victims (1937).
- 012 The only way to get mail in 1937 when the flood hit was by boat. Paul Wilson was the mail carrier.
- 016 Onie and her sister would walk through the woods to get to a truck that would drive them to Cadiz for work.
- 022 The flood was in the winter of 1937.
- 028 Return to courtship story. They were engaged four months (she believes in short engagements) and were married January 30, 1938.
- 035 Herbert died at home in her arms.
- 041 [She is going to get picture of her husband. She is talking to the broken glass and me at the same time.]
- 050 [Showing pictures. No copies of pictures taken.]
- 064 They were married in Cadiz at Tom Martin's house.
- 073 She married a family and raised his four children as if her own.
- 078 She became pregnant shortly after she was married and didn't know she was for a long time. She lost that baby and never became pregnant again.
- 092 Growing up, she went to school in Linton.
- 095 At the age of twelve she went to work for Mr. Vernon Carter one week after Mrs. Carter had a baby. Onie cooked and helped around the house. It was there that she learned to

Onie Baker--October 6, 1995

cook.

- 119 Onie was always able to cook and to figure out how to cook things easily.
- 123 1943 she moved to Ohio where she cooked for a rabbi and learned to cook their rich foods.
- 147 She cooked for Mr. Henry when she returned to Kentucky.
- 153 How to cook potato pancakes.
- 174 Describing how Orthodox Jews prepare food [short].
- 188 1943 to 1960 she and her family lived in Ohio.
- 207 Herbert told her she could stay in Ohio if she could get a job, and she did right away.
- 229 Worked for Mrs. Humphries.
- 266 Onie used to have a temper and worked to overcome it. She sees things differently now that she is older and has been able to overcome her temper.
- 298 Ms. Thomas wants Onie to stay with her if she gets sick. Onie won't accept payment because God will take care of her.
- 320 Relationship with people: Onie loves everyone.
- 341 "If you never get hurt till Onie Baker hurt you, you would never be hurt."
- 368 Story: Friends from Texas didn't stop because they saw cars out front of Onie's house. When she found this out, she was hurt because she makes her home a place where everyone is welcome, no matter how many people are there.
- 401 Need dentures relined, but it will cost \$110. In 1985 it would have cost her \$25.
- 431 No more busses come through Cadiz. The closest Greyhound franchise is in Hopkinsville.
- 449 Her life fell apart after her husband's death.
- 452 If Herbert were still living, she would have been quick to have her dentures relined, but is not in a hurry now.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Onie Baker

DATE: November 6, 1995

PLACE: 124 Wallace Avenue, Cadiz, Kentucky 42211

INTERVIEWERS: Julia Morgan and Virginia Alexander

Side A

- 008 Onie's first cooking job was when she was twelve years old. She learned to cook through trial and error, and through watching and copying her mother (never formally taught).
- 017 Kitchen had a step stove (supported by four legs). The stove had an oven. You can bake or cook bread. Her grandmother would cook corn doggers in a three-legged pot over the hearth with coals set on top [description sounds like a dutch oven]. Her mother would cook beans in a pot hanging over the fireplace.
- 041 School: "That was the happiest time of my life." She loved her teachers. They were Lula Elam, Betty Elam (they married brothers), Lexa Blaine, and Lord Cunningham.
- 052 Typical school day started at 7:30 am with a song and prayer. They would do their homework on the chalk board, and they weren't finished until they had done it correctly. Recess followed, then they returned to the classroom for history and geography. School would end around 3:00 pm.
- 090 She had to walk about 1½ miles to school.
- 102 Her school was not close to the school for the white kids.
- 111 Onie's theory on why black kids don't get along with white kids today is that for the most part they are lazy, don't want to work, and they want to have everything handed over to them. Onie believes in working for what you get.
- 122 Stores remembered in Linton: Mr. Sam McNichol's, Mr. Edel Blackbird's, and Mr. Ed Bogart's. They were all typically the same general store-type of business. The post office was located in the Blackbird store.
- 133 Mr. Paul Wilson was the mail carrier. During the flood of 1937 he delivered it to the Linton area in a canoe.
- 156 The steamboat would stop near Linton. It would go up the Cumberland River from Paducah to Nashville. It was a showboat, but it also hauled rail road ties. She remembers

them coming when she was about 14 years old. Sometimes three boats would come close together. Linton and Tobacco Port were stops for the boats. They would load ties using some sort of conveyer belt.

188 Describing show boat.

197 Black people were not allowed on the show boat, but when she worked for Mr. Nello [?] Carr he invited her because his son wouldn't go if Onie couldn't go. She describes how she was able to go on boat. Afterwards, black folks were able to go on boats.

234 Her mother didn't believe that she went on the boat until Mr. Carr told her mother that she had.

245 Story: Unknowingly Onie walked into the "white" bus terminal in Nashville. Due to her politeness, she was able to purchase a bus ticket there. When she got to the "colored" terminal, no one would believe her at first that she bought her ticket where she did. Then they were surprised because they have lived in Nashville for years and were unable to purchase tickets there. She believes that politeness will get you where you need to go.

302 Floor shows on the showboat included acts such as dancing and magician tricks. Her favorite was two little white dogs trained to do tricks.

326 Describing the atmosphere as quiet when she walked onto the showboat, she said, "You know, when you go someplace and things quiet, you learn a lot."

332 Describing boat as big, beautiful and double-decker.

350 Other types of entertainment available in town were things like school plays, cake walks and pie suppers.

360 Pie suppers. Pies put in pretty boxes and sold to the highest bidder. The pie maker then ate the pie with the purchaser.

369 Cake walks. The one who walked the straightest and best won the cake. Onie won a lot of cakes.

375 She regularly attended church, Sunday school, and BTU (Bible study). All the families at church got along well because they were brought up right and lived what they taught.

400 Size of the Linton Baptist church was usually twenty to twenty-five people.

408 Other churches that were close were in Tennessee communities.

- 415 Church sponsored activities: pie suppers, BTU, pit suppers.
- 420 Mr. Cunningham, a teacher at school, started a basket ball team when she was about seventeen. She tells a story of unknowingly scoring the winning basket of a game when she tossed the ball backwards over her head as she was falling after being pushed by someone from the opposing team.
- 439 There were not enough kids in the community, so the basket ball and base ball teams were mixed with boys and girls.

Side B

[No introduction.]

- 000 She talks about the best part of living on a farm.
- 010 Onie would like to go back to the farm life if she were younger.
- 013 On a farm you raise everything you eat except for coffee and sugar.
- 018 Preservation of food: Canned beans, tomatoes in Mason jars; made peach and plum preserves; put up pears in large crocks, about three feet tall, topped with paraffin; made kraut in large crocks, combining cabbage, salt, and water.
- 038 Making hominy. Gather and dry white corn (hickory cane corn), then boil corn in big pots (wash pots) mixed with pot ash. Some people replace pot ash with lye. After cooked, wash the skins off the corn. Onie liked hominy the best at this point. She usually didn't like it after it was cooked the way it was supposed to after this point.
- 068 She never heard of grits until she moved to Ohio.
- 083 Food up north doesn't taste right. She admits to having a hard time eating it, so she lost weight every time she would go north.
- 090 Only kind of flour she could use successfully up north was Gold Medal flour.
- 097 Food just tastes better in Trigg County.
- 099 Wheat thrashing was a good time for food when she was a child. She and her siblings would go out and catch the rabbits living in the wheat fields (they were easier to see and

catch when the wheat had been cut). Their mother would cook the rabbits for their dinner.

- 111 Making molasses. There was a mill on the creek or river. It turned around by a mule. As a child, she and her siblings would take biscuits with them to the mill, and when the lid was taken off the cooking molasses, they could use the skimmed off layer to spread on their biscuits.
- 132 After the wheat thrashing they would use the straw to stuff their mattresses and bury their turnips or potatoes in piles in corners of fences. Story: filling mattresses extra full and jumping and rolling off mattresses.
- 153 Livestock on the farm: cows, hogs, horses, mules, oxen.
- 171 Chitlings are the intestines of pigs. Description of chitlings and making them. That was what her family ate for Thanksgiving traditionally.
- 218 Her mother would make a sauce by boiling hog heads and feet. The broth would be set in a pan until set. (It was different than head cheese.) This was a favorite treat.
- 248 The family farm is located in the current Fort Campbell area, so they don't go there now. The community cemetery, Hickonut Grove, is also in that area. Her brother and grandparents are buried there. The last people to be buried there are her sister and niece.
- 277 The Linton area was flooded by the creation of Kentucky Lake. Some people still live there, but they are new to the area--moved there after the lake was created.
- 294 Story of finding a huge snake with a head as big as a saucer.
- 341 Onie's mother was born in Stuart county, Tennessee. Her father was from Lawrence Springs [?]. They moved to Trigg county when her grandfather bought his farm.
- 350 Three adjoining farms: Mr. Nepworth, Charlie Crenshaw (a cousin), and Charlie Nunn.
- 360 Grandpa Fuques was born in Canton, but lived in Tennessee until he bought his farm in Trigg. He was a slave under the Sheltons. He told stories of how they were good to him because he helped around the house. Her grandmother was a slave also.
- 414 After talking about how her grandfather always tried to do his best she said, "The Bible teaches me if you're a slave, be a good one. And that's what I try to do. Whatever I do, I try to do the best I can. I fail sometimes, but I try to do my best."

2.
Onie Baker--November 6, 1995

431 Her grandmother was a slave, but she doesn't remember the family's name.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF HOWELL AD BLAIN

Howell AD Blain, born August 19, 1920, a life-long resident of Trigg County, remembers vividly how it was: to walk everywhere, to purchase his first car, and to court a wife. He bemoans the lack of courtship rules and manners in today's world. He also is struck by the youth today that are displayed on television talk shows and expresses his opinions on the actions and attitudes of those young people on television and those of his own acquaintance. He shares his attitudes toward illness, doctors, and hospitals.

