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1980-1991

Oral Interviews from Grady County

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SUGGESTED ORAL HISTORY SUBJECT DIVISIONS

World War 1 survivors & effect on community effects of Spannish Influenza

World War II vetrans & effect on community

Korean Conflict vetrans & effect on community

Vietnam War vetrans & effect on community look at how community was affected by resettlement of refugees

Consider schools from both black and white viewpoints

Farming methods and change

Variation in Crops over the years

Industry and changes

Writers

Inventors

Determine should this be done in increments of 10 year periods or less depending on the amount & rapidity of change at any given time.

Possible gaps.

WWI vets and individuals living in community at end of war

video interviews

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

WORLD WAR II

DATE OF INTERVIEW	NAME	CATAGORY	TIME PERIOD
12/15/84	Francis Allen	Army Air Core Flight Engineer POW for about 1 year	1940's
10/30/84	Bill Bishop	82 Airborne D-Day	1940's
10/31/84	Leland Harrison	WWII *also later Clerk of Court	1940's

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VIETNAM WAR 4/22/85 Walter Lewis 1967-68 Vietnam

INTERVIEWS: GRADY COUNTY CITIZENS
WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE
ARMED FORCES

By Frank W. Roebuck, II Roddenbery Memorial Library

I. Leonard C. ("Canada") Vickers (b. April 26, 1896)

 Charter nurseryman in association with John Wight Sr. (Georgia Nurseryman's Association)

Citizens' Roles in World War I and World War II (2 Reels)

Reel one: (A) Life history account of an innovative producer of gunpowder in World War I and batteries for field operations in World War II (from Whigham birthplace as son of Andrew Lafayette/ "Fate" Vickers who married Emma Maxwell of Calvary).

Memories include: Hawthorne/Whigham School;
Georgia/Alabama Business
College in Macon; Harrell's
Store in Whigham; steam
engine boiler accident prior
to W.W.I and marriage in 1924
(lasted 59 years and 7 mo.)

- Reel two: (B) Elaboration of reel one memories with account of car dealership in Miami prior to W.W.II and nurseryman operation in Sebring, Florida, after W.W.II
- II. Johnnie Womble (b.) Grady County prisoner-of-war in World War II (at time of interview a resident of Thomasville)

World War II (2 Cassette Tapes)

(A) Ironically, Mr. Womble was incarcerated in same prison camp as fellow Grady County native Francis Allen. In 1942, Womble was 21 when he was drafted following completion of Turner Air Corps Base in Albany. Inducted 8/1/42 at Fort McPherson in Atlanta (Army Air Corps was prior to Air Force being created in Savannah).

III. Bill Bishop (b.) - 82nd Airbourne Division Paratrooper in W. W. II

World War II

Bishop's step-by-step account of paratrooper training and esprit de corps leads to an image of great respect for one of America's leading fighting units. On D-Day, their task was to descend behind enemy lines and create diversionary tactics.

IV. Francis Allen (b.) - Prisoner-of-war memories from W.W.II

World War II

- (A) July, 1942: Induction into Army Air Corps
- (B) May, 1944: Began European tour of duty as B-17 flight engineer
- (C) July 8, 1944: B-17 brought down by hostile fire over Hungary; life began as prisoner of war

(This emotional account of life at the edge tells of the final days of German occupation from the eyes of one for whom the war was passively fought after the loss of his plane.)

V. Henry Palmer (b. 1903) - Last W.W.I veteran living in Grady County; disabled by a cavalry accident in early 1930's and has received Veteran compensation since

World War I [Also, Turpentine]

- (A) Father was a turpentine driver for Burrough's still in Spence, Ga.
- (B) Mr. Palmer worked at this industry as a "chipper" (according to the age of the tree, there was a different term for activity, <u>i.e.</u>, a "puller" had to reach up to get the resin flowing).
- (C) Family split up and mother took children to Jacksonville; joined service in 1917 and left a telegram delivery service, which paid \$40.00 per month (paid \$37.50 twice a month in Navy).
- (D) Army turned him down for enlistment and yet he was accepted by Navy on signature of unknown person saying that he was 18 (actually only 14). Trained at Newport News, Virginia, for troop transport work, which he stayed in until 1921.

