

Mrs. Barnes: So I can catch up here with the camera. Would you just state your name once more for me....for this camera please?

George Russ: Ummm, George Russ.

Mrs. Barnes: George Russ and how old are you?

Russ: 93.

Barnes: What's your birthday?

Russ: November 21st, born 1903.

Barnes: Okay, and you had asked him Mrs./Ms. Sullivan, his mother's name?

Mrs./Ms. Sullivan: Yes, I had asked him his mother's name. Would you repeat it for us? Your mother's name was...

Russ: My mother's name was Cheney Russ.

Sullivan: And you said she was a Johnson before that?

Russ: Yes, ma'am...and my father's name was George Russ. So, in other words, I'm George Russ the 3rd. Of course, my grandfather had a brother named George Russ.

Sullivan: So, yours George Russ the third so your dad was named George Russ the second?

Russ: Ummmm...that was one of my...my father was George Russ the second. Grandpa had a brother named George Russ. My grandfather was a slavery time man.

Barnes: Your father was?

Russ: Yes, ma'am.

Barnes: Was he a slave anyway around this...

Russ: Yes, he was a slave for Mr. Jones. Of course, the white house owns that place now, but way back then it was called Mr. Jones's plantation.

Barnes: Where was that? Somewhere out in this...

Russ: Ummm east of, southeast.

Barnes: Southeast of where we are right now.

Russ: Yes ma'am. Southeast of where we are right now.

Barnes: Did he ever talk about his days as a slave?

Russ: Well, my blind daddy that's all that northerner talked about. Slaves this and the Indians...

Barnes: What did he say about the Indians?

Russ: He went on and say the Indians, ummm, he and the first company, you know, white folk standing that they have for some time and they said there was good friends until the white folks wanna take the land and that bought a war between them. And he said the white people couldn't protect the Indians (I don't catch the last of what he said) night

Barnes: France Army?

Russ: Yes ma'am.

Barnes: So, the Indians were living out in this area?

Russ: Yes, they were living all about here and they say there was, the white folks say, northerners say, hear say, white folks say they were mighty good to them when they first come to them. Cuz, many of them don't have no clothes, shoes, or nothing and the Indians took them in...feed them and learnt them about the different things growing here. (I don't catch what he said) After a while, nobody wanted to give up home and they fought between

Barnes: That's any interesting piece of information...to know that the Indians were somewhere in this immediate vicinity almost.

Sullivan: Well, Mr. the attacked and killed one of the original Chairs brothers' wives, wasn't that? Yeah, I said, the Indians, there was a Indian massacre here wasn't there, where the one of the chairs, Greenhill chairs or somebody like that, they killed their wife?

Russ: There was a heapin' of them Chairs', lets see, ummm Mr. Bursch Chair told me about me all about it, he one other Chair. You know Mr. Bursch Chair, he'll tell you all about it...in other words, the Chairs was called to be a buffers (I believe this was the word used) white folks and they say the land run from, ummm, the Jefferson County to the Bay down there, to the ocean.

Barnes: To the ocean?

Russ: Yes ma'am. Now, they owned the old solid, some places were spots they don't want and other folks would stay there but they have all best of the property...in order words, the Chairs were called the richest people, they wealthiest people and ummm, for _____ and these other folks come next.

Sullivan: I've had a couple other questions and that was what was your grandmother's name?

Russ: What my grandmother's? Rebecca Johnson.

Sullivan: Okay that was your maternal or your...

Russ: She was a Robertson before she married.

Sullivan: Okay, that was your father's mother?

Russ: That is my mother's.

Sullivan: Your mother's mother was Rebecca?

Russ: Yes ma'am.

Sullivan: And she was a...

Barnes: Robinson.

Russ: She was a Robinson before she married.

Sullivan: And so then your father's, I mean your mother's father, you know what his name was?

Russ: Richard Howard.

Sullivan: (repeats name)

Russ: Yes ma'am.

Sullivan: And your dad's father was named George Russ...

Russ: No, my dad's father name was Demps Russ.

Sullivan: I'm sorry.

Russ: Demps...

Barnes: Demps, D-e-m-p-s.

Russ: Yes.

Barnes: Demps Russ.

Sullivan: And your father's mother, your grandmother's name?

Russ: Ummm Sarah Anne.

Sullivan: Sarah Anne. Was that Sarah, you know with an h, or Sara or Saraah?

Russ: Now, the first spelling I went by the school... (clarify)

Barnes: So Sara, you say her name was Sara...

Russ: Sara Russ.

Sullivan: And I also wanted to ask you where you went to school? Station one?

Russ: I went to school, Footman School. Yeah, I never go up there to station one.

Barnes: Where was Footman School?

Russ: It had about mile east of here...

Barnes: Going down this road?

Russ: Yes ma'am.