He is strong in his faith, repeating "Trust in the Lord" frequently as his approach to problems of the world and especially of his health. The parcel of land he holds he holds in stewardship for family members to whom he has already deeded portions. He merely keeps the land clean for them now. Similarly he keeps his house maintained and works on the church yard as well. It's hard to keep up with community changes in the last twenty years, Blain says. He is of the generation that walked to school and only finished 5th or 6th grade.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Howell AD Blain
DATE: November 11, 1995
PLACE: Cadiz, Kentucky
INTERVIEWER: Candise Clemmons

Side A

- 001 Introduction
- 006 Howell AD Blain is not a family name, but some grand children have been given his name.
- 013 He was born in Cadiz, Kentucky, on August 19, 1920. His four oldest siblings were born in the same house. There were six children.
- 030 He lived in Cadiz most of his life.
- 035 Married in 1942. He and his wife moved away for nearly 20 years, and then moved back to Cadiz permanently.
- 039 The two houses on the family land.
- 050 Story and advise concerning tress on land
- 082 The house he was born in is still standing; he had the house moved ten years after he returned to Cadiz and lived in that house.
- 093 He switched houses with his step-mother's husband after his step-mother passed away. It took two days to make the move into each other's houses, including moving the chickens and chicken coop.
- 107 His brother built the chicken coop.
- 109 His step-mother's husband lived in the house before Howell swapped houses.
- 128 Howell's father died without a will. All his belongings went to Howell's step-mother. His brother bought land (100 acres) across the street from the home place; Howell and his other siblings received a small piece of land following their father's death.

- 138 His father's farm was 197+/- acres.
- 152 Howell does not approve of drinking.
- 160 Howell has 13 children, 8 of which are living: 4 girls and 4 boys.
- 170 Views on children's attitudes and views on talk shows and the people on them: White and black boys and girls are "all messed up." They have no respect, no ambition, and want everything done for them. He used the talk shows to express his views on the younger generation (children) and their actions.
- 230 Number of grandchildren and great grandchildren
- 258 More views on children (white and black): living habits, marriage, child birth. He feels that children sometimes do not want to leave home.
- 310 Wife becomes ill and dies (passes)
- 320 Advise to daughter: He told her not to come back home any more after her mother died because she was too hare headed. (She was young, single, and pregnant with her second child at the time.)
- 334 Discipline: You can't just talk about it, you need to do something about it. Younger generations are less disciplined than when he was raising children.
- 377 He met his wife at Flat Lake.
- 389 Courtship: He walked 10 miles every 2 weeks to court his first wife.
- 390 Courtship rules: Once per week (e.g. every weekend) a person went calling. Time for visits was limited. A caller never stayed later than 9:00 pm on Saturday or Sunday. Girls were to never talk about marriage with their boyfriends until she knew him very well, about 1 to 1½ years. Four to five months is not sufficient
- 425 Howell courted his wife three years before they were married. They began courting when he was 19 and she was 17 years old. He saw her every two to three weeks.
- 455 Discussion of manners and the lack of manners in today world.
- 463 Schooling he achieved -- 5th or 6th grade -- Rolling Springs.
- 470 Walked five miles to school.

Howell AD Blain--November 11, 1995

Side B

- 476 Introduction to Side B
- 479 Continuation of walking as means of transportation to school and church
- 484 Walking information mentioning Cadiz, Hopkinsville and farm and field roads
- 495 First car -- bought from crop of tobacco (about \$35 for the Chevrolet)
- 520 Story of license to drive
- 530 Religious beliefs --" prayed all the time" and "trust in the Lord"--. witnessed his faith to his family and others. Church attendance.
- 580 Discussion of house -- keeping it fixed up, who gets it at his death, the quality of the house
- 617 Church activities -- keeps up church yard, discussion of why he is not a deacon, his desire to be one of God's servants
- 628 Community changed in last 20 years and he can not keep up with changes
- 635 He has deeded his land to his children and keeps it clean
- 644 Family gatherings -- they don't have many as brothers are too old, conditions of his brothers. Discussion of health (mental and physical) of different family members.
- 721 Health problems of himself -- throat and stomach problems, dealings with doctors and hospitals, how he prayed about it and his wife's feelings
- 810 What he learned to do to help health problems -- not what the doctor's told him
- 846 Views on drinking beer and sweets
- 873 Why he is not back at the doctor and story of the stick
- 930 More religious views: trust in Lord, individuals and family members pray for him, views on praying to God

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF COTRELL CULLIN

Mr. Cotrell Cullin, Senior, was born October 8, 1910, in Trigg County. His parents are Lotty Horton and Curlin Cullin, the parents of eight children with Cotrell being the oldest.

He held a variety of jobs during his lifetime. His first job was to open the gates for the cows that were owned by city residents as they were taken to a field to graze all day. He would they go with the cows as they were returned at night. For this he was paid 50¢ a week. Mr. Cullin described other jobs, including working at the Chevrolet garage, Stan White's tobacco factory, and helping cooks at Austin Brothers.

Perhaps his longest job was at the garage. He drove a tow truck for years and reports how he was able to get his business established. When Trigg County residents needed anything towed or pulled out of places where they were stuck, Mr. Cullin would be called. He tells stories of towing automobiles stuck in ditches and mules stuck in cisterns.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

[Cullin]

INFORMANT: Cotrell Cullins

DATE: November 10, 1995 *[Nov. 11]*

PLACE: Wallace Avenue, Cadiz, Kentucky 42211

INTERVIEWERS: Julia Morgan and Virginia Alexander

Side A

- 009 Cotrell Cullin, Senior, was born October 8, 1910.
- 017 Both parent were raised in Trigg County: Lotty Horton [?] and Fariwood [?] Curlin. They died forty of fifty years ago.
- 032 There are eight or nine kids in his family (listed oldest to youngest): Cotrell, Hildy, Willard, Chester, Cledlan, Charlie, Addie Baker, Meghan Frances.
- 044 He worked in Cadiz all his life in factories, the Chevrolet garage and the tobacco factory where he packed and shipped tobacco for Stan White.
- 058 His first job was for 50¢ a week opening and closing gates to cow pens up Main Street to the Cemetery so another man could heard them to a grazing pasture all day. At night he would do the same to put away the cows.
- 078 At Austin Brothers he would help the cooks kill the fryer chickens for which they had orders.
- 099 Two steam engines used to come through town, the Number 10 and the Number 633. They would stop where the park is. He tells a story about elephants that came into town on the train with a circus.
- 130 The White family "owned" the town: phone, lights, and water. At 12:00 the lights would be dimmed whether you wanted them to or not.
- 156 The white boys would sled all the way down Main Street in the winter time. A story was told of one boy catching a rope under his chin that he didn't see and killed him.
- 172 Cotrell worked in the Chevrolet garage in town.
- 186 Broadbent was a farmer. He raided mules and tobacco. He had one day that everyone

Cotrell Cullin--November 10, 1995

knew was his day to take his seven or eight truck-loads of tobacco to market.

217 Dr. Forsee [?], a hill doctor, was the first doctor in town.

233 Hancock ran a grocery for years.

238 Dr. Hancock, a dentist, worked with no lights. If you needed a tooth pulled you would have to go around noon when the light was brightest. He died 25 or 30 years ago.

260 A house on Main Street, referred to as Seven Gables, used to have a pond behind it which was drained.

301 Cotrell's great-grandmother was a slave. A newspaper article has been written about her. She came on a boat to Cadiz. She worked for Mrs. Bingham.

340 His grandmother would draw \$25/month of pension money. She would call the store and they would go get her. She would buy food for her and Cotrell's family and candy. The candy would be shared with the children, but she hoarded most of it for herself and wouldn't share the rest of it.

389 Great-grandmother came by boat, landing at Canton.

400 [Talk about clock that had just chimed.]

426 He attended school at Dunbar. The first school in the area was Frogeye. Cotrell "stayed in trouble all the time."

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MARIE CUNNINGHAM

Marie Cunningham was born in Trigg county in 1920 near the Kentucky-Tennessee border. Born into a large family, she considers the opportunity to further her education the greatest event in her life. After graduating from high school in Tennessee, she attended Tennessee State Teachers' College in Nashville. After teaching for several years, she also earned a master's degree from Indiana State Teachers' College and several hours beyond master's at Murray State. Upon retiring from teaching after 32 years, she even attended cosmetology school and still runs a beauty shop. She is even now taking courses through the University of Kentucky, attempting a doctorate in administration. Marie is a member of the Second Baptist Church in Cadiz and many other organizations like the Women's Baptist Missionary Convention and the Business and Professional Women. She has continued to write poetry and songs since her childhood and enjoys reading, travel, and antiques.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SHIRLEY CUNNINGHAM

Shirley Cunningham was born in 1914 in the small community near Rockcastle which was a few miles west of Cadiz, Trigg county, Kentucky. Rockcastle no longer exists as a town, but when Mr. Cunningham was a boy he remembers the town consisting of a general store, a post office and "a lot of bootlegging." His family has lived in the Trigg county area for a few generations

He was part of a large family. Smith Elden and Susie Gardner Cunningham were the parents of eight children. Listed oldest to youngest, the children in his family are Smith Elden, Oliver, Lori, Perry, Tandy, Shirley, and Susan May. Smith Elden Cunningham, Sr., was a farmer and taught his children this work. Susie Gardner Cunningham was a school teacher and was the first teacher for her children. On the family farm the children helped raise corn, tobacco, hogs, cattle, sorghum cane, horses and mules.

Mr. Cunningham's education continued through college. He attended Kentucky Junior College to study drafting and carpentry. Professionally, he has held a variety of jobs including foundry work, telephone operator in the United States Army, farming, carpentry and maintenance work, and a staff position at the Cadiz Extension Office.

Shirley Cunningham is married to Marie Cunningham, formerly from a small community near Fort Campbell. She is a retired teacher from the Trigg county school system.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Marie (wife) and Shirley (husband) Cunningham

DATE: October 6, 1995

PLACE: Cerulean Road, Cadiz, Kentucky

INTERVIEWER: Andrew Oberdier

Side A

- 017 Marie Cunningham's maiden name was Curlin.
- 030 She was born in Trigg county in 1920 near the Kentucky-Tennessee border.
- 038 Her parents were named Molly and Henry Curlin. Her father was a farmer while her mother worked in peoples' homes. Marie also had five siblings, two sisters and three brothers.
- 066 The two oldest brothers left home and moved to Indiana to work in factories. Her third brother still lives in Cadiz.
- 089 Her sisters were both teachers in the Trigg county area.
- 119 Marie went to elementary school in Trigg county every year from July to January. When school in Kentucky ended for the year, she would walk across the state line to a school in Tennessee.
- 136 She attended high school in Clarksville, Tennessee.
- 143 After graduating from high school, Marie attended Tennessee State Teachers' College in Nashville.
- 148 She taught school for several years then went to Indiana State Teachers' College for her master's degree.
- 158 Marie earned hours above her master's degree at Murray State but returned to teaching for the next 32 years, moving from the junior high to the high school in 1965.
- 170 Her two sons were still in college when she eventually retired.
- 176 After retiring, Marie went to cosmetology school and still runs a beauty shop.

- 183 Recently, Marie has decided to return to school at the University of Kentucky to earn a doctorate in administration.
- 210 Marie and her husband Shirley first met because their parents knew each other. In fact, Shirley's grandmother was the first teacher of Marie's mother.
- 225 Marie's oldest son, Shirley Junior, attended Tennessee State University. After graduating, he earned a master's degree in agriculture from the University of Missouri. He then decided to attend law school and now has a law practice in Lexington, Kentucky.
- 270 Marie's other son became a physician after working part-time in a local pharmacy. He attended Vanderbilt's medical school and now practices in Fort Worth, Texas.
- 316 Marie remembers a story about a child she taught. Ordering him to stand behind a tree after he teased some girls at recess, Marie forgot about him until after the bell had rung.
- 346 Marie used many methods of teaching.
- 401 She attends Second Baptist Church in Cadiz and considers it an extremely important part of her life.
- 413 Marie teaches a Bible class for senior citizens by using Biblical themes.
- 450 She believes in active missionary work in the community, helping people in need.
- 455 Marie also helps with pageants and other activities in her church.
- 488 In addition to her church work, Marie belongs to many organizations including the local Women's Baptist Missionary Convention and the Business and Professional Women.

Side B

- 030 Marie is interested in current social and women's issues.
- 092 She has always enjoyed writing, creating and even publishing poems and songs.
- 136 Marie considers the opportunity to attend school and further her higher education the most important event in her life.
- 239 She remembers stories passed down in her family about slavery from her mother's

Marie Cunningham--October 6, 1995

mother.

284 Her mother married her father at the age of fourteen.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Marie (wife) and Shirley (husband)Cunningham

DATE: November 10, 1995

PLACE: Cerrulean Road, Cadiz, Kentucky

INTERVIEWERS: Andrew Oberdier and Julia Morgan

Side A

- 006 Marie discusses what she knows about the Free State [old name for community in which they live]: little is remembered, and only known during her childhood years; Lula Elam was the school teacher; the present school building is not the original building.
- 030 Shirley grew up near the old community of Rock Castle which is a couple miles out of Cadiz. It is no longer a community.
- 035 Shirley: Rock Castle consisted of a general store, post office, and "a lot of boot-legging."
- 045 Trigg Furnace was an old plant near Rock Castle. It smelted iron ore from rocks to create iron. The date of Trigg Furnace's operation is unknown.
- 060 Shirley was born in 1916.
- 066 Shirley's family: mother--Susie Gardner, school teacher; father--Smith Elden, farmer. He had six brothers and 1 sister (listed oldest to youngest): Smith Elden, Oliver, Lori, Perry, Tandy, Shirley, and Susan May [?].
- 082 Shirley was raised on a farm on which was grown corn, tobacco, hogs, cattle, sorghum cane, horses, and mules.
- 094 Splitting tobacco. His family grew black hill tobacco. No burley tobacco was grown in this area yet, Shirley's father was the first farmer to grow burley in Trigg County. Splitting tobacco consisted of four basic steps. (1) Plant tobacco. (2) Harvest tobacco and hang it in the barn to smoke cure. (3) Put cured leaves into books. (4) Strip leaves from stems. The leaves were then graded according to quality and sold according to grade.
- 112 Sorghum cane processing. Shirley's family had a molasses mill which they used to process own cane and also that of their neighbors. Process: strip leaves from cane, cut cane into meal; grind juices out of meal in mill; cook juice until it thickened into molasses. When

Marie and Shirley Cunningham--November 10, 1995

sorghum is growing it looks similar to corn stalks with less leaves and it has a dark pod on top (like a small football shape).

- 131 Shirley's education: started in Cadiz, then attended Western Kentucky Junior College to study drafting and carpentry.
- 135 After graduating he went to Evansville to work in an ice plant. Second job was in the Army [during WWII]. He then went to Dayton, Ohio, to work in a foundry; then back to Cadiz to work on the family farm; then to the Extension Office in town until he retired. He also worked maintenance at the housing projects in Cadiz.
- 167 During WWII Shirley was a telephone operator. He was stationed in North Carolina for one year. Transferred to Canada for one year; to Australia for one year; to New Guinea; then to [inaudible] Islands. His most favorite country was Canada because the people were so appreciative to have the American Army there for protection.
- 195 What is known about Cadiz during the war? Shirley doesn't recall knowing much because his only communication at that time was through letters. Marie said that it wasn't much different than it was now, except for the existence of food rationing. Today there are more people living in Cadiz than at that time. There were more people at work then, but not in as good paying jobs as we have today. She was in college at this time.
- 200 Shirley adds that there was not much work to do in the area during the war because there were no factories or foundries at that time. Everyone wanting work had to leave Cadiz. Most went to Evansville or Muncie, Indiana, or Detroit, Michigan.
- 215 The main part of Cadiz remembered from childhood that no longer exists is the Cadiz Hotel. Also, the downtown area contained all the businesses which are now replaced by antique shops.
- 224 Marie's recollections of the Cadiz Hotel from the early 1940s: It was run by Pearl Malone, assisted by her daughter, Martha [?] until Pearl gave the administration over to Martha. Pay at the hotel was very low, about 25-75¢ per hour. The building is still there, but is occupied by an antique shop (formerly a furniture store).
- 249 The showboat that came through Trigg was discussed, but little is remembered or known. Neither went to see the boat, but Shirley said that its music could be heard all the way into town because it was so loud.
- 269 Shirley's parents and grandparents came from this area. His grandfather owned and farmed his own place. He is not sure whether or not any of his ancestors were slaves. He recalls that his grandmother was a slave, but unsure about his great-grandmother who was

Marie and Shirley Cunningham--November 10, 1995

part Indian. He said that his grandfather came to Kentucky as a free slave probably from Virginia.

- 299 The community in which Shirley grew up was basically a farming area. His closes neighbors were Art Simmons, Sam Boyd, Wyle [?] Hall, [inaudible], and Daniel [inaudible].
- 325 Social activities in Shirley's communities were always done with neighbors. Before he was born, they were also done with the schools.
- 343 Shirley reports walking approximately two miles to school. The whole school consisted of 400 to 500 students. The school year was short because all the children were needed to work on family farms. The year began in September and concluded in March. His first teacher was his mother. Others he remembers are Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Wilson, and Mr. Thompson.
- 396 He attended the Second Baptist church at Cadiz. His mother was Methodist, and his father, Baptist. Those were the two most prominent churches in the area. He recalls going to church riding in a buggy, but shortly after 1919 his father bought a car and they then drove to weekly services.

Tape 1, Side B

- 006 Shirley's church served as a social element: parties at homes and in the community; there was also music and dancing.
- 022 For Shirley, fun consisted of going to "honky-tonks" to listen to music and dance. Local honky-tonks were Charlie Burke's, [inaudible] and [inaudible] Burke's. They consisted of restaurants with a juke box and place for dancing in the front. The eating area was usually in the back. They closed probably because when Cadiz got more cars, people began to leave the town to find entertainment.
- 050 For Marie, fun consisted of community sponsored activities such as quilting for the older women, and "quilt things" for the younger girls to play with. Parties were usually held Saturday evenings. They played "Susie Gal," [a swinging dance song]. They also had recorded music. They didn't know how to dance. They had heard of it but had never seen it done, so they did what they thought it was.
- 068 Party games were Dominoes for the kids and cards for the adults; the teenagers played a game [it sounds similar to tic-tac-toe in which the winner has the most circles or Xs].
- 081 First part of "Susie Gal": "Susie, Susie, come on Susie now, swing Susie" This was

4

Marie and Shirley Cunningham--November 10, 1995

- sung while clapping a beat. People would swing their partners arm in arm and then go back into a circle.
- 088 Shirley's friends had about 200 to 300 records to play for dances. Marie said they listened to the same music. It was what ever was popular at that time.
- 097 Church activities: pie suppers (auction pies to highest bidder) and barbecues. These events were sponsored by different parts of a congregation (kids or adults) or neighboring congregations.
- 128 There used to be a movie theater in town where the human resources office is now. It was small, and had a smaller upstairs where the black people sat. Eventually, the black people stopped attending. For a small community, the theater needed both the white and black people to attend in order to keep it running, so it eventually closed.
- 140 The balcony was compared to a chicken roost. People from other towns knew there were better places and better things, and they know that if they worked hard enough they could reach that too. So they stopped attending.
- 147 Marie never went to the movie theater. She was from the Clarksville area and was used to walking in on the same level.
- 153 Cadiz never got a new movie theater.
- 162 Shirley's grandfather: Tandy [?] Cunningham; father: Smith Cunningham; mother: from Gardner family; grandmother: went by Gardner but never know maiden name. She was half Indian but don't know from which tribe.
- 183 Shirley: There has been a big change in politics in Cadiz. People would do anything to get a vote, but they don't today "they say."
- 203 Broadbent was a politician in Cadiz for many years. Shirley remembers him in office since he was a small boy to the early 1960s. People voted the way he said because he "ran the city." When [Happy Ch^{and/or}?] ran against him, Broadbent (road commissioner) made it so that he could not let him speak where he wanted. He said that when he won the campaign Broadbent would be the first person he fired. Broadbent quit the day after elections.
- 229 Marie's method of voting: study out platforms and vote for who she thinks will do the best.
- 238 Civic leaders who have done good things for the city: Broadbents, Whites, and Streets

Marie and Shirley Cunningham--November 10, 1995

- 252 Significant Cadiz events: (1) School bands put on street performances. Shirley's mom led the first band down the street. It included (but not restricted to) tambourines and drums. (2) The ham festival is now the biggest event. (3) The black community puts on festivals and events through church district communities. The second annual Youth Fall Festival was recently held. It included games, hay ride, cake walks, guessing games, and basket ball. It was open to all but put on by the Youth of Cumberland Valley District. (4) The schools put on style shows [fashion shows] through community organizations. One of the more well known organizations is the Genesis Organization.
- 306 Shirley adds that basket ball games are held at the complex on the highway to Princeton which is a big summer affair in Cadiz.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MARY HOPSON

Mrs. Hopson was born in Trigg county on January 25, 1914 to Jerry and Bertie Bacon. One of ten children, she walked to school in Cadiz until the third grade when she began working at home with her mother. The family lived on the Vincent farm off of US 68 west of Cadiz. Her father, a farmer, raised tobacco. Mary helped by milking the cow, making butter, carrying water from the well, and collecting wood. She also worked in the tobacco fields cutting, stripping, setting, and hoeing. As a child she went to Pleasant Hill Baptist church with her family. She soon went to work at Trigg County Hospital housecleaning where she stayed for two years until she got married. Her first husband, a farmer named Henry Baker, gave her three daughters. She had two sons by her second husband, James Hopson. Moving to Canton, they attended Canton Baptist church until it left. When Mr. Hopson left to serve in the army during World War II, Mary and her children lived with her mother-in-law. She has continued to live in Canton to this day. Now she spends her time at the Cadiz Senior Citizen Center, chatting with her neighbors.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Mary Hopson
DATE: November 10, 1995
PLACE: Canton, Kentucky
INTERVIEWER: Andrew Oberdier

Side A

- 015 Mrs. Hopson was born in Trigg county in January 25, 1914.
- 022 She had three sisters and one brother.
- 038 Mrs. Hopson attended school in Cadiz but never went past the third grade. She had to walk to school everyday from her home off of US 68 west of Cadiz.
- 074 Her father was a farmer who raised tobacco. She helped with the cutting, stripping, setting, and hoeing. She also had to milk the cows, make butter, carry water from the well, and collect wood.
- 131 Mrs. Hopson went to Pleasant Hill Baptist church as a child, but now goes to church in Canton
- 146 Her family lived on the Vincent farm and associated a great deal with the communities of Oak Grove and Pleasant Hill.
- 162 Although she believes her grandmother was a slave, Mrs. Hopson doesn't remember any stories from slave times.
- 214 Mrs. Hopson attended a country school. Her teacher was Mrs. Lula Vincent.
- 230 Her first job off of the farm was as a housekeeper at Trigg County Hospital. She worked there for two years and left when she got married.
- 244 She met her first husband, Henry Baker, at a pie sale. Mr. Baker bought her pie for \$2 and they talked into the evening.
- 258 She met her second husband, James Hopson, walking on the road near Canton.
- 280 Mrs. Hopson had five children from her two marriages. She gave birth to three daughters

Mary Hopson--November 10, 1995

Pauline, Charlene, and Julia during her first marriage. Leroy and James, her two sons, were born to her second husband.

- 304 Mrs. Hopson's first husband was a farmer. Her second farmed a little, but she remembers him working on a boat.
- 316 Mrs. Hopson remembers show boat coming to Canton, but doesn't know much about them. She was allowed to board the boat and look around but couldn't stay for the entertainment.
- 351 When she moved to Canton, there were many black families, but they gradually moved away. Canton Baptist, the local black church, eventually left as the congregation dwindled.
- 373 Mrs. Hopson fondly remembers Mr. Upton's general store near Canton. Because there was nowhere else nearby, she bought everything she needed there.
- 393 Although Mrs. Hopson remembers a toll to cross the Cumberland River, she doesn't remember how much it was. She never crossed the river because she was afraid of water.
- 405 Her brother Ed had four children, two girls and two boys. Virginia, Jerry, and Ed Jr. live in Indianapolis while Martha lives in St. Louis.
- 434 Her son-in-law and granddaughter work for the Cedar Bluff Stone Company.
- 446 Mrs. Hopson's second husband James served in the army during World War II. Mary and her children lived with her mother-in-law while he was away. Her mother-in-law received a pension and Mary worked to make money.
- 471 Recently Mrs. Hopson began going to the Cadiz Senior Citizen Center to sit, talk, and eat during the day. They occasionally take one-day trips to various cities for shopping and dinner.

Side B

- 019 Mrs. Hopson goes to the Cadiz Senior Citizen Center every day. A bus picks her up at 8:30 am and returns her at 2:30 pm. Although there are usually around a dozen people at the Center during the day, it is often full at dinner.
- 060 She now attends church in Canton. Her Sunday school teacher is Mrs. Caroline Bland. The church has a large congregation every Sunday morning.

Mary Hopson--November 10, 1995

- 090 Mrs. Hopson remembers the Canton Inn working when she moved there.
- 132 She often worked cleaning houses in Canton.
- 152 In the early years, the black church in Canton had services on the third Sunday of every month because the pastor had to come from Cadiz. She never went to the white church until the black church left.
- 233 Her first husband's brother Rooster married her sister Emma.
- 244 During her childhood, she had to travel by wagon to church at Pleasant Hill.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Mary Hopson
DATE: November 17, 1995
PLACE: Canton, Kentucky
INTERVIEWER: Andrew Oberdier

Side A

- 022 Mrs. Hopson lived on the Vincent farm before moving to Canton.
- 050 She worked for several family like the Vincents and Majors cleaning house.
- 073 Mrs. Hopson had five children, three girls and two boys. One of her daughters lives in California. The rest of her children live near Cadiz and Canton.
- 084 Her parents were named Jerry and Bertie Bacon. She remembers running to her father when her mother wanted to spank her.
- 118 Mrs. Hopson remembers her parents setting her curfew at sundown and making her boyfriends leave at 8. They would just sit and talk around the house because there was nowhere else to go.
- 153 Mrs. Hopson was the third daughter of ten children. She had four sisters and five brothers.
- 163 She only remembers one boyfriend, but can't say much about him. They would go to church together and to barbecues.
- 189 As a child, she would jump rope, play ball, and pitch horseshoes. Mrs. Hopson can remember being rather good at horseshoes.
- 300 Mrs. Hopson recently went to Branson, Missouri for shopping and dinner with the Cadiz Senior Citizen Center.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HAYWOOD ROGERS

[Dec. 6, 1925]

Mr. Haywood Rogers was born March 12, 1928, in Trigg County to his parents, Bogart Rogers and Sally May Malone Rogers, also from Trigg County. There were four children in his family.

He grew up three miles from his current home. In fact, he reports never having lived more than three miles away from his current homeplace. His family has always been farmers. In 1918 his father bought the present farm on which Mr. Rogers lives. The total acreage is 185. 120 acres is crop land and the remaining land is woodland. The Rogers family raised tobacco, corn, cattle, hay, hogs, horses, and mules.

The farmland has been passed down through the Rogers family, and will continue to do so as long as it is possible. Mr. Rogers and his wife Victoria, are the parents of five children who still live in the Trigg and Christian County areas.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Haywood Rogers

DATE: November 10, 1995

PLACE: Maggie Road, Cadiz, Kentucky 42211

INTERVIEWERS: Julia Morgan and Virginia Sholar

Side A

- 004 Haywood Rogers was born on ^[Dec. 6, 1925] ~~March 12, 1928~~, in Trigg County.
- 007 Parents: Bogart Rogers and Sally ^[Bell] ~~May~~ Malone Rogers; both from Trigg County.
- 011 Family included four children (listed oldest to youngest): Laura May, Bogart Jr., Eugene, and Haywood.
- 020 He grew up on a farm three miles from his current home. His whole life he has lived within three miles from the same place. They raised the following on their farm: tobacco, corn, cattle, hay, hogs, horses and mules. Vegetables were grown for family consumption only. For a few years they grew pimento pickles for market. Responsibilities were divided among each of the children: Haywood--cows; one brother--hogs; one brother--mules and horses; sister helped mother.
- 051 Haywood's responsibility in helping with the tobacco: plant seed, weed, cut, and prepare to take to market in Hopkinsville.
- 057 In 1918 his father bought the farm. He died in 1945 and Haywood has taken care of the farm ever since.
- 064 He still farms tobacco, corn, and cows.
- 068 Farm is 185 acres total. Crop land is 120 acres. The remaining land has not been cleared of woods.
- 073 When he was a young boy, this farm was considered large. There was one farm of 500 acres, and the rest were smaller. Ten acres was the smallest. There used to be 60 farms. Now there are only four.
- 084 His father bought and sold a few farms until he purchased the current property.

