

David Williams History Papers UA 23-20-B.L.F. 096

Name Wesley Paige

Interview Date 02-16-1994

Consent Form yes

Photographs no

Narrator Questionnaire yes

Interview Contents yes

Transcript no

VHS Tape Available no

VHS Tape Digitized 1

Cassette Tape Available yes

Cassette Tape Digitized yes

**Additional Information:**

(Include any notes you would like to make here.)

# David Williams History Papers

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Person Interviewed Wesley Paige

Student's Name Carol Clark

Interview Date 02-16-1994

Tape/Folder Number 32-F-096

Collection Number: UA 23-20-32-F-096

## People in

Transcript Kate Paige - Hoover - Roosevelt

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## Subjects/Key Words in

Transcript Great Depression - teacher - farming - sharecropping - no money - Hoover days - Baptist - Methodist - Sunday School - ARMY - poll taxes - discipline - KKK - Riverhill - bad legging - separation - Hoody field - voting - shingles - no jobs - doctors

## Brief

Summary Raising your own food during the Depression - Typical day for kids - Religion during the Depression - Black/White relations - living - raising conditions - Health care (preparing for it)

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Carol Clark  
Hist. 470

# Valdosta State University

## Valdosta, Georgia

*I hereby give without condition the tape recordings and their contents as listed below to Valdosta State University as a donation for such scholarly and educational purposes as the university shall determine.*

(Type all information except signatures)

X WESLEY PAIGE  
Name of Narrator

Wesley Paige  
Signature of Narrator

X 804 YORK ST.  
Address of Narrator

CAROL CLARK  
Name of Interviewer

Carol Clark  
Signature of Interviewer

1333 WILLOW WAY VALDOSTA GA.  
Address of Interviewer

JANUARY 30, 1994  
Date of Agreement

FEB. 16, 1994  
Date of Interview

Reminiscences of the above named narrator on life in Georgia during the Depression

NARRATOR REQUESTED PHOTOGRAPH NOT TO BE TAKEN

Wesley Paige  
Carol Clark

# Narrator Questionnaire

(Type all information)

Name WESLEY PAIGE

Maiden Name

Address 804 YORK ST. VALDOSTA GA. 31601

Phone Number NO PHONE

Date of Birth 1913

Birthplace LOWNDES COUNTY

Place of Residence (city or county and state), 1920s-1940s. Continue on reverse.

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. MINEOLA, GA, 19 20 19 40  | 5. _____, 19 __ - 19 __. |
| 2. VALDOSTA, GA, 19 40 19 94 | 6. _____, 19 __ - 19 __. |
| 3. _____, 19 __ - 19 __.     | 7. _____, 19 __ - 19 __. |
| 4. _____, 19 __ - 19 __.     | 8. _____, 19 __ - 19 __. |

Family and/or individual occupations, 1920s-1940s.

FATHER SCHOOL TEACHER

MOTHER HOUSEWIFE

WESLEY PAIGE FARMER

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# Interview Contents

(Type all information)

NARRATOR'S NAME WESLEY PAIGE

TAPE NUMBER #1

PAGE 1 of 2

TIME (minutes & seconds)	SUBJECTS
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>1. FAMILY LIFE</u>
<u>4min. to</u>	<u>2. FARMING</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>3. TYPICAL DAY</u>
<u>1 min. to</u>	<u>4. RELIGION/SERVICE</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>5. FARMING/DEPRESSION</u>
<u>1MIN. to</u>	<u>6. EDUCATION</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>7. FAMILY LIFE/RELIGION</u>
<u>1min. to</u>	<u>8. WHITES</u>
<u>1min. to</u>	<u>9. HOUSE CONDITIONS</u>
<u>3min. to</u>	<u>10. HOUSE CONDITION/FAMILY LIFE</u>
<u>3min. to</u>	<u>11. TREATMENT BY WHITES/RELIGION/RACIST GROUPS</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>12. HOOVER DAYS</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>13. PLUMBING WORK</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>14. FATHER</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>15. LAWS/SEPARATE BUT EQUAL/SERVICE</u>

# Interview Contents

(Type all information)

NARRATOR'S NAME WESLEY PAIGE

TAPE NUMBER #1

PAGE 2 of 2

TIME (minutes & seconds)	SUBJECTS
<u>1min.to</u>	<u>1. VOTING</u>
<u>2min.to</u>	<u>2. MILITARY</u>
<u>5min.to</u>	<u>3. FAMILY LIFE</u>
<u>2min.to</u>	<u>4. FARMING/FOOD/COOKING</u>
<u>5min. to</u>	<u>5. CLOTHING/FOOD/FERTILIZER</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>6. MIDWIVES/JOBS/FIELDWORK</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>7. CLOTHES</u>
<u>1min. to</u>	<u>8. MILITARY PAY</u>
<u>30sec.to</u>	<u>9. GRANDCHILDREN</u>
<u>2min. to</u>	<u>10. COMMUNITY HELP/FUNERALS</u>
<u>1min. to</u>	<u>11. MEDICAL BILLS</u>
<u>5min. to</u>	<u>12. MILITARY</u>
<u>to</u>	<u>13.</u>
<u>to</u>	<u>14.</u>
<u>to</u>	<u>15.</u>

Interviewer: Tell me something about your family life-how many brothers and sisters did you have?

Narrator: Only two of them are living now. Wesely Paige and Katie Paige.

Interviewer: Is that your sister Katie?

Narrator: Yes that is right, my sister is Katie.

Interviewer: How many brothers living or dead? How many was it in the whole family?

Narrator: There were two boys and five girls. I can't remember their names.

Interviewer: You had a pretty big family didn't you?

Narrator: Yes, I did.

Interviewer; Did you get along pretty good with them?

Narrator; Fine, fine.

Interviewer: Can you tell me anything else about your family? your mother or father? What type work did they do?

Narrator: My father was a teacher and my mother was a housewife. My sisters wer housewives and my brother worked on the cate coast in West Palm Beach Florida.

Interviewer: Do you remember the depression?

Interviewer: What comes to your mind when I say something about the Depression?

Narrator: Hard labor an no pay. I worked for thirty five cents a day and taking care of children.

Interviewer: Did you help take care of your brothers and sisters too?

Narrator: Oh yes, the younger ones and just the younger ones. Not the older ones.

Interviewer: Is there anything else that comes to your mind about the depression? Did you raise your own food?

Narrator: Yes, yes we farmed. We quit farming in the twenties I believe. Then I went to public working in the twenties. Yes, we raised our food then we just quit farming. It was just too hard work to be out there farming. We worked hard all year and nothing was coming in. So we just quit.



Interviewer: Was it something like tenant farming or share cropping?

Narrator: Yes, sharecropping, that is right. At the end of the year we cleared about five hundred dollars and the man claimed he was breaking even. Out of all that hard work we had done so we got tired of it and quit.

Interviewer: So the whole year you only got five hundred dollars for the whole year?

Narrator: Yes, that is right. He took out and let us have this and that and the other and that is what it come to to the best of my remember. So we just quit and we all went to public working. Except my mother. She stayed at home and took care of the house. She cooked and faired for us and fixed for us like that.

Interviewer: Did you say that your father was a school teacher?

Narrator: Yes, that is right.

Interviewer: Did he farm and teach school also?

Narrator: Yes, we did but we quit it. We had to take the tuition for the children. We had to take it, the chicken and eggs and stuff like that and we were raising that. So we just got tired of that and we just quit. That was in the Hoover Days too.

Interviewer: What was a typical lkie when you got up in the morning during those days? Do you remember?

Narrator: Catching the mule and getting in the field plying.

Interviewer: Did you get up pretty early?

Narrator: Pretty early, pretty early and plowed until time to go to school and then we would go to school and get out and go back to plowing in the afternoon again.

Interviewer: What time did you actually start?

Narrator: Oh daylight almost because I had to get up early and do a little work then go to school then come back and do some more work.

Interviewer: So you got up before daylight and went to bed late?

Narrator: Yes, that is right, that is right.

Interviewer: What about religion?

Narrator: Baptist and Methodist.

Interviewer: What it a rule that you had to go to church every Sunday?

Narrator: (laughter) Yes, oh yes. we had to go. Sunday school too.

Narrator: See, my father was a Methodist and my mother and all her people were Baptist, Missionary Baptist. Oh yes we had to go.

Interviewer: Was it an all day thing?

Narrator: Just about it.

Interviewer: Is there something you want to tell me about the church? You know back in those days churches were wjat kept the family together. Was that your case?

Narrator: Yes, it was. Some churches were built out of logs huled in and a little wood heater in there to keep us warm but we made it.

I left in the thirties and I went to Florida and I got to working down there for a dollar and a half a day. I left there and come back here along in the forties and then in forty one the army got me.

Interviewer: Did you get drafted?

Narrator: Yes, I got drafted. I went in service in forty two and come our in forty six and I have been here every since.

I worked two sixteen hundred pound mules for thirty five cents a day and then that white man said he could not round but once a day and that was in the morning. I wanted to know why and then he told me why. He said "Ace the mule was tired". I fought the mule all day and I am not tired. That is what got me and there wasn't nothing I could do about it. I had to get out and get some money for my sisters and brothers and my mother. Me and my daddy could do fairly well but those children I had to get out and take care of them. Some how I appreciate it today. I did alright for the time being. I sure did. I got to be eighty-one years old and I am doing fine.

Interviewer: Did you say you raised all of your food?

Narrator: Yes

Interviewer: Did you have to go into any of the reliefs like the soup lines and things like that?

Narrator: No, honey nothing like that in those days. No Lord.

nothing like that. If somebody got sick in the community, the community would come over and help take care of the crop. They would crop it, sell it and bring it back. They would help one another back there in those days. These days now you can't get any one to help you like they did in those days. We got along pretty good so far. If we needed a doctor we would call a doctor and he would come and go. Sometimes it would cost a dollar and sometimes fifty cents but he would come and go. But now you can't talk to anybody for a dollar. (laughter) No Lord, but I made it through them days. I raised my children and they go to high school. Yes, they all made it through and the grand children made it through and that was the best I could do in those days.

Interviewer: Did you make it through high school?

Narrator: No, my education stand is only fifth grade. I tell them all the first day I went to high school I was laying out the foundation and the next day I went back they hadn't finished it. It was rough back in those days.

Yes, church, prayer meeting and union meeting and all this kind of stuff we had to go to. Revival, we had to go. Pick cotton all day and then go to school and revival meeting at night. We had to go. There was no ifs ands or buts about it. We had to go. I'm glad of it today too. I sure am. I'm glad those days are over but there is still some of it here today to. It was rough but I just didn't give up. I would fall but I didn't wallow. I have been arrested once in my life. I got drunk once in my life and woke up one Sunday morning and I couldn't move. Moma had beat it out of me. I appreciate that today. (laughter) Yes mam, I appreciate it today. I sure do. We didn't have any trouble among each other in the family such as family arguments and things like that. Fighting and beating on each other, we didn't have any of that. No, I never did get very many whippings in my life. My other brothers and sisters didn't either. We all got along fine back in those days. We would sit down and listen to mother and father. If he would tell me that he would kill me I would believe it. If he would tell me to do something I would go do it. All the rest of them would do the same thing. They didn't say anything or grumble. After I got grown I got a little bullheaded. I would just bite myself and go ahead on about my business. We didn't have all that carrying on and fighting and cursing and going on with one another. We just didn't like it.

Interviewer: How did the white people treat your family? Did you have any kind of incidents that happened during the depression?

Narrator: Well, they treated all the colored people nasty. That is just the truth of it. Along in those days if it was a good white man see I was youn then I didn't know if he was good or bad. As far as I could see all of them were bad. That is the truth. Since I got up grown I could see we had some good white people. We still have some bad white people. I hate it but I don't hate them. I love everybody. So far this is what is carrying me along. I try to help everybody that I am able to help. I'm getting along pretty good so far. Age has gotten me now and I'm expecting little ailments and things that come along and it is for me. If it wasn't for me I wouldn't be getting it. Other than that I'm getting along nicely so far. The mule and the wagon in those days is all we had.

Interviewer: What was the condition of the housed that you lived in? Were they like cabins?

Narrator: They were shabby. They were like shacks. Just to tell you the truth, they were like shacks.

Interviewer: Did the person you were working for own these houses?

Narrator: Yes, they did own them. When we left out of those we moved some other place. They called themselves renting back in those days. They had poll taxes on property and stuff. The housed were shabby. They were absolutely shabby. Food and stuff was cheap in those days but you couldn't get money to get it with. If you could get ahold of three or four dollars you could get enough food to take care of your family almost. It was rough but we got along pretty good in those days considering. The biggest thing about those days is that if something come to you you didn't let it all out. You would keep your mouth closed and think. Just keep thinking and you would get over it. alot of the colored people would run their mouths and they knew what would happen to them by running their mouths. Not all of us did it. Just some of us. We never did have much to say about talking about the whites and the blacks and this that and the other. Keep this (pointing to the mouth) closed and we got along alright. Some things that were said were hard to swallow. It was bad to swallow but we swallowed it and kept going and we got along pretty good. So far when we needed help, natrually we had to go to the white man. He would give it. Some he did and some he didn't. He would say he didn't have it or wait until next week or something like that but we kept our mouth closed and we went on and we got by.

You know the houses were shabby, they were shabby. It

was a shame. They were shabby. There was a time you could walk around and look out anywhere. The Lord was with us and we made it alright. So far. We had to go to church or those old folks would put it on us. (laughter) I appreciate it today. I'm slack about going to church now. On the fourth Sunday I'm going to get back in church too. It helps you. You don't have to do like a lot of the church people do. Just do what the man that is reading out of the Bible say do. Do the best that you can. That is all that you can do. I don't go to church to be seen or see what somebody else has. I go to church for Wesley. I get the benefit out of it that way. Now, I'm not perfect. There is no one that is perfect. I do the best of my ability. I'm getting along pretty good so far. There is not near as much pressure on us now as it was back in those days. Not near as much. Everything is working pretty nice so far. Of course there are some things that come up that I dislike but then there is nothing you could do about it. Not a thing you can do about it.

Interviewer: Did you ever have any problems out of the K.K.k or any type of racist group?

Narrator: No, it was a long time before I learned what the K.K.K was. I didn't come in contact with them. Not me personally but maybe some of the overheads did but I did not. I have heard of them. I had a lot of nasty words said to me. Maybe they were K.K.K for all I know. I swallowed the biggest of it and I kept going. It was not the idea of me being scared but my mother and father always told me to keep my mouth closed. It would put you into trouble quick. I did and I never had any trouble out of anybody like that. There was an argument between one or two colored and sometimes white boys would have one or two arguments but I never bothered with them. I didn't like arguments. If you go to arguing somebody is going to get hurt if you don't stop. Somebody has got to have some sense. It was a long time before I learned what the K.K.K was. I had heard a lot about it. In my earlier days I had seen a lot of it but it was bad. I was looking at some of it last night. It was bad but then what could we do? Nothing.

The Hoover Days were some bad days. We worked for nothing and that was the truth. Now you can get a little something for your labor now. You can do pretty good farming. No, I haven't had any trouble out of the K.K.k not that I know of.

Interviewer: Back in the Hoover Days how old were you?

Narrator: I was born in 1913. The Hoover Days was in the eight-

teen or twenties but I forget how long they lasted. It lasted until President Roosevelt. That is when that thing was over.

Interviewer: So you were in your twenties?

Narrator: Yes, somewhere along in there. That is the best I could remember.

Interviewer: Did you know much about Hoover?

Narrator: No, except that he help put California on it feet. The rest I didn't know too much about.

Interviewer: When you say Hoover Days those were just rough days?

Narrator: Yes, rough days. Back in those days colored people didn't have much schooling. My daddy was a principle. In the county they had about six or eight months and half of that time we had to be in the white man's field picking up cotton stalks and hoeing fences and stuff like that. My education is only fifth grade and I didn't get very much education but after I got up and got grown I made my own job. I just got tired of working for the white people for nothing. I made my own job. If I had more education I would have been at Tech high out there. I was out there one while but when they came up I had to go because I didn't have no high school papers. That hadn't been too long ago either. It has been since I've been living here. I set up the bathrooms out there and the inspectors came down and they were all satisfied with it and that main man come down to approve it and I didn't have any papers so I had to go. I still stayed with my plumbing work and I did pretty good at it. I lived comfortable.

Interviewer: How did you learn about plumbing?

Narrator: I was a plumber's helper for fifteen cents per hour. That is the way I learned and I just learned to like it. I would just like to see things moving about and I just got right down to it.

Interviewer: Is this the type of work that you did when you quit farming?

Narrator: Pretty well. I was a plumber's helper.

Interviewer: Is this a trade that you just picked up?

Narrator: Yes, I just picked it up.

Interviewer: Are you still doing it now ?

Narrator: Yes, I can't do it now like I used to but I am still in the business and I have a couple of fellows working with me now and I do pretty good and I am still holding my license so far. I may get license for next year and I may not. A lot of people say go ahead and get them for as long as you live but I don't know if I will or not. You see you have fellows working for you and they want to half do it. I like for my work to look nice or half way decent anyway. If you don't do that you see I have to satisfy the white man to get it. If I don't do that he will turn it down then I am in to it. He may take my license but if something comes up wrong I will straighten it out or I will get somebody to go straighten it out. It was one calling here this afternoon claiming that I didn't get a permit but he went to the office and seen where I had brought one two or three days ago. I told him I would go back in the morning and let him know something. I said alright I appreciate it.

Interviewer: Did you say back in the Depression days your father was a school teacher?

Narrator; Yes.

Interviewer: Did he have it rough coming up too?

Narrator: Yes, When my father came to this part of the country they kept him in jail for citizens papers. I don't know how long they kept him in there but they kept him in there for a good while. He was from the Bahamas. He was the first teacher over in River Hill. That was years ago. My mother went to school with my father. That has been years ago and I can't tell too much about that. At River Hill is where he taught. From there to Mineola and from there to Rocky school and then to Irvin Hill and that is where he retired. He retired along in the forties or fifties one. Yes, it was in the forties because I didn't come out of service until forty six. When I had come home he had retired. I have never gotten into it with the law. I have been arrested once in my life. I reckon that happens with just about everybody and the majority of us. I went to jail for boot-legging. I tell them all when they get you up there in that courthouse you have the devil with them white folks up there. They say some nasty things but they tell me now it is better up there now. I don't know how it is because I haven't been up there and I don't intend to go up there. (laughter) Other than what I think is right, I don't want anything but a little honoring. I believe that is as much as I can remember pretty good before now. Yes, back in the Hoover days we all had it rough. Some of the whites had it

rough too but I know about the colored race. Separation and all that back in those days. I was with the colored all the way up until then. I know how we got along.

Interviewer: Do you remember seeing the signs "white only"?

Narrator: Yes, When I went in the service I remember seeing the signs on drinking fountains and restrooms. Separate eating places and separate p.x.'s. Oh, that was in there briefly when I was in the service in the forties and I mean it was rough too.

Interviewer: When you were in the service how did they treat you?

Narrator: We had the p.x.'s separate, the mess hall was separate for different squads. The whites were across there and the coloreds were over here. They would march you to church. It was just separate all around. It sure was and bad with it too. When I come out of the service I was working at Moody Field and it was bad out there too. Yes mam it sure was. I guess it taken all that to make a man out of the ones that are living. It was rough. You were supposed to be fighting for your country and they had all that separate stuff, drinking fountains all separate. It was bad and there wasn't a thing you could do about it. Not a thing in the world until everybody got qualified to register to vote then that made a turn.

Interviewer: Do you remember that? Tell me something about that.

Narrator: Yes mam. They didn't allow you to vote. Not the colored. The first time I ever voted in my life was when I come out of the service. That was the first time I ever voted in my life. It was alot of the other colored people's first time. It was just one of those things. I look at the children today and how they do not want to go to school. I wish I had more education. When I went in the service if I had had more education I don't know where I would have stopped. I just didnt have it. I did good in my other work but see it takes education. My rank was a buck corporal and alot of the officers should have gotten more rank than that but they couldn't do anything about it. They were not in the company. They were all in white companies. Don't let nobody tell you the Hoover Days were not rough. They were rough. Alot of days we would come in and my mother would have meat and bread. She would fix it nice and we would sit down and eat and drink water and be happy. There was one thing about it we were full when we got through eating.



Interviewer: You never had to starve or go without food?

Narrator: No, I went without food more in service than I did in civilian life. What little we had my mother would take time out and fix it. We had plenty. We didn't go hungry in those days. Our clothes would be washed at night and we would put them back on the next day. I had good parents. Very good parents. Sometimes it seemed like they were wrong to me but I found out different that were not wrong.

The kids better get there education. Back in my days we didn't have a chance to go to school. You're going to need education almost to drink water almost. They better go. We didn't have that much school. We just had to work. We got along good.

My children, I can't tell you when they were born because their mother would have to tell you that. I have five girls living. The twins died and a single died. I can't tell you when they were born. The women keep up with that better than any man in the world. My children range from the thirties to the fifties. My oldest daughter is fifty something years old. When they were born I don't know. I have about six grands. No, I have about nine grands. My daughter Patty has about three. I can't tell you when they were born because I don't know. Well, that is about all that I can tell you. There were some hard days and some pretty good ones. I guess it takes all that to make a man out of you.

Interviewer: How do you think your mother and father felt about the depression?

Narrator: They felt bad. Very bad. They did the best that they could do. They sat down and talked with us and told us about it. They told us to keep fighting and if we fell not to wallow. I have one grand boy that acts a little off. He is young. He is about thirty four years old now but I just figure that the boy is crazy. He was here with me one while but he left. He got on that dope and stuff. I was too old to be worried so he just had to go. Now they say he doing pretty good doen in Fort Meyers. He is married and he is going to church and they tell me he got baptized. I hope he is. I don't hate him. I love him because he is my blood. My oldest daughter, she got pregnant and they put her out doors. For What? That is my blood. We told her not to do that anymore. You marry or do something but don't have anymore like that. So, she didn't and none of the of the rest of the girls didn't. They all married. Norma Jean's husband died and they buried him three or four weeks ago. She has threatened to come home. That is the reason I want to get some more rooms back there and get them fixed up because she has some children.

If we don't have enough room we will just pack them up in here like a pack of watermelons and do the best that we can. (laughter) I love my children. I love them all. I can get more out of the girls than I can the boy. That boy, everytime I turn around he want some charlie. He calls money charlie. Those girls if they want a certain amount I may not give what they send for but I will send something.

Interviewer: What type of crops did you raise when you were share cropping?

Narrator: Peanuts, corn, tobacco, cane and shufus.

Interviewer: What is shufus:

Narrator: That is food for hogs. Well, alot of grown people ate it too but I didn't like it. I didn't back in those days. Anything to be raised on a farm. Rye, we raised some of it and I liked it. That is the biggest we raised on the farm. We raised hogs and cows. The rest of the wild food we got, I just got the gun and went in the woods. Squirrels, rabbits and birds, I killed them. Fishing, I would go fishing. We got along good that way.

Interviewer: Was it very much sickness in your family in the depression days?

Narrator: No, It wasn't. The biggest of the sickness we had was when we all got up in age. We didn't have very much sickness in our days. Considering we got along pretty good.

Interviewer: Every now and then I will see what people called depression glass. Do you remember seeing any of that?

Narrator: Yes, there is some of that stuff over there in that little junk house over ther now. They want me to clean it out but I hate to go in there. The old bonnets they used to wear and the long dressed and comfort shoes and high tops and the men shoes with buttons on the sides. Yes mam, I remember that. That was back in the Hoover Days. They used to wear those aprons you know. Those old people could cook some of the best food in the world.

Interviewer: What type of food do you remember?

Narrator: Anything that is cookable. (laughter) Yes mam. Wild food, of course I didn't like all wild food. Some of it I did. Alot of people say that coon is the cleanest animal there is. I didn't like coon because he looked

like a dog. Everything the gets he washes it. That is the truth. Now I have eaten some of all of it. I liked coons, rabbits and birds.

Interviewer: What about chitterlins?

Narrator: Yes mam, I want her to cook some but she says she can not cook them. I would clean them but she says she can't cook them.

Interviewer: Did you eat any of them (chitterlins) back in the depression days?

Narrator: NO, Not hardly. The cooking has changed all around. The old people used to get up in the fresh of the day and get those greens cooking early in the morning and it would take them two or three hours to cook it. But now when you go to work and come in now the wife will go up there now and get a microwave and five or ten minutes the food is done.(laughter)

Interviewer: Do you think the food was better back then?

Narrator: Well, It was in a way because back in those days they didn't mess with it and all like that. I know back in those days my grandfather would kill beef and a hog and lay it up on the smokehouse and cure it up there. Now if you kill one the flies will take it before you can get to it. That is one of the reasons why I guess they shot it so much and take it to the cold storage. We had some of the best sausage and liver pudding . Oh, that was fine back in those days. We harvested food like peanuts, pototoes and stuff like that. may be a rat or two would go under the barn and get it. If you put it under the barn now it would rot before you could get through keeping it. You get sweet potatoes now and you see a little black spot and take it and ring it out you will see that it is dark all the way down in there. What causes it I don't know.

Interviewer: Do you think it might have something to do with the environment or the type of fertilizer they used?

Narrator: It could be. There was alot of people that used stable fertilizer in those days. Horse droppings and mule droppings is what they used. They claimed this , that and the other but it would make the nices corn,potatoes and stuff like that but now they are buying that fertilizer and they don't know what is in it. We know what the mule and the hogs eat but we don't know what is in the fertilizer. That may be the cause of so much disease in the food and stuff like that. We had good food back in those days. We would kill a hog, hang it up and smoke it and dip it in what we called borax and

stuff like that. Sugar cured ham. You can't get a sugar cured ham now. You just can't do it but times have changed. Yes, back in those days we had good food. we would go to the mill and get corn grined like you wanted it. Grined like flour almost. Some like grits and stuff. No, you can't do that now. Those old days, they were alright. Everybody stayed healthy and fat. The children were born at home. They had mid-wives. Now you go to the hospital and the child osis born today and you're up today and gone home. Now what the difference is I don't know because I am not a woman. Seem like we had more healthy people in those days.

Interviewer: Were you born at home?

Narrator: Yes, that is right. My children all had mid-wives back in those days. Labor was hard back in those days.

Interviewer: There wasn't very many jobs available in those days?

Narrator: No, No more than farm work in this part of the country. We would go out there and crop that tobacco for fifty or seventy five cents a day all day long. We had to eat and we had to do something. Now times has change and look like the younger people don't appreciate it. You get these boys now to wark for three dollars an hour and they tell you no, I got to have six dollars an hour. They tell me they would not have worked for that back in those days. If you had been like me you would have worked for that amount of money or else.

Interviewer: How much did you say you worked for?

Narrator: Thity five cents a day. I plowed those mules for thirty five cents a day. Now, six to twelve dollars an hour. When we got that money and we got paid we had better carry that money home. That was the old's people's rules and regulations. Well, I got to studying about that and I could'nt blame them because there was expenses to be paid. We had to eat and we had to have clothes so I didn't like it much and I was scared to say something bout it. After I got into the service we got to eat and we got to have clothes. I went to school a many of days without shoes. When I did get a pair of shoes I had to keep them. I couldn't wear them any more than on Sundays. We wore rags going to school and tore up shoes. I would put a piece of wire and keep on going. I made it alright so far.

Interviewer: Where did you get your first pair of shoes from?

Narrator: Up Town at Sam Lazarus.

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Interviewer: Where did you get your first pair of shoes from?

Narrator: Up Town at Sam Lazarus.

Interviewer: Was that your first pair of shoes?

Narrator: Yes, When I got up some size but I don't remember when I was smaller. The first suit of clothes I got was from Sam Lazarus. We wore them until we had all kind of patches on them but we made it alright so far and I am still living.

When I went in the service my pay was twenty one dollars a month.

Interviewer: Did you send money back home to your family?

Narrator: All that I could get my hands on for my children. That is the way I got this property here. I had three lots right behind that pink house. I sent money home and my father took care of it. If you need it and I can help you it will come to you. I have children out there and I don't know who is going to help them.

Interviewer: Back in the depression days did people help each other?

Narrator: Back in those days they did. In the community if you were sick or someone passed that farm across the river would all come and take care of the farm. Now if you got sick you're into it. Children don't care anything about you now. They will put you in the nursing home. I ask the Lord everyday not to let me be on anybody's hand. When that time comes just let me go on.

Interviewer: Back in those days when somebody died who took care of the expenses?

Narrator: It was not very expensive. It was two or three hundred dollars.

Interviewer: Did people have that kind of money?

Narrator: Some of them did. If they didn't they would get it done on credit. Flat top caskets is what they used. Some of them had sharp ends or whatever they could get ahold of. Maybe two or three hundred dollars would take care of a funeral or something like that. Back in those days the undertaker would go along with you and you could pay fifty cents or a dollar a month or whatever they could. Some paid it and some didn't. Now it cost six or seven thousand dollars for a funeral and that is a shame.

Back in those days a doctor would come to you and you could give him fifty cents or a dollar. He would leave the city and go into the county and that was just all to it.

Interviewer: If you didn't have money in those days could you

Pay the doctor with food?

Narrator: Yes mam, If you had it. Do you remember Dr. Stafford? I don't reckon you remember him. Old Dr. Stafford was the one that put up a Tabernacle church over there. He would take food back in those days or whatever you had. Gas wwas about twenty or thirty five cent a gallon. But now people don't help you like they used to in those days. Sometimes I appereciate those good old days. and I appreciate the service. It taught me how to survive.

Interviewer: Did you say sometimes you didn't eat in the service?

Narrator: We didn't have time. The enemy was approaching you. The alert would sound off. What ever it was you had to get ready for the alert. When the alert sounded you just put sown everything and get ready for what ever was about to happen. That is just the way it was.

Interviewer: Was your food a good quality in the service?

Narrator: Yes, they claim it was better. It didn't have all that salt in it. It didn't taste like the home cooked food but it was food. We had a quart of water and it had to last you a certain length of time. If you didn't you just had to do without because the other man didn't have any more that that either. It taught me how to survive.

Interviewer: Tell me something about your younger days. What did you do for entertainment?

Narrator: We would go to the p.x. and the recreation center.

Interviewer: Did you go to any night clubs?

Narrator: No, We didn't have anything like that. We had what we called the p.x.. It would close a eleven. We would play ball and play games and things like that. We would get a pass and go to town. You had to be back at the end of the pass. If you didn't the m.p.'s would pick you up and put in the the stockade and you would get a bad mark on you that way. I was glad of the service because it taught me alot. When I went in I was almost underweight. We were living up there on York street. I lied to keep from going in and that didn't do any good. Not a bit in the world. I enjoyed it. If I could get back in there now I wouldn't come out until they bring me out dead. There is no way in the world for me to get back in there now. Yes, That about covers it as far as I am concerned you can cut that off now.

(laughter)