Barnes: What did it look like? What did the building look like?

Russ: Well, they build as an old common building and black people owned all of that.

Barnes: Black people owned the land and the building?

Russ: But they had the same name as the white folks did, some of them.

Barnes: Which black family owned the land that the Footman School was on?

Russ: Lets see now that was Uncle Charlie Footman.

Barnes: Uncle Charlie Footman owned that property? Well, who built the building? Did they built the building?

The video goes blank from 7:10 until 7:18

Russ: He went for a preacher, his Footman father and he build it there and he named the building 'New Mary'. Well, say for instances now, we use to have our school by the _____ Heights, east back there on Mr. Jones place, but he took a notation to let a family of people stay there. So, we had to give up that school.

Barnes: The Jones' school?

Russ: Yes ma'am. We called that Black Creek.

Barnes: You called the school Black Creek?

Russ: Yes ma'am and so we gave that up and I started entering Footman School in 1910.

Barnes: That was the year my father was born, 1910.

Russ: And so now, I had been _____ out there, when I first started to school it is out there on Mr. Jones' place, this Black Creek, I was nine years, no I was six years old, that was out 1909 and I first started

Barnes: You started school?

Russ: Yes ma'am and the teacher was named Mathy Lindsey...

Barnes: Mathy...

Russ: Lindsey.

Barnes: And it was like a one room building?

Russ: Yes ma'am, a one room building and they it was about hundred and eight of us...

Sullivan: Really a hundred? A hundred kids there?

Russ: A hundred and eight children...

Barnes: In that one room?

Russ: Just one room...see back then you know the colored people was...way back then (don't catch what was said)...and all of us, we don't have, but one heater there and the teacher would let us warm, so many of us would come up and warm and go back and then let some more come up there and now the teachers got \$25 a month. I'm speaking of the black teachers. The white teachers always got the most.

Barnes: Well, where were the white children going to school at that time? You were going to Jones school and then to Footman, right?

Russ: Yes ma'am.

Barnes: Okay, where were the white children in the community going?

Russ: They were going right here to Capitola. They had a school in Capitola.

Barnes: Do you remember the name of that school?

Russ: No, I don't know name nothing about the white folk school. All I know is tell you the truth.

Barnes: Well, how did you get to your school? Did you walk...I mean was it close enough for you to...

Russ: Yes ma'am. Close or no close, back in those days, you had to walk to school, whether it was three or four miles. All this bus business hadn't gotten started. We had to beat that frost to get to school.

Barnes: So, you had Jones school then you changed to Footman. Jones which was also known as Black Creek?

Russ: Yes ma'am.

Barnes: Then you came up to Footman school?

Russ: Footman School...

Barnes: And that property was owned by Charlie Footman. Now, who owned the property where Jones school was?

Russ: Umm, that was Mr. Jones'.

Barnes: Was he a white or black man?

Russ: He was white man. Sure, he owned a plantation.

Barnes: He owned a plantation?

Russ: Yeah, a big plantation.

Barnes: I think I have a picture of Jones' school...

Sullivan: Did you attend a school after you went all the way through to what...what was the highest-grade school you went to?

Russ: The highest grade?

Sullivan: The highest-grade in school?

Russ: Well, at that time the black schools, ummm, the highest grade was the sixth grade. That's how far the blacks went.

Barnes: Sixth grade...oh yeah okay. So you went through sixth grade?

Russ: No ma'am, No ma'am, I did not. I went, I graduated at the third grade and got my diploma.

Barnes: Oh, so you can get your diploma before you get to the sixth grade?

Russ: I went and got my diploma and graduated at the third grade. Now, we had one sixth grade class there and I could name the children if you care to hear about it.

Barnes: In the six grade class?

Russ: Yes ma'am.

Barnes: How many were there?

Russ: Four.

Barnes: What were their names?

Russ: Let's say my sister, Carola...

Barnes: Carola Russ?

Russ: Carola Russ and I had a uncle named Nathaniel Johnson... and Liza Northcliff...

Barnes: Liza Northcliff?

Russ: Yes and Beatrice Gaffney...

Barnes: Beatrice Gaffney?

Russ: Yes ma'am and that was about the sixth grade. Now, that was the only sixth grade that I should know anything about, course I hear a lot of people say since they were growin' say they were in six grade, but I knew better. I don't wanna get into with them so I let them...

Barnes: Just let them say that.

Russ: Yeah. It was just one six grade class and it was about a hundred (Don't catch what he was saying) and they don't have but one teacher. Now, wonder how the teachers got around to that, umm, here's the way that went. You see the higher class turn to teach the lower class. She couldn't teach all of that and if you don't know your lesson, she'd turn it in and your back pay for it. See, they worked back then, they don't play, they worked. All this here cutting out the whipping that don't start till next year...