Haywood Rogers--November 10, 1995

- 096 Now the farm is considered small. In Christian County the professional farmers own 5,000 to 10,000 acres. A person used to be able to make a living of ten.
- 107 Neighbors: Jesse Sholars, Frank Wolf, Vernon Porter, Blaine Shelton, Stoney McKee, Jack McKee, Tito Summer [?], Will Garland, Sam Shelton, Tim Crenshaw, Hoover Ford [?], Ed McKee, Sam Shelton, Joe Fuques, and Albert Moore.
- 126 Joe Fuques and Will Gardner had 500 acre farms. Porter also had a large farm.
- 138 This area was called the Maggie Settlement.
- 141 Today there are descendants of the Sholar and Wolf families still living in the area. Everyone else in the are new.
- 147 Haywood attended school at home at first. Then he attended Corinth school which was four miles from his home. It was a seven month school starting in July. He compared this class room to the classrooms of Cadiz school where he was later a custodian. At Cadiz school people complained that the classrooms were too small to hold 32 students. In Corinth school when he attended, the one-room school house was 24 by 26 feet and held 60 to 70 students.
- 177 Corinth, Linton, Rocky Point, and Rowan schools all had seven month school years. It started the first Monday of July and ended the last Friday in February.
- 199 The first four years of school, he was never taught by the teacher. The older students taught the younger students. The teacher was mostly there to keep order at times.
- 205 Teachers: Letal Warkin [?], Ruby Chestly, Lord and Oliver Cunningham, Winnie Kirby.
- 211 The Cunninghams lived near Poland White. Lord Cunningham began the school year and was killed that Christmas, so his brother, Oliver, finished out teaching the school year.
- 223 Most of Haywood's schooling took place under Letal Warkin.
- 229 He attended school for 8 years (ages six to fourteen). His brother was the first to get a diploma from Corinth school and Haywood was the third. For other students, their time at school was either short, so they didn't make the grades, or when they got older they quit attending because they needed to work.
- 242 Other jobs held by Haywood: construction, custodial, TVA (2 years).
- 254 His first job was with the TVA building the Kentucky dam when he was seventeen.

Haywood Rogers--November 10, 1995

- 277 He went to town once a week. He always knew when he was close to town because of the coal smoke in the air. When a person went to Cadiz on a Saturday or a Second Monday, there were lots of people in town. If a person went on Sunday they would realize that the lots of people they saw on other days were really country folks who had also come to town. The amount of people on these two days was compared to the amount of people that attends the ham festival.
- 295 Second Monday was a day for farmers to go to town to trade and sell mules and hogs. Saturday was also a trading day. This was recalled from the 1930 and 1940s.
- 312 Virginia added that Second Monday was a day for the ladies to dress up and go into town while the men did their trading.
- 318 Rowan Springs settlement was ten miles away. It had a general country store where people could trade for clothes and food that was needed. People would sit and visit at the store. There was also a cave there that people would go to visit and have parties inside. He listed the owners of the store.
- 354 Cadiz businesses. There were three groceries: Ben Alexander, [inaudible], and another store that was always changing names with its owners. At one time it was called Wilson and Willy. There were three dry goods stores: F.B. Wilkerson (to the side of the bank), E.R. Street (opposite side of the street from Wilkerson's), and Carr Glen (joined Glen's store).
- 384 Ben Alexander was the most remembered store owner. He would come out to go hunting every month.
- 393 People could go to the store and pay one year at a time. They would buy according to the money that they had (buy 25¢ of this or 10¢ of that). Pennies and nickels were useful back then.
- 419 Produce could be bought directly from farmers. Eggs were 8 to 10¢ a dozen for a long time. He remembers it taking a long time for them to reach 1¢ per egg.

Side B

- 004 He didn't remember any factories going up, but after 1940 factories such as Elk Brand, Hoover, and Joe Nunn came to town.
- 032 Social organizations: church and school.

- 044 Barbecue barnyard parties/moonlight parties. These were held during the spring and summer at families' farms. Cola and barbecue were made, music was provided, and people would dance and party until the sun came up.
- 047 Tad Thomas ran a store on the corner of Maggie Road. The store always stayed in the family but changed hands often.
- 053 Jesse Sholar operated a grocery in his home. Chuck Cox ran a little store called Maggie Store that also had a grist mill.
- 066 Mr. Bridges drove a grocery truck and made his rounds once a week. The local route was on Mondays.
- 078 Ruben Copeland, a black man, ran a store for 30 years next to the school. At his store a person could buy huge suckers (all day long suckers) for a penny a piece.
- 081 Money was scarce growing up. It was not often used in the country because a barter system was more often used. Money came into circulation more by 1940 in Trigg county.
- 094 Two men loaned farmers money in Trigg County. It was said that they had lent \$1,000 to farmers in Trigg. (This story told to show scarcity of money.)
- 111 The Roger farm sold whole milk. Every place they sold their milk eventually closed. Therefore, the decision was made to no longer keep milking cows a part of the family business. Cream was not very profitable.
- 137 Corinth Missionary Baptist Church was the one attended by the Rogers family. There were approximately 200 members from the community. Sunday worship services provided the best opportunity for these people to visit with one another.
- 146 Prominent leaders and people at church included teachers, the minister, and deacons. They were honest and good examples for children to follow. Some listed were Gordon, Crenshaw (Sunday school teacher), Reese, Letal Wirkin, Greenway.
- 185 Those who could not read and write would take their private correspondence to these people because they were honest and could be trusted to help them. When Haywood learned to read and write, he also learned to deceive. When his classmates would ask him for help with reading and writing, he would read and write whatever he pleased.
- 207 Sunday school was held every week but a minister came to preach only every other Sunday (the second and fourth Sundays). The first preacher he remembers came from Rocky Ridge on Saturday night and would stay until Monday. His name was John Kirby.

Haywood Rogers--November 10, 1995

- 239 Haywood's dad's family has lived in the area for five generations (including Haywood). His mother's family for three. His great-grandfather was born one road over from Haywood's house.
- 265 His family has been farmers for most of those generations.
- 275 His great-uncle (grandmother's brother), Claude Greenway, knew most of the family history. His parents were slaves, but other than that, not much is known.
- 298 Haywood has five kids of his own: Three girls and two boys. The boys live close by, two girls live in Christian County and the other lives at home.
- 314 They plan to keep farming in the family. His home was his parent's home.
- 339 Improvements to the rural family farm have helped and hindered the family farm. He elaborates on how progress and money have been the downfall of the family farm.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF FLORA SHOLAR

Mrs. Flora Sholar was born November 25, 1915, in her family home one mile outside of Cadiz, Kentucky. She was the seventh girl to be born into a family of ten children: seven girls and three boys. Before she began school, her family moved into town.

Mrs. Sholar began working on weekends when she was nine. She worked for Miss Lola Lawrence until she was sixteen. At that time she married Hershel Christenberry who was a farmer. They had two children.

When she was 21 she married George Sholar. He worked for contractors, so they often moved to other cities to find work. He had one child from a previous marriage, but they had none of their own. For 50 years she worked for Mrs. Stanley White's family.

Church and family are important elements in her life. She was baptized at the age of nine. She taught Sunday School and was a choir member of her local congregation for many years. She continues to attend church and make that a regular and meaningful part of her life. Her family is large. Yearly they have a family reunion which most of her family attends. She reports being raised up attending family reunions, so she does not remember one more than another.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Mrs. Flora Sholar

DATE: October 6, 1995

PLACE: Cerulean Road, Cadiz, Kentucky

INTERVIEWER: Lorna Thigpen

Side A

- 009 Mrs. Sholar was born at home on November 25, 1915, with the aid of mid-wife Miss Lou Dillard.
- 022 There were ten children in the Sholar family, seven girls and three boys. Flora was the seventh girl to be born and the next to the youngest sibling. Miss Dillard was mid-wife to the three youngest children.
- 033 The Sholar home was about a mile from Cadiz.
- 035 Before Flora started school, the family moved into a white settlement in Cadiz. She went to the Dunbar School through the eighth grade. The school has since been torn down.
- 054 Flora's mother fixed her a school lunch daily. The lunch pail sometimes consisted of peanut butter sandwiches, ham biscuits, or ham sandwiches.
- 064 For fifty years, Mrs. Flora worked for Mrs. Stanley White's family. She began working weekends at the age of nine.
- 078 She worked for Miss Lola Lawrence for a while until she was sixteen. Then she married Hershel Christenberry.
- 085 Hershel was a farmer near Wylonia, Kentucky. They had two girls. One of Mrs. Flora's sister's died, therefore those five children moved in them for the next seven years. Mr. Christenberry died not too long after their move to Cadiz.
- 150 She married Mr. George Sholar, who's family also lived in Cadiz. He had one child, a boy. They had no children. He has had Alzheimer's disease for about the last five years.
- 173 Flora married George when she was twenty-one. For a while, they lived in Louisville and Detroit, because of his work in construction. But Trigg County was always considered home.

Flora Sholar--October 6, 1995

- 217 Church is important. Flora was baptized at nine years of age. She taught Sunday school and was a choir member of a local church. She still attends the church.
- 270 The "political lady" used to work the elections every year.
- 274 She still works. She dries apples. The process takes 36 hours. (She explains).
- 288 Mrs. Flora loves to visit sick people.
- 315 She used to have hobbies. One major hobby was quilt making. She talked about selling tickets for the quilts.
- 344 Flora's oldest sister died on a Tuesday at 1 p.m. She took care of her. Then she came home and took care of her mother, who died one week later on a Tuesday at 1 a.m.

Side B

- 005 Flora's grandfather was taken from his mother (Native American) and their Texas home during the Civil War by a Captain Bingham to his plantation home in Wylonia, Kentucky. Twelve year old Ned lived with the Captain and his wife, Ginny, in their home.
- 029 Ned Bingham grew up and married an African American lady named Olive Green. Olive's mother's name was Joycie. Ned and Olive raised their family on a farm.
- 039 To make a living Olive grew her own cotton and would spin the yarn with her spinning wheel. She made gloves and etc. Ned made (willow?) baskets and brooms. They raised crops.
- 070 Captain Bingham brought Ned home to Kentucky as a slave, but Ned was actually his son by the Texas woman.
- 096 Sharecroppers.
- 105 Flora's grandmother died at 95, grandfather at 103, and mother at 75. Her mother and father were not married. She took her mother's name. Mrs. Flora's father's mother was a Native American. She only remembers seeing her one time when she was small. She had two long black braids, wore a long black skirt, an apron, and a white blouse. The memorable occasion happened while visiting a brother on his farm near the railroad track near Cadiz. The very nice lady died soon afterwards.

- 130 Poor people did not have cars back then. Folks either walked or went by horse and buggy.
- 147 The most important event of Mrs. Flora's life was when she "found the Lord" at age nine.
- 205 Secondly Mrs. Sholar listed her children as being the most important in her life. Then she named the five children she cared for as important, plus other family members.
- 251 On the same day Flora was baptized, so were two older gentlemen.
- 270 She has lots of friends.
- 332 Family traditions remembered by Mrs. Sholar: 1) A large family, 2) Tending to family members, 3) Farming, which led to other jobs later, 4) Recreational quilting parties, 5) Putting cakes in lard cans at Christmas to keep them fresh; going from house to house to have Christmas dinner; 6) Remembering a time when there was "more love between blacks and whites then", 7) Going to Home Makers, 8) Sewing "with fingers." Mrs. Sholar's sister-in-law has started a new tradition using a used sewing machine. She is very talented.
- 433 Longtime friends in the area.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Mrs. Flora Sholar

DATE: October 13, 1995

PLACE: Cerulean Road, Cadiz, Kentucky

INTERVIEWER: Lorna Thigpen

Side A

- 005 Flora's first husband, Hershel Christenberry, was a hired hand for Smith Broadbent, Sr. of Wylonia. They lived on the Broadbent farm for eighteen years. Mae and Adeline were their two children. Later they moved. Hershel worked at a saw mill. He later had a heart attack and died.

- 017 Hershel tended crops. He raised and cut tobacco, plowed the field with mules, got up hay, fed stock, etc.. Lots of people worked on the Broadbent farm. Some women stripped tobacco, but Flora never learned how. Hemp was grown on the farm during World War II for rope. Wheat was thrashed on the farm. It was taken to the mill. There was flour left over for the hands to take home. Corn was fed to stock and sold at the mill.

- 057 At first the Christenberry's lived in a two-room shot-gun house on the farm. There was one bedroom and a kitchen. The walls were newspapered. Later when they had enough money, Mrs. Flora ordered bedspreads. The children were not allowed to play on the beds. They lived in several houses throughout their stay on the farm. There were black and white tenants, share-croppers, and hired hands on the farm. Sometimes Mrs. Flora remembers seeing fifteen to twenty men in a field. Many people lived there. They were mighty nice to the hands. Sharecropping vs. hired hands.

- 090 Flora's grandfather was raised there at Wylonia. There were Bingham's there then, not Broadbent's. Her grandfather lived with the Bingham's. He sharecropped(?) at Wylonia then moved to Cadiz where he grew broom sage. The grandmother made and sold wool scarves, caps, and gloves from the cotton she grew.

- 110 George Sholar was Flora's second husband. He worked for contractors and thus lived in Chicago, Detroit, and other cities for a while. When they returned to Cadiz he worked as a school janitor.

- 117 The Sholar's had a big, mean hog at one time. That was when they lived where Mrs. Sholar's daughter lives now. George raised hogs to kill. Murray's cut the meat. The Sholar's salted, smoked, and seasoned their pork in their smokehouse. (detailed explanation). A friend of George's, a Baptist preacher, helped him build the smokehouse.

- 248 George was school janitor for nineteen years. At his retirement dinner people were crying. He liked to help people. He kept the school very clean. He got disabled and had to be put in Western State for nine years. Now he is in Dawson Springs. Every other generation of George's family has had Alzheimer's since the Civil War.
- 292 Bubba Jack Bingham worked at the Cadiz Hotel. Bubba John Henry Bingham had a farm and made sorghum molasses. Bubba Jack was an antique dealer and worked for Ms. Malone at the Cadiz Hotel for many years. Before working at the hotel, he lived with Flora on the farm and raised crops. He and his brother, John Henry, helped build the road from Hopkinsville to Cadiz. Both brothers raised crops on Highway 68 with Mr. Quince Sterling. They both lived in Muncie for a while. When they came back, Bubba John bought a farm, and Bubba Jack went back to work for Ms. Malone.
- 332 Bubba Jack bought everything. He was a junk dealer. One time while it was snowing in Muncie he came home in his stocking feet. He had sold his shoes. He would buy and sell anything. He had a shop right down from where he lived in Cadiz. He sold a lot of stuff.
- 352 How Main Street used to look, and how it looks now. Main Street used to be "blooming."
- 1) Three dry goods stores
 - 2) Two drug stores
 - 3) Four grocery stores: They delivered groceries. People called in what they wanted for lunch in the mornings. The food was delivered to them. Everybody had a cook and a nurse back then.
 - 4) There was a school gym where the garage is. The school was near where the Baptist Church is now.
 - 5) A Ten Cents store
 - 6) Two flower shops
 - 7) Eye shop
 - 8) Two barber shops
 - 9) Two restaurants
 - 10) Hotel: Folks lived in the hotel and there were seats outside on the porch. A bell would ring for dinner. Mrs. Flora worked there for a while. Ms. Malone called Flora "Little Jack."
- 427 Everyone used to work and would come to town on Saturday and Saturday night. Main Street (the corner?) was crowded then. Things are different now, so are the people.

Side B

- 004 Bubba John Henry made molasses (describes process). His grandson still has a half gallon jar of the 40 year old molasses. John grew crops and hay on his farm, also. His house looks "broke down" now. None of Cadiz looks like it used to. Mrs. Flora says that is sad. Bubba John stripped his own tobacco and sold it. He sold his corn at the mill and swapped corn for flour. His wife worked at Fort Campbell.
- 044 When Flora was a little girl she saw a spook. He was a very tall man in a white corduroy suit. Lots of people have seen the man. Men used to gamble in the field, it is possible the ghost was shot while gambling. Flora still does not know who or what he was. People saw him up and down the road, also.
- 074 One of Flora's sister's died. She took care of the five children for a while. Later different family members took care of some of the children. The husband remarried and took his son.
- 092 Mrs. Flora's dead sister talked to her and other family members.
- 137 Carol and Margaret Ann were two of the white children Mrs. Flora cared for. (Smith family?)
- 145 When asked what Flora enjoyed most when she was little, she replied, "Being bad." Most everyone used to newspaper walls for spring cleaning when she was small. She wanted to go visiting with everyone else. She was spoiled. Since she was not allowed to go she got into the starch. It took a while to get all the starch out of her hair.
- 154 The home of her childhood: She slept between her two brothers in the kitchen. There was a bed in the kitchen and one in the bedroom. Six in the house. She was spoiled rotten. One night she dreamed she saw a bear. She ran into her parent's room. Her mother gave her turpentine to go back to sleep.
- 186 One time everyone went to grandmother's. Flora wanted to stay at home, so she lay on the ground and pitched a fit. She did not get a whipping, but said she deserved one.
- 198 Bubba got sick--twice.
- 244 Flora's happiest story: 1) Mother's good food, 2) Close family, 3) Being the "pet."
- 260 Bubba John dropped a bucket of corn.
- 274 Flora calls herself Cadiz's pet. She had a good life as a child, and was spoiled. Her

mother made clothes. But, had no father. Went to Sunday school and church. Had plenty to eat.

- 292 When she was little she remembers going to the dance hall up the street with the bigger girls. This was when they lived in Cadiz. The house was near where Cadiz Bank is now. The lights went out and all the girls called for "Momma." They were not supposed to be on the top of the hill.
- 312 Mrs. Flora was named for a lady her sister used to work for. The two sisters would buy Flora things. Flora worked for fifty cents a week. She gave her mother half of it. Flora would buy material for dresses for school. The two ladies made dresses for her. Sometimes she would get in their bed while they sewed.
- 328 Family Reunions. Friday night consisted of church services. Saturday meant a large table of food. When Flora's grandparent's were alive lots of people came to the reunions. Not many come now.
- 348 Raised up on family reunions so do not remember one more than any other. Used to go to different family member's homes to have the reunions. That was fun. (Old locations listed).
- 363 Who comes to the family reunions now. (Listed).
- 375 What occurs at the family reunions. 1) People bring lots of food, 2) Bring gifts, 3) Give away a quilt by selling tickets, 4) Bingo games, 5) Races, 6) Games, and 7) Older folks get special gifts.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF GRACIE VINSON

Gracie Vinson was born in Trigg County, Kentucky, as the oldest child in her family. Her mother had 22 births, however, only eleven children were grown. At the time of her interview, she was living in a home she and her husband built in what is know as the Pleasant Hill community (formerly the Free State). However, she did not grow up in this area. Her family moved where work was available. She grew up in a small one room house. There was a kitchen in the corner and a low attic where children slept.

She worked her whole life, beginning as soon as she was able when she was a young girl. Jobs which she took on often consisted of cooking and working in the fields and her own garden. She also took in washing for people in town. She would pick up the laundry, wash and dry it, then return the laundry to its respective owners.

In 1928 she was married and became the mother of five boys and two girls. She now resides on an 80 acre farm which was purchased by her grandmother. The home in which she lives was built using the timber from the farm and labor of family and friends. In 1942 her husband worked for a company in Evansville, Indiana, but shortly after this the family returned to Cadiz and he drove a school bus (a job which he did for the next 30 years). After retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Vinson worked at the lodge at Lake Barkley.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH ETHELENE CRENSHAW

Ethelene Crenshaw is the third of Gracie Vinson's six children. Ms. Crenshaw describes her life growing up to be similar to her mother's. Her family lived in a small house. They had the same amenities, same chores, same foods, same leisure activities, and same communities.

Ms. Crenshaw is a teacher, professionally. When she decided that she wanted to continue her education, it became a family affair. Her brothers, mother, and an aunt who was a teacher helped her afford schooling. Following her first year of college, Ms. Crenshaw returned to Cadiz to teach school and took over her Aunt Lula's class. It took her ten years to earn her college degree because she took classes during the summer, so she could teach school during the year. She taught school at Linton, Rocky Point and McUpton.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANTS: Gracie Vinson (mother) and Ethelene Crenshaw (daughter)

DATE: November 10, 1995

PLACE: 73 Old Maggie Road, Cadiz, Kentucky, 42211

INTERVIEWERS: Julia Morgan and Virginia Alexander

Side A

- 006 Only two generations of Gracie's family is known
- 018 She is the oldest of eleven children. There were twenty-two births, but only eleven were grown.
- 031 She didn't grow up in the Free State, or Pleasant Hill, area. Her family moved around a lot. A few of the places she has lived includes Tan Yard, Highway 68 [Pink Catholic (?)], and Corinth.
- 046 Her father's name is Enis Taylor, and her mother's name was Belle.
- 057 Ethelene says she understands that there were never any slaves in the Free State area, and that is how it got its name.
- 074 Gracie's first remembered home was on Highway 68. According to Ethelene, Gracie's dad was probably a sharecropper.
- 087 Gracie worked her entire life. Some of this work entailed cooking for white families.
- 093 She enjoyed growing up in a large family. Her role, as oldest, was being a second mother.
- 100 The house in which she lived while young was small. It was one room with a kitchen area to the side. There was an attic where some of the children slept. The attic ceiling was low, so that only the younger kids could stand up straight in it.
- 116 At night each person would sleep where there was room. Part of the children slept in the attic and the rest slept downstairs with their parents.
- 124 School was far for Gracie and her siblings, so it was not often that they were able to attend. From one house which was closer to town, she would walk to school in Cadiz.

Gracie Vinson and Ethelene Crenshaw--November 10, 1995

- 145 The Cadiz Mill (located on the west end of town) stopped running some time near the 1950s. It was taken down when the river was flooded to create Lake Barkley and then moved closer to I-24. Gracie's husband was a farmer. He carried corn to be ground and wheat for flour.
- 172 Not much is remembered about growing up in Cadiz. Her parents were farmers and grew tobacco and corn.
- 186 Gracie's jobs included washing for people in Cadiz and working in fields and her own garden.
- 206 The farm on which she grew up was a self-sustaining farm.
- 210 She was married in 1928.
- 218 Ethelene researched her mother's family tree with information from her mother and by researching court records. Using names and some dates known by Gracie, Ethelene was able to find records of her family through the school census of African-American children. A problem which was encountered was that this census did not account for children of transient families, which is what Gracie's family was. Older aunts and uncles were on the records, but their younger siblings were not.
- 249 Gracie's current home is located on the family farm. The property has been in her family for over 100 years. This was also confirmed through a deed search conducted by Ethelene while researching her genealogy. Before Gracie's grandfather purchased it, the property belonged to a black man. Property used to be sold and transferred black to black and white to white. Ethelene reports that it is still done this way for the most part.
- 265 The original farm purchased by her grandfather was 80 acres.
- 271 This land was split between sons after his death.
- 277 The property across the road from the family farm has since been split by children who were heirs to that brother.
- 279 Five brothers and one sister (Gracie's children) together own Gracie's family property. Each person has there own house there except for one brother which does not reside in Trigg county.
- 285 The house where the interview took place is Ethelene's house but considered her mother's house. It is 42 years old. A carpenter was hired to frame the house, and the three children who were old enough and the parents built the remainder of the home.

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- 298 Not original to the house: room additions and siding.
- 304 The lumber used for the house was cut from the timber existing on the property and sent to a mill to be cut. Wood that would be visible and needed to be smooth was the only purchased wood.
- 314 Most black families built their houses in the same manner--using their own resources.
- 321 Ethelene is the third of six children. One child has passed away.
- 333 Gracie's children and birth years: Waldo, 1929; Mary Grace, 1930; Ethelene 1932; Raymond, 1936; Elliott Vinson, Jr., 1942; and Ruth Pearl, 1946.
- 352 In 1942 Ethelene's father worked for a company in Evansville, Indiana. After this job he returned to Trigg county where he drove a school bus for the next 30 years.
- 372 After he retired from bus driving, he and Gracie worked at a lodge at Lake Barkley.
- 379 Ethelene is a teacher in Trigg county. She began her teaching career in 1951 taking her Aunt Lula's teaching position when she left. Ethelene had only attended college for 12 months and returned to school in the summer to finish her degree. It took her 10 years to finish her degree.
- 398 Ethelene received her master's degree in Indiana.
- 408 Her brothers, aunt and Gracie helped her with her tuition. For her first degree at Tennessee State, tuition was \$25.
- 416 One of Ethelene's jobs was to work for Pearl Malone at the Cadiz Hotel. She earned 20¢ per hour working all day on Saturdays and Sundays. She would buy fabric for dresses which her Gracie would sew. Gracie is a self-taught sewer. Ethelene learned to sew in home economic classes.
- 430 Pearl Malone, the owner of the Cadiz Hotel, was said to be a stingy woman. Ethelene has reported that some of tips she earned while waiting tables were taken from the tables by Miss Malone.
- 453 Ethelene's cousin, Mildred Tandy, was a cook at the hotel. Mildred's husband is John Tandy.
- 469 Pearl was said to have let her daughter pretend to run the hotel when Pearl got older, but Pearl ran it as much as she could because she didn't like letting other people tell her what

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to do.

Side B

- 476 The hotel was on this side (east) of the F.B. Wilkerson store. The Cadiz Antique Mall is there now. The empty lot down hill was the location of the theater.
- 484 The hotel had rooms to rent both up and down stairs.
- 488 Ethelene did not know much about the clientele at the hotel. Employees were not allowed to talk much with paying customers. She spent most of her time in the kitchen or basement. Gracie also worked at the hotel.
- 498 John Kings was a man recalled by Gracie. He was a man which brought food to the restaurant.
- 501 Miss Malone was known for her country ham and great food. This was due in part to the readily available fresh food purchased directly from the local farmers.
- 506 Jack Bingham was one of the major sellers of food to the hotel, though there were other farmers that Miss Malone purchased from.
- 510 Pearl had a chicken coop down stairs.
- 513 Jack Bingham was a custodian. He was also a greatly trusted employee of Miss Malone. He was her right hand man. Despite this, he also received a low wage.
- 525 Other buildings remembered in Cadiz: There was an ice house behind where the antique malls now exist. There was a shoe shine shop, a doctor's office on main street, and Mr. Pollat's [?] stable where one could park wagons. Everything was centered around down town.
- 529 Ethelene says that travel was done by either walking or riding in a wagon. She rode the wagon many places, including Hopkinsville where her father would take their raised tobacco to the tobacco port.
- 534 Ethelene's life style as she grew up was the same as her mother's, it was a hard life. She was born and raised in a shack. Her family grew their own food and relied on family members for help. She also said that at the time she did not realize she was poor. Poor was a relative thing that she learned later.

- 548 Ethelene was determined to make more money than their parents. She decided to go to school. Her brothers did not want to go, so they all helped Ethelene attend.
- 554 Ethelene occasionally rode the wagon with her father to take the tobacco to Hopkinsville. They would start in the day and arrive in Hopkinsville during the night. They had lights for their wagons for night time driving. When Ethelene would go with her father, they also brought her teenage uncle who would sit with her while her dad was taking care of business. They would wait until morning before returning home.
- 569 The community in which Ethelene was raised was a black community. There were no white families near by.
- 574 There was a school close to her home. It was on a small hill above her home [editor's note: perhaps ½ mile from her home]. In contrast, Gracie had to walk four to six miles to attend school. Gracie had a lot of deterrents which often kept her from attending or unpleasant to go to: boys sicking dogs on her and walking through fields with bulls. Ethelene never missed a day of school.
- 585 For education, Ethelene's aunt was an example and offered her encouragement.
- 595 1948-ish: Bussing for black children began.
- 603 In 1951 Ethelene began teaching in Linton. She taught all grades in a one-room school house. There were 10 children.
- 607 She then taught at Rocky Point for six years. She describes these years as "glorious." In 1960 she transferred to McUpton school which was built new.
- 612 Linton was a hard place to teach because people were not education oriented. They did not like young teachers and they were hard to discipline.
- 618 Rocky Point, on the other hand was a family environment. It was still a one-room school, but students were not required to go, so those who attended were there because they wanted to be there.
- 624 Distance was a major determinant for whether or not students would attend regularly.
- 627 At McUpton, attendance was better because a truant officer was hired. One remembered was Ms. Rudd [?] in 1960.
- 637 While teaching, Ethelene would commute from home to Linton by driving an old car.

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- 665 Her family's first car was a "T Model A" purchased from Mr. Hooks, a Chevrolet dealer.
- 677 Gracie bought her first car for \$10 which she earned by washing clothes at 50¢ per basket of laundry. She would pick up the baskets, return to her home where she did the washing and then deliver the clean laundry.
- 693 Ethelene and her mother still have the basin Gracie used for washing clothing. It is also the same pot used for hog killings.
- 698 Good farmers did not buy much. Poor farmers bought more.
- 704 Gracie would do 5-6 baskets of laundry when she was "taking in washing."
- 713 Ethelene describes the process of hog killing and making cracklins (the cooked ham trimmings). Her dad was an excellent butcher.
- 732 Their home was heated with coal.
- 738 On the second day of hog killings they would make lard. This had to be constantly stirred till the contents of the pot bubbled and was clear. The meat scraps (cracklins) were taken out and the contents of the pot were poured through a cheese cloth to strain. When cooled the lard would be pure white.
- 769 Chitlings is poor man's meat.
- 772 "Eating high on the hog" as an expression is discussed as related to the cuts of meat from hog killings.
- 780 [Tape recorder problems: battery door became loose causing the power to go on and off.]
- 781 End of description of soap making.
- 790 Repeated description of how to make soap: 1 gallon of cracklin, 1 can of lye, 1 gallon or more of water. Boil over fire, stirring constantly so mixture doesn't stick to sides of pot.
- 806 Discussion about stirring butter. Ethelene showed butter churn, butter paddles and iron. The iron is the old, solid metal iron.
- 847 Description of churning butter.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF CHARLIE BELL WADLINGTON

Charlie Bell Wadlington lives on a farm near Cerulean, Kentucky. He is known by his neighbors for his tobacco and country hams. In the interview recorded here, he describes the processes of curing and stripping tobacco. He has been growing tobacco for approximately 50 years.

Though he grows tobacco, he also farms wheat, soybean, corn, cattle and hogs. His farm is 700 acres, and most of it is used as pasture for his 300 head of Angus and Hereford cattle which he sells for beef.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Mr. Charlie Bell Wadlington

DATE: October 18, 1995

PLACE: Wadlington farm near Cerulean, Kentucky

INTERVIEWER: Lorna Thigpen

Side A

- 005 The first barn contains dark fired tobacco. It has been cut, put into the barn, and fired about four times. This is the last firing. Holes have been dug in the sawdust. In these areas fires will be started. When the fires have burned down, it will be time to take the tobacco down and strip it. The barn floor is covered with sawdust about 17 to 18 inches high. About every two yards a fire is built within the holes. Mr. Wadlington makes sure the fire keeps burning for about 13 to 14 days. Two to three slabs of wood have been put under the sawdust. It is necessary for the sawdust to burn slowly to lessen the risk of fire. He checks on the barn periodically. If the sawdust fire appears to be getting to high, he smothers it down by adding sawdust from a round ended shovel.
- 032 The dark fired tobacco, also called LWX, was green when it was put inside the barn. The tobacco in this barn has been fired three times. The upcoming firing will be the final time. When the firing process is complete, the tobacco will have a shiny look to it. He likes his tobacco to look good. It already deep brownish gold in color and crinkly to the touch. Mr. Wadlington likes the richer color gotten by the 4th firing though. When the tobacco is ready to be stripped, it will feel soft not crinkly.
- 045 The stripping process: 1) Take the tobacco down. 2) Make three classes out of it. 3) Tie 8 to 10 leaves per bundle. 4) Put it in the baler. 5) Bale it. 6) Take it to market.
- 050 The tobacco is on the stalk and is graded down. Start with trash lugs, then seconds, and then the leaf. The leaf is the top of the stalk. The top leaf is the best tobacco.
- 055 Explain grading. The foot of the stalk is the *trash lug*. It makes snuff. The next grade is the *second*. The top of the stalk is the *leaf* tobacco. The leaf tobacco is the best tobacco. It is for cigars.
- 065 Grade it, separate it, then take it to market.
- 067 A buyer usually comes to the barn to buy dark fired tobacco. He has already been here. There might be an understanding for the price, there might not. Mr. Wadlington 'horse trades' on the price. He does about as well in the barn as at the market. He grows good

tobacco. The buyer usually comes back after the tobacco has been stripped and usually buys good tobacco 'on site.' The rest of the tobacco is sold on the floor at the market. Mr. Wadlington grows good tobacco. The tobacco in this barn is # 1. Mr. Wadlington does not have worry about it selling!

- 082 He has six barns, and he tries to make # 1 tobacco. For 50 to 55 years, he has been growing tobacco.
- 087 The only thing different about growing tobacco now and growing it when he was young is that now chemicals take care of the suckers. When he was a kid suckers had to be pulled out of the leaves. The suckers came back and had to be pulled out all over again. Today chemicals kill the suckers. This makes it a lot easier.
- 096 Dark cured tobacco is a one sucker tobacco. In this country there is a one sucker that is an aired cured. Mr. Wadlington has a little air cured, one sucker, on his farm. The air cured can be dark cured. Air cured takes about as long to cure as burley tobacco. Burley takes about 60 days to cure.
- 114 This first barn must be secured from any cracks to be dark cured safely. Mr. Wadlington makes sure there are no holes or cracks anywhere in the barn before beginning the firing process. If wind did get through cracks while the sawdust was burning, the barn could burn down. Mr. Wadlington has never lost a barn.
- 131 Mr. Wadlington is proud he has had a rough time.
- 135 Air cured and burley tobacco - holes in the barn. Dark fired/cured tobacco - no holes in the barn.
- 141 The (first) barn is 22 years old. Mr. Wadlington takes care of it. He has had to redo the doors. The interior of the barn is very dark. It is a tight barn, so it will cure properly. Burley barns are open so they will cure by getting air. After the firing is complete, the tobacco is left in the barn a little while to let it soften up some. This will occur after the last firing. The firing process will take about 14 days. The tobacco will stay in the barn until the last of November or first of December. Then it will be stripped and separated. The market usually starts about January 17th or 18th. If the buyer does not come by and buy it, this tobacco will go to market in Hopkinsville and be sold there.
- 174 (Same farm) Second Barn. The 4th and final firing process is in progress in this barn. Over half of the sawdust has burned away already. Smoke *fills* the interior of the barn. The slow burning sawdust feeds down to the wood beneath. The barn is smoking all over. It (the sawdust) will all burn up and feed out. The 4th firing is creating a shiny, glistening, copper-colored tobacco. Beautiful colored tobacco.

- 196 (Same farm) Third Barn. This barn is at the bottom of a hill. It is a wooden barn that has holes and slats in it. 'Kentucky barn.' Inside the barn is burley tobacco. It makes three grades: *Flying*, the first grade; bright; and red, on the tip end. All of this is right good tobacco. (Hear crinkling sound of tobacco being moved around). The bright yellowish gold colored tobacco is further in the barn. The weather beaten tobacco on the outer edge of the barn is less bright colored and darker. Burley is a lighter colored tobacco. It is air cured, stiff feeling, be air cured. All this is right good tobacco. This tobacco has a bright leaf in it, but it is not bright leaf tobacco. This is mostly red leaf tobacco in this barn, and it actually sells better than bright leaf tobacco. Now that filtered cigarettes have come along, red leaf sells better than bright leaf.
- 240 Burley tobacco is yellow when it comes out of the field. When it is growing it stands out, it does not droop. Dark fired has a limp look when growing and stays green. This barn consists of a shed addition, which also contains burley tobacco. The larger part of the barn is the original section of the barn. (He opens the doors to show the original barn interior filled with burley tobacco). The tobacco is layered four and five tiers. The barn used to be a dark cured barn. When the barn was turned into a burley tobacco barn, only every other tier was used. In 1972, when Mr. Wadlington bought the farm, this was the only barn standing on the property. He has since built two barns on this farm, two barns at home, and one barn on the Briar farm. He grows tobacco on 45 to 46 acres a year.
- 279 He has cattle. Mr. Wadlington also grows hay, some corn, and some soybeans. This year he grew wheat, not soybeans. He sells the soybeans he grows for seed. The corn is grown for the beef cattle and hogs. He has 300 head of cattle, but will sell many of them soon. The cattle consists of Angus and Herefords, mostly Angus. The Angus/Hereford cross sells better. Most of the 700 acres owned by Mr. Wadlington is used as pasture for the cattle.
- 323 To have good crops lime must be added every other year. Everything is fertilized each year. To have good hay and tobacco the field must have fertilizer. He does not grow tobacco in the same field yearly. There is not much money in row crops, soybeans and corn, so he does not plant them often. Other crops, like tobacco, make more money. It is best to sew a field down in grass, like fescue, before planting wheat or tobacco.
- 349 The burley tobacco in the barn is placed about five feet from the ground so the tobacco will not get moldy. Plus, so the tobacco will get air in it and through it. If the tobacco sweats and the air can not get through, it will cut down a lot on the pounds. The five or six plants to a stick keep air going through. Each section consists of a whole tobacco plant.
- 378 Cracks and holes are wanted in a barn full of burley tobacco. Rain does not hurt it. It helps the tobacco. Some people now leave the tobacco on scaffold wagons. They do not

Charlie Bell Wadlington--October 18, 1995

ever put it in the barn, or else they put some in the barn and leave the rest on the wagons. About four acres of burley tobacco is in this barn. The same amount of dark fired tobacco is in the other two barns. Buyers do not come out to look at burley tobacco. It must be graded, baled, and taken to market.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF KATHERINE WILSON

Mrs. Wilson was born and raised in Trigg county, living there all her life. She attended Rocky Point school for many years and has fond memories of her teachers and her time there. Leaving school, she soon married Delmore Wilson and gave birth to seven children. While her husband farmed with several local residents, she stayed home or occasionally helped in other peoples' houses. Her church, Little River Baptist, is very important to her and has been a central point in the life of her family. Currently she works at Wharton's Barbecue.

AUDIO TAPE INDEX

INFORMANT: Katherine Wilson

DATE: [Nov. 17, 1995]

PLACE: Cadiz, Kentucky

INTERVIEWER: Andrew Oberdier

Side A

- 005 Mrs. Wilson was born and raised in Trigg co. She has lived there all her life.
- 017 Mrs. Wilson attended Rocky Point school. She was taught by Mrs. Mary Dillon, Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Suzy Tensley, and Mrs. Nora Greenway.
- 056 Mrs. Wilson fondly remembers Christmas at her school. Her teachers would give them "goodie sacks" filled with oranges, apples, candy, and nuts.
- 068 Mrs. Wilson has been a member of the Little River Baptist church since childhood.
- 072 After marrying her husband, Delmore Wilson, who is now deceased, Katherine gave birth to seven children, four daughters and three sons. Only one of her daughters is still alive and all of her sons are deceased.
- 113 After graduating from school, Mrs. Wilson stayed home and helped her mother until she got married.
- 120 Her husband was a farmer, raising tobacco and corn with several local residents.
- 144 Mrs. Wilson stayed home until someone came to ask her help.
- 157 Church is very important to Mrs. Wilson. She went to Sunday school as a child and impressed the importance of the Bible on her children. They would go every first and third Sunday. Her current pastor is Reverend Bacon who leads a congregation of around twenty members.
- 174 She has worked at Wharton's Barbecue for two years, helping prepare the food and clean. She can describe how to prepare chocolate pies and other dishes like Burgoo.

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