- (E) After hobo life for a year (from Philadelphia to Seattle), worked as a "gandy dancer" to tap down the rails to a rhythm (East Coast Railroad from Jacksonville to Miami)
 Out of service from 1921-1926.
- VI. Walter Lewis (b.) Vietnam Veteran who was overseas from 1967-1968

Vietnam Conflict

Artillery division experience (brigade headquarters with 11 batteries under his office, headed by a brigadier general). Co-ordinator of targets had to be checked with Lewis's office and all targets had to be authorized for fire

VII. Francis Butler and Wendall Gainey - World War II Veterans from
(b.) (b.) Grady County; Butler has been the official historian of his local chapter 122 of American Legion; also involved with D.A.V. chapter

World War II

- (A) Historian's role is to document the casualties from each war in which Grady County citizens were involved.
- (B) Butler was injured in line of duty as a military policeman
- VIII. Richard ("Dit") Hester Vietnam War Veteran from Grady County

 (b.) (At time of interview, a bank vice-pres.)

Vietnam Conflict

- (A) Inquiry related to the perceptions of participants as to their feelings about their community's acceptance of the role of a veteran in a given war (lower for Vietnam War)
- (B) Hester attended a four-year military college: North Georgia College in Dahlonaga
- (C) Graduated as a 2nd lieutenant in early 60's and found himself eligible for Vietnam service; he served as a trainer in the Infantry Ranger School in North Georgia to train army leaders (following basic training at Ft. Benning, Ga., Hester trained as a Ranger; Special Forces organized at Ft. Bragg and has 8-9 man unit).

(Richard "Dit" Hester, Vietnam Conflict, cont.)

- (D) Rangers were designed to create leaders, whereas Special Forces were organized to work as adjunct to local forces.
- IX. Eric E. Bishop (b.) Staff Sargeant in 739th Squadron (454th Bombardment Group of 13th Air Force)

World War II

- (A) Sargeant Bishop served in Southern Italy during invasion: Flight of the Liberators (1946)
- (B) B-26 assignment as a gunner specialist
- (C) Some cross training accomplished in mechanics, etc.
- (D) Harsh memories of losing many B-26 comradesin-arms (I recalled poem about the "Death of the Ball Turret Gunner")
- X. Major Orson Swindle (b.) Vietnam veteran and active organizer of American Legion activities; recorded tape to honor Joe Ferrell

 Tape was a gift to Roddenbery Library

Vietnam Conflict

- (A) Swindle spent seven years as a P.O.W. in Vietnam.
- (B) Speech before Andersonville Civil War Cemetery occasion honoring veterans
- (C) Memorial Day, 1984, was occasion to unveil Tomb of the Unknown Vietnam Veteran (this occasion noted by Swindle)

"THEY ENDURE" interviews by Frank Roebuck:

Group 1 (12 tapes)

- 12-3-81 Mrs. Agnes Harris (former tobacco farm worker in 1940's & 1950's)
 Mr. Joe McNair, Calvary (former shade tobacco supplier)
- 12-10-81 Mr. Charles Copeland (former Beachton teacher & principal of Liberty High School, Duncanville voting district)
- 12-10-81 Mr. Charles Copeland continuation of interview
- 12-30-81 Mrs. Montine Bynum "Collective Memory" project
- 1-22-82 Mrs. Montine Bynum continuation of interview
- 1-6-82 Mr. Ezekiel Thompson (former American Legion (black) member)
- 1-15-82 Mr. James Thomas, Calvary resident and former shade tobacco labore: (1957-65)
- 8-18-82 Mrs. Leanna Adams (black), Mrs. Kate J. Perkins (white), Mrs. Leanna Adams (black) - Whigham Heritage Inn Nursing Home
- 8-18-82 Mrs. Sarah Washington (Calvary Community memories), Cairo resident
- 8-18-82 Mrs. Fannie Elliott (age 87), Mrs. Willie Mae Smiley (age 86), Whigham Heritage Inn Nursing Home
- 8-19-82 Mr. Emory "John" Corker (RML staff custodian)
- 8-19-82 Mrs. R. P. Poole, Cairo, GA.

MISCELLANEOUS TAPES FROM "THEY ENDURE"

AMH 3570-80 - Looks like a sample tape for interviews from Robert Hall

- Robert Hall on Methodology for "They Endure" 8-10-82

Allow

11-11-82 - Wessie Connell with RML Staff - They Endure, Part II

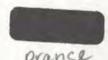
12-4-82

- Professor James Eaton of the Black Archives at FAMU

"THEY ENDURE" interviews by Robert Hall:

Group 1 (12 tapes)

8-10-82 - Mr. Forenzo Chapman



8-11-82 - Mr. Sammie Williams at his home

8-11-82 - Mr. Sammie Williams - continuation

8-12-82 - Mrs. Agnes Harris

8-16-82 - Mrs. Aurie Bell Flowers at her home

8-16-82 Mrs. Ethel Gray at her home

8-16-82 - Dr. Calvin Cloud, M.D., at Tallahassee Airport

8-15-82 Mrs. Willa Mae Robinson Walker at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and home of Mrs. Poole

8-19-82 - Mrs. Sandar Addison Smiley

8-21-82 - Mr. John Black at 128 Young St., Tallahassee

8-23-82 - Mr. Raymond Julius Hadley (age 98) at his home in Cairo

8-24-82 - Mrs. Mabel Sherman in Old State Capitol Building, Tallahassee

Group 2 (9 tapes)



8-12-82 - Mr. James Rineer at Roddenbery M. Library

8-24-82 - Mr. Robert Chatman at his home in Cairo

8-24-82 - Mr. Horace Glenn at Roddenbery M. Library

8-24-82 - Mr. Alonzo Boney at his home in Cairo

- Mrs. Sennie Williams at her home and 8-25-82 Walden

Mrs. Willie Walden at her home in Beachton, Linda Walden (a niece 8-26-82 in medical school) singing "Amazing Grace" recorded from a tape

8-27-82 - Mrs. Pinkie Norwood Simmons at Senior Citizens Center (also presentation by Hall & Roebuck at Sr. C. Center)

8-27-82 - Mrs. Minnie Lee Weatherspoon and Mrs. Ruby Lee Mitchell

8-26-82 - Mr. Harrison Williford and Mrs. Oshie Williford Group 2 (10 tapes) agua "THEY ENDURE" interviews by Frank Roebuck:

4-7-82 - Ledford Powell

8-19-82 - Ruby S. Couch

8-20-82 - Steve McCree, Heritage Inn Nursing Home, Whigham (age 95)

8-24 & 8-31-82 - Mrs. Blanche Mobley, Heritage Inn Nursing Home, Whigham

8-27-91 Mr. Neal Butler (age 75) " "

Mrs. Ada Mitchell (age 77) " " " " 8-27-91

8-23-91 - Mrs. Minnie Weatherspoon

- Mrs. Aurie B. Flowers (retired Grady County teacher)

8-23-82 - Mrs. Ada Butler Mitchell (life-time Grady Co. resident) (age75)

8-26-82 - Mrs. Candy Doll Forrest (recorded at Sr. Citizen's Center)

9-19-82 - Mrs. Easter Perry & Mrs. Trudie James (recorded at Perry/James home)

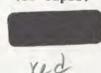
8-27-82 - Mrs. Barbara Glenn & Mrs. Ada Glenn (age 97) also joined by Robert Hall & Pinkie Simmons

9-2-82 - Mr. June Willis, former Pine Park resident, Heritage Inn Nurs. Home

8-29-82 - Mrs. Wealthy Willis & Mrs. Eva Smith (age 85)

8-29-82 - Mr. George P. Catchings, 813 Calvary Road, Cairo

Group 3 (11 tapes)



8-30-82 - Mr. Ledford Powell

8-30-82 - Mrs. Eula Doss

8-25-82 - Mrs. Callie Mae Hicks

9-19-82 - Mrs. Easter Perry (mother of Trudie James)

8-26-82 - Mrs. Candy Doll Jenkins Forrest

9-13-82 - Mrs. Lucille Williams (age 72)

9-21-82 - Mrs. Rachael Walden Singletary (age 82)

Mrs. Beatrice Poole, daughter

10-9-82 - Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, aunt of Jackie Robinson

Mrs. Rachael Walden Singletary

10-19-82 - Mr. Homer Rhodes (age 82), Mrs. Ethel Rhodes (age 70)

Mrs. Joetta Smart

10-19-82 - Mrs. Susie Sims (former teacher), 16th District

Mrs. Susie Scott (former teacher), 19th District

10-24-82 - Bethlehem A.M.E. Church 8th Gospel Choir Anniversary

(2 tapes)

9-26-83 - Cedar Springs Church (recording of Church service)

TARE No. 1 - Wight, Mrs. Walter L. (Augusta Chittenden) Age 84 - White

Narch 1967 Came to Cairo as a bride in 1900. Married into one of Grady Counties
oldest families. First woman to hold blective office in Cairo.

Info re - Early Cairo. (deceased)

Bryan, Mrs. W. Y. Age 85 - White Came to Cairo as a bride in 1905. Infor re - Cairo (deceased)

Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. (Ages unknown) - White Natives of what is now Grady County. Infor. re - People and events in Cairo and Grady County. (deceased)

TAPE No. 3& 4-Powell, Louis A. Age 67 (Whate April 1967 Native of Grady County. Parents were pioneer settlers of Decatur County which is now Grady. At one time was County Historian Info. re - Cairo and Grady County history.

TAPE No.2 - Carlisle, Judge Ira & Mrss. Ages 81 and 79 - Thite

Mprch 1967 Roth natives of Thomas County, later Grady County.

Info. re - His career in law and as Judge of Supreme Court of Georgia.

Also info. on Cairo and Grady County. (deceased)

Mauldin, Ben Age 79 White Native of Grady County. Info. re - Cairo & Grady County (deceased)

Alligood, Mrs. E. O. (Verdie Pinson Age 79 White Born in Decatur County, later Grady. Info. re - First schools & First Methodist Church. Only woman sheriff of Grady County. (deceased)

TARE NO.5 & 6- Sutton, Mrs. & Mrs. Doss D. Ages 80 & 72 White April 1967 Both born in what is now Grady County Info. re - Cairo and Grady County (deceased)

No.6- Davis, Mr. W. M. Age unknown White
Owne to Cairo about 36 years ago from Dublin Ga. A remarkabe memory
of dates and Georgia history, the not much on Grady County (deceased)

TAPE No. 7 - Talden, Melvin Age 66 Black
April 1967 Native of Beachton Community in Grady County.
Info. re - Beachton

Bryant, Nora M. Age 84 Black Native of Beachto Community in Grady County. Infor. re - Beachton (deceased)

Hadley, Leola Dickey Age 60 Black Infor- re - Beachton, Grady County

Jones, Augusta Cloud Age 53 Black
Born in Cairo, Grady County, Ga. The daughter of Tom & Emma Cloud,
well known and much respected negro citizens of Cairo.
Infor. re - Mother Emma who was a native of Grady County and a most
remarkable woman. Lives in the family home here in Cairo.

- TAH No. 8 Cox, Gussie Robinson Age 77 Black

 April 1967 A native of Cairo, Grady County. Graddmother was brought here as a child.

 Info. re Cairo. One of our really old negro characters. Dialect may be worth more than information sometime. (deceased)
- TAPE No.9 Harrison, Mrs. B.O. (Leola McNair) Age 93 White

 Born near Calvary, Decatur County Ga. (Now Grady Co.)

 Info. re Early life experiences of her family and self, with some prompting from her daughter Mrs. Emory Moore (Some old superstitions) (deceased)

Singletary, Milton M. Age 72 White Native of Decatur County (now GradyO Son of John R. Singletary, first representative to the State legislature after Grady County was formed. Info. re - Cairo and Grady County. (deceased)

TAPE No.10 - Braswell, Perry Age White

May 1967 Great-great grandson of Elder William Hawthorne whose party were the first settlers in this section.

Infor. re - Early settlers of the County. (Lives today in Cairo.)

Jones, Tim Age White
Native of Grady County
Info. re - Early settlers of Grady County with some remarks by Mrs.
Jones. (deceased)

TAPE No. 11 - Trulock, Mrs. N. Z. Age 91 White

May 1969 Came to Whigam, Grady County, Ga. in 1901 to teach school. Married into one of the pioneer families of Whigham.

Info. re - Whigham. (deceased)

Jones, Mrs. J. B. (Doris Hall) Age 68 White Yother was a Hawthorne, first settlers in this section.

