

Interviewee: Johnnie B. Jones AKA Man Jones

Interviewer: Kuanita E. Murphy

Interview Report Date: February 02, 2003, Oral Interview Date April 14, 2003

Interview location : Interviewee Home in Randolph County, GA

List of acronyms: JJ= Johnnie B. Jones, KM= Kuanita E. Murphy, Flat =b, Sharp= #

Transcript by Danielle O. Worsham

[Begin Transcription 00:00:20]

Kuanita E. Murphy: All right Mr. Jones. If you would give us a demonstration of all the notes. There are seven notes, right? [00:00:26]

Johnnie B. Jones- Yeah. [00:00:27]

KM: Alright could you go through seven notes for us? [00:00:31]

JJ: You want to do the seven first? [00:00:33]

KM: Yes, go through seven notes. [00:00:35]

JJ: You want notes now? [00:00:37]

KM: Yes. [00:00:38]

JJ: -Begins shape-note singing – [00:00:39]

JJ- That's all seven of the notes. [00:00:46]

KM: Mm Hmm[00:00:47]

JJ: That's seven will be eight but, you got seven notes. Then the last note is "doe". [00:00:54]

JJ: - Begins shape note singing- [00:00:54]

JJ: That's all of them. [00:00:59]

JJ: Not in that order [00:01:00]

JJ: - Begins shape note singing- [00:01:01]

JJ: That's seven notes right there. [00:01:08]

KM: Okay. [00:01:09]

JJ: We got seven notes and silent note. The last note is a silent note. [00:01:10]

KM: Okay. [00:01:14]

JJ: We call that note for doe first and then you come on to the last note you call

“doe” that a silent note. [00:01:15]

KM: alright so your give to give us an example? Whats the name of the song you're going to sing? [00:01:30]

JJ: My heart is number 30 is a spoke song. [00:01:31]

JJ: *My Heart Is Filled with Song* I'm going to the notes now -begins shape note singing the

song- [00:01:38-00:02:36] **As soon as Mr. Jones finishes the shape note singing, he**

immediately goes into the lyrics *My heart is Filled with Song*. [00:02:36-00:04:20]

(see next page for the lyrics)

My Heart Is Filled with Song

My heart is filled with song.
I'm happy all day long.
Since Jesus and his love .
Came to me.
No evil now, I fear.
I'm blessed dear Lord in here.
He got me over life.
Underseen.
Come join this happy band.
Enter before he came to land.
And met our blessed Lord.
in the sky.
We know it won't be long.
Until we join in song.
Of all the ending love on high.
My heart is filled with song.
I'm happy all day long.
Since Jesus and is love.
Came to me.
No evil now, I fear.
I'm blessed dear lord in here.
It got me over life on the sea.
Come join this happy band.
Enter before he came to land.
And meet our blessed Lord.
In the sky.
We know it won't be long.
Until we join the song.
Of all the unending love.
On high.

JJ: And that is a spoken song. That's where the notes supposed to go. That's the words. The words go with the notes. [00:04:20]

JJ: If the words don't tear up with the notes. Then you not sang that right. Be still about it. The notes of your song supposed to come out like your notes come out . [00:04:27]

JJ: So, if it don't come that way. No something wrong and Gods pissed about it or something. [00:04:41]

KM: Okay [00:04:46]

JJ: In fact, you gotta pitch these songs. Call it what song. You see this here... is F flat (Fb). that's what this is Fb. [00:04:47]

JJ: You see that one little pill right there. [00:04:56].

JJ: You call that there flat (b) and that four beats right there to the major. You see that lil dot right there. [00:04:58]

JJ: You got that book don't ya [00:05:08]

KM: Mm hmmm [00:05:10]

JJ: You see that lil dot right there. That is a flat (b) that's Fb. [00:05:11]

JJ: So, you have in music. You got four spaces...five lines and you got four spaces. [00:05:18]

JJ: That line there that is degree. [00:05:34]

JJ: You got five lines and six spaces. [00:05:36]

JJ: That is the first degree right there. I reckon. First degree right there. [00:05:43]

JJ: Then you have five lines and six spaces. [00:05:46]

JJ: That is called eleven degree. We call that eleven degree. [00:05:53]

KM: Okay. [00:05:58]

KM: What other example do you have? A song you can show us. [00:05:59]

JJ: Let me see what I have. [00:06:04]

JJ: This here. You see them flats (b) there. That's three flats (b). Three flats mean it's the key of E [00:06:22]

JJ: See another one right here. Making sure. [00:06:37]

JJ: You see that like a letter there. That's G sharp (G#) [00:06:45]

KM: Is there another song you could sing for us? To show how that sounds. [00:06:48]

JJ: Yes. [00:06:52]

KM: And what's the name of that one? [00:06:53]

JJ: Number 18- *At the Blow Down* [00:06:58]

JJ: - Begins shape note singing- [00:07:12-00:08:22] **As soon as Mr. Jones finishes the shape note singing, he immediately goes into the lyrics of *At the Below Down*** [00:08:25- 00:10:42]

(See below for lyrics. Only one chorus)

At the Blow Down

You may wonder why I'm so happy when	Happy what a day
Singing all the day	When I arrive
Till because I have found the savior	When I arrive
And he is with me to stay.	Lord below me to stay
Join the feeling my soul and mama.	No solace there
And I go traveling on.	No solace there
On to the wreckage awaiting you.	Never give a happy day
At the blow down.	Some glad morning
Oh, what a gain.	
what a gain	
Land and bullets	

JJ: It would sound good if I had somebody to sing with me. I'm just giving you a sketch of it.
[00:10:42]

JJ: Key of E is what that was [00:10:51]

JJ: You have different keys. You have to have the right key don't ya? Just like your door. If you got the wrong key and you can't unlock your door [00:10:53]

JJ: You have to get the right key to sing it [00:11:08]

KM: Okay [00:11:13]

JJ: *I Met Jesus* [00:11:22]

JJ: - Begins shape note singing- [00:11:27-00:12:24] **As soon as Mr. Jones finishes the shape note singing, he immediately goes into the lyrics *I Met Jesus*** [00:12:25- 00:14:17]

(see next page for lyrics)

[Transcription ends after song 00:14:26]

I Met Jesus

Once I wonder.

In the painful sin and shame.

Knew to call on.

On the Blessed saviors name.

Then somebody.

Through me to live and wait.

I cried Jesus.

On our Day to plea.

I met Jesus in the good ol' fashion way.

At the alter where the people kneel to pray.

I could feel the old-time power there.

And people were rejoicing everywhere.

Hallelujah

Oh the happy, happy day.

Friends were praying.

All around me on that day.

Some got happy.

In the good old fashion way.

My dear farther.

Laid a hand upon my head.

Then it happen like the man of God had said.

I met Jesus in the good old-fashion way.

At the altar.

Where the people kneel to pray.

I can feel the ol' time power there

People were rejoicing everywhere

Hallelujah

Oh the happy, happy day