

FIELDWORK DATA SHEET

Number 1

Fieldwork Data Sheet

Corresponding to: Tape No. 1 Photo No.       
Video No.      Other     

Collector: Karrie Kirkland

Circumstances of interview To learn of Mr. Jimmy Johnson's musical past in reference to his heritage, his parents, his brother & sisters and other influences that may make his music multicultural.

Name of informant: Jimmy Franklin Johnson

Address: [Redacted] Hahira, GA zip 31632

Others present at interview (names and addresses) N/A

Place and date of birth: Born in Hahira on August 25, 1943

Family information: mother - Marie Estelle Kelley Father - Inywebster Johnson

Size of family (names and ages): 2 Boys and 4 girls - 1 brother, Paul, and four sisters, one named Louise

Ethnic heritage (mother's and father's): father - Irish/German  
mother - ?

Generation of informant:     

(Date of informant's, parent's, or grandparents' immigration.) N/A

Circumstances of immigration: (reasons) N/A

Activities in Old World: N/A

Migrational experience and travel (U.S.A. and elsewhere): N/A

Education, apprenticeship, and training experience: Graduated from Hahira High School in 1961, Graduated from Tallahassee Barber College in 1965

Occupational experience: helped brother in New York w/ construction, farmed tobacco for 2 years, became a licensed barber in 1966

Church or religious affiliation: Wife is a member of Westside Baptist in Valdosta  
Membership in organizations (civic and personal): N/A

Special interests, skills, hobbies: hunting & fishing

Importance events during life (civic and personal): N/A

Folklore and traditional materials in informant's repertoire. Brief description of genre or type of performance: Mr. Johnson sang three Johnny Cash songs for me and played his 6-string flattop Martin. He sounded very much like Johnny Cash, if not better. The songs he played included "Ring of Fire," "I Still Miss Someone," and "Don't Take Your Cows to Town." Mr. Johnson's guitar, even though old, had very good sound quality. His voice was laid and didn't break once. Mr. Johnson sings country (western) music. He sang without any amplification on this tape.

Informant's commentary on performance: Mr. Johnson was nervous the first time I asked if he'd play for me, but the second interview he appeared excited to play.

When does he or she perform it? Doesn't perform anymore, but use to in clubs around Valdosta

Time and circumstance: For dances around town usually in the evenings

How, when, where, and from who did he or she learn it? Mr. Johnson learned how to play the guitar from his brother Paul who also encourage him to sing. Mr. Johnson started playing & singing in high school.

Additional observations by fieldworker: (Character of informant, contact with mass media and modern world, personal opinions and reactions that resulted from or influenced the interview)

Mr. Johnson is a very modest man, who at first seemed reluctant to do an interview. But now I believe his interest in music has been sparked again. I can't help but believe that I should do something more for Mr. Johnson. I think these interviews have got him playing again. I just wish his voice could be heard by many others. Too bad Johnny Cash was born & discovered before Jimmy Johnson.