TAPE No. 12 - McManeus, Mrs. W. O. (Gussie Mae Singletary) Age 70 White

April 1969 Father John R. Singletary was first representative to State Legislature from Gmady County and was Ordinary of the County as was his daughter.

Info. re - Ordinary's Office(Taped at meeting of Historica) Society.

(Lives now with daughter in Cairo.)

Mitchell, W. C. (Red) Age White
Life long resident of Grady County and a well known Boy Scout Leader.
Info. re - Hawthorne Trail. Route taken by the first settlers in this section. (Taped at a meeting of Historical Society) Still lives in Grady County.

May 1969 Fear ce, Mrs. Floyd(Carrie Mas Hunter) Age White
Native and long time resident of Grady County. Stll lives in Cairo.

TAPE No. 13 - Sanders, Wright Age 94 White
April 1969 Native of Decatur County, now Grady.
Info. re - Old families of Reno, Calvary & Sofkee areas. (deceased)

May 1969 Cassell, Mrs. C. R. (Ada Chason) Age 87 White Native of Decatur County, now Grady.

Info. re - Life in early Grady County. (deceased)

TAKE No. 14- A Round Table Discussion led by Mayfield, Mrs. Judson(Marjorie Maxwell) native of Calvary, Grady County
Age 63 White
Higdon, Mrs. Ira Sr.
Gainey, Mrs. Walter
Herring, Mrs. Estelle
Herring, Mrs. Estelle
Smith, Mrs. Ruth Clay

- TAPE No. 15 McGahee, Mrs. Harold T. (Margaret Wight) Age 65 Thite

 March 1972 Forn in Cairo, Grady County. Great granddaughter of Henry Wight who
 came to Georgia in 1829 from Rhode Island. Settled in Softee Community
 of Decatur County (Now Grady)
 Unfo. re Early remembrances of Cairo. Now lives in Cairo.
- TAFE No. 16 Hart, Harry Age 59 White
 June 1972 born in Grady County at Hart's Mill. Now lives in home which spans
 Harnett Creek, the boundary between Thomas & Grady Counties.

 Info. re Hart's Mill with a few comments by his wife, Louise Alligood
 Hart. Anyone listening closely to this tape may hear water running
 under the house.

 (Still lives in home built on the banks of Barnett Cree. The old house over the
 creek burned.)
- TAPE No. 17 Christopher, Mrs. P. G. (Mary) Age 72 White
 Long time resident of Whigham in Grady County and a retired public health
 nurse. Now a member of the Town Council.
 Info. re Whigham, Whigham Baptist Church(historical) and duties as a
 public health nurse for 30 years. (Still lives in old family home, Whigham)

Roddenbery Memorial Library

1.	March 28, 1967	Mrs. Walter Wight Mrs. W. Y. Bryan Mr./Mrs. A. G. Lewis
2.	April 1967	Mr. Louis A. Powell
3.	May 1967	Mrs. B. O. Harrison, age 93 Mr. M. M. Singletary, age 70
4.	May 1967	Mr. Perry Baggett Mr. Tim Jones
5.	May 10, 1969 May 9, 1969	Mrs. N.Z. Trulock, age 91, Whigham, GA Mrs. J.B. Jones (Doris Eugenia Hall, mother was a Hawthorne)
6.	1971	Mrs. Emmett Mitchell, age 100
7.	March 1967	Judge/Mrs. Ira Carlisle Mr. B. W. Mauldin Mrs. E.O. Alligood
8.	April 22, 1969 May 5, 1969	Mr. Wright Sanders, age 94, Calvary, GA Mrs. Raymond (Ada) Cassells, age 87
9.	April 1967	Melvin Walden, age 66 Nora M. Bryant, age 84 Leola Dickey Hadley, age 60 Gussie Cloud Jones
10.	April 1967	Gussie Robinson Cox, re: Negro community
11.	April 1967	Mr./Mrs. Doss Sutton Mr./Mrs. W.M. Davis
12.	May 2, 1969 1972	Mrs. Judson Mayfield, Calvary, GA Mrs. Harold T. (Margaret Wight) McGahee Mr. Harry Hart, re: Hart's Mill
13.	April 15, 1969 May 20, 1969	Mrs. (W.O.) Gussie Mae Singletary McManeus Mr. W.C. (Red) Mitchell Mrs. Floyd E. Pearce (Carrie Mae Hunter)
	nay 20, 1909	me. Ployd S. Fearce (Carrie Mae number)
14.	September 1972	Mrs. P.G. Christopher, Whigham, GA, Public health nurse

Roddenbery Memorial Library

CAIRO, GEORGIA 31728

MISS WESSIE CONNELL, Librarian

September 12, 1985

Dear Donna:

I am enclosing a summary sheet of the background information on the subjects of the interviews recorded.

Mrs. H. T. McCahee, a local resident and great-granddaughter of early settlers (Wight Family), interviewed all the subjects on the tapes except Mrs. Emmett Mitchell (age 100). Mrs. Mitchell and her daughter came to my home in 1971 and I interviewed her. Mrs. Mitchell was the daughter of prominent white settlers to this part of South Georgia and was a second cousin of the interviewer.

Mrs. McGahee compiled the attached notes from her cards. The tape numbers refer to the original tapes that we have here in our Library.

Sincerely,

Whene

Enc.

Recordings collected by Wessie Connell
Roddenbery Memorial Library
Cairo, Georgia

NO TRANSCRIPTS

M47, Side A

- (1) Husband and wife, ages 80 and 72 respectively, white, born in what is now Grady County. They talk about the early history of the area; school experiences; prominent individuals in the community; times when life was simpler. (recorded 1967; both deceased)
- (2) Husband and wife, ages unknown. The man is a great-great-grandson of Elder William Hawthorne, whose party were the first settlers in the area. They talk about early settlers; history of Cairo in Grady County; school experiences; family history. (recorded 1967)
- (3) White male (age unknown), a life long resident of Grady County, a Boy Scout leader. He talks about the Hawthorne Trail--the route taken by the first settlers in the area. (recorded 1967)
- (4) White female (age unknown), native and long-time resident of Cairo in Grady County. She recounts her family history; history of the area; church, etc. (recorded 1969)

M47, Side B

- (5) 59 year old white male, born in Grady County at Hart's Mill. At the time of the recording (1972), he lives in a home which spans Barnett Creek, the boundary between Thomas and Grady Counties. Water running under the house is clearly audible on tape. He discusses Hart's Mill, with occasional comments by his wife; family history. [Subject still lives on the banks of Barnett Creek; the old house over the creek, however, has since the recording burned to the ground.]
- (6) 72 year old white female, long time resident of Whigam in Grady County, and a retired public health nurse; member of Town Council. She talks about Whigam; history of the Whigam Baptist Church; personal history; duties as a public health nurse for 30 years. (recorded 1972)
- (7) 100 year old female, resident of Cairo, recounts her personal history; discusses local weddings with the interviewer. (recorded 1971)

Recordings collected by Wessie Connell Roddenbery Memorial Library Cairo, GA

Oral history interviews with black and white natives of Cairo, Georgia and nearby communities. (recorded 1967)

M46, Side A (No transcripts)

- 84 year old white female, came to Cairo, Georgia in 1906 as a bride; married into one of Grady County's oldest families; became the first woman to hold elective office in Cairo. She talks about early Cairo; fashions; social activities; school. (subject deceased)
- (2) 81 year old former judge on the Georgia Supreme Court, white, a native of Thomas, later Grady County, Georgia. He talks about his law career and about the early history of Thomas County. (deceased)
- (3) 79 year old white male, native of Grady County. He talks about Cairo and Grady County—early history, various prominent residents, etc.; local government. (deceased)
- (4) 67 year old white male, native of Grady County. The subject's parents were pioneer settlers of Decatur County which is now Grady County. At one time, the subject was the county historian, and gives quite a lot of local historical information about the area, notably with regards to the railroad and the strong sense of civic pride common to residents of the area.

M46, Side B (No transcripts)

- (5) 66 year old black male, native of Beachton community in Grady County, talks about the history of Beachton. Subject's wife is heard throughout the recording.
- (6) 84 year old black female, a native of Beachton community in Grady County, talks about personal history and the history of the community.
- (7) 53 year old black female, born in Cairo, Georgia, daughter of wellknown and much-respected black residents of Cairo. She talks about her mother.
- (8) 77 year old black female, a native of Cairo, Grady County, Georgia, subject's grandmother was brought here as a child. She talks about the history of the area and personal history.