Barnes: So you had like the group learning approach, the older children with teach the ones who knew the ones who don't?

Russ: Yes ma'am, that's the way it went, back in that day.

Barnes: They call it cooperative learning now.

Sullivan: (laughing) That's right, they're going back to it.

Russ: Black people come from way down the road when your traveling. (Don't catch what was said)

Barnes: Describe living...what was it like to live in Chairs and Capitola say when you were a child?

Russ: What was it like?

Barnes: What was it like, you know what did you did you enjoy it... was it good times...were there any bad times?

Russ: Well it was mixed up, let me tell you the truth. Now you take for an instance when I come out, a black person like me, you wouldn't be liable to found in front of white folk door. I got whipped out once, I don't know. In order words, I had a job. My first job I got five cents a day and a fee.

Barnes: Five cents a day and what else?

Russ: Five cents a day and a fee...something to eat.

Barnes: Oh, something to eat.

Russ: Say for instances, I don't know that those people, umm, don't allow...a few white people let you go in the front, but the majority you couldn't go in the front. So, I was a butterboy...

Barnes: Butterboy?

Russ: Yes ma'am and I toded that butter for three miles and the white folks don't have no church here in Capitola then, they theirs at Chairs' and so, Mr. Footman would go up there to church, he would pick up his own money, I just delivered the butter...course it was easy for his to pay my a nickel, five cents. Now, say for instances, you might could help me, now back and then a nickel just had five cents on it and that's a big ooooh big old piece money, you don't see none of that not and I want somebody to help me and get one of them nickels so I can show the people my wages, my first wages.

Barnes: Well if I come across one, I will-

Russ: You let me know. I know I have to pay for it, you see because none of that segregation now. I was to the barbershop yeah a few weeks ago and I was talking another black man and he said, "He had one" and I said, "Oh, well you the man I'm looking for." I said, "Why not sell it to me. I don't want you to give to me." He said, "Oh, no." He said, "My granddaddy give that to me and I'm keeping it just..."

Barnes: Sentimental reasons, you know.

Russ: Yes ma'am. So I told him bringing it here so I can look at since its been so long. He said, "Oh no, you might want it." I said, "I sure will."

Barnes: Where were you working making five cents?

Russ: I was toting butter for Mr. Footman. He stayed a mile east of Tally, ummm Capitola... and I toted from his house to Chairs'...and I deliver the butter and he get it money on Sunday. Now back in those days we didn't have this ummm, freezer, what you call it?

Barnes: Refrigerator?

Russ: We don't have nothing. The way they kept stuff cold, was a well or spring. Mr. Footman had a deep well. In other words, his well, the Indians had once stayed there on that place. They took that place well and its way down. He's up on the hill and he kept his butter cold in that well and he draw it up Friday evening and Miss Footman would mode it out in little mode in one pile. They had the little one pile mode way back then. All them in one pile till she got done and I had a basket, just about full till she got done and I had to take that basket and go run it Now, I had to delivery that butter before it get to late...let's after sundown- sunrise, I have to be delivered and the butter, it will melt you know and that was...

Barnes: And that was three miles to take it. What was your job after that?

Russ: The next job after that was? The next job after that cutting and plowing in the fields.

Barnes: The Footman did?

Russ: No, my parents did that.

Barnes: Oh you parents did.

Russ: Yeah, they left me plowing the field and my job was to walk around with the mule.

Sullivan: How old were you when you were delivering butter? Well how old...

Russ: I was eleven years old.

Barnes: Where your father or your parents' sharecroppers or tenant farmers or did they own their own land?

Russ: Well now, my great-aunt farmed the land. She bought it from the Footman. You know the Footman's had a lot of land, in slavery time, but they sold it all out to black people and whites too.

Barnes: And the Footman's were black now?

Russ: And so my great-aunt, that 40 acres she bought was from them.

Barnes: Okay, what was that aunts name?

Russ: Rosa Chase.

Barnes: Rosa Chase. Okay, now she bought 40 acres?

Russ: Yes, ma'am. Now, say for instances she was a Robinson before she married and there was quite a few there. There were the Millers bought 40. There were the Davis and there was a man by the name of Houston. He bought 40 and Uncle Charlie, he bought 160 acres, but some of that land was given to him they say. He wasn't a real black man like me and you.

Barnes: So, he might have inherited from maybe his father who was maybe a white person?

Russ: His father was white.

Barnes: His father was white?

Russ: His old boss was a Footman and he inherited from him, but he always say he bought it.

Barnes: What was his fathers name?

Russ: Umm, Mr. Footman? His father? His father name William Footman.

Barnes: William Footman?

Russ: That's what I heard him say...

Barnes: That's what you heard him say?

Russ: He had slaves...

Barnes: And then when you left, what the second job? Farming, plowