

Collector: Jessica Stasalonich
 Circumstances of interview: Interview took place on Wednesday, November 15, 2000 inside Mr. Mason's office.

Name of informant: Donald Jerome Mason
 Address: [REDACTED]
Valdosta 31002 zip

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

Place and date of birth: Miller, Ga ; 29 July 1939

Family information: Lives with his wife

Size of family (names and ages): (4)

Mom: Thelma

Dad: James Mason

Younger Brother: James E. Mason

Ethnic heritage (mother's and father's): Not exactly sure, but believes a mix between Irish and English

Generation of informant: unknown
 (Date of informant's, parents', or grandparents' immigration.)

Circumstances of immigration: (reasons) unknown

Activities in Old World: unknown

Migrational experience and travel (U.S.A. and elsewhere): Military, lived in South Ga all life

Education, apprenticeship, and training experience: Grammar, High School, & College graduate; 7 yr military

Occupational experience: 20 yrs teaching; 1 1/2 yr working for South Ga. Regional Educational Consortium

Church or religious affiliation: Gateway Baptist (He is deacon)

Membership in organizations (civic, social, etc.): Band he plays in

Special interests, skills, and hobbies: Fishing, church, and teaching

Important events during life (civic and personal): Played @ County Fair for 7 days; Played @ Brown Bag week @ courthouse in Valdosta

Folklore and traditional materials in informant's repertoire (use additional page) Brief description of genre or type of performance):

Plays old country music by guitar with other band members. began playing harmonica until he could afford a guitar.

Informant's commentary on performance: Wholesome. Don't play any music with any nasty words and play for families, kids, old people. Do not play for any places that allow smoking, swearing, or drinking.

When does he or she perform it? Every Saturday in Marvin, Ga (15-20 miles from Valdosta)

Group: Country Strings

genre - Country, bluegrass guitar

Time and circumstance Evenings on Saturday

How, when, where, and from whom did he or she learn it? learned how to play by himself and listening to radio. The songs he plays he learned through hand me down songs, radio, and band. At 12 yrs old bought first guitar played harmonica before on the guitar

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. Don Mason was truly a nice man. He plays whether he gets paid or not. He certainly loves his job and interacting with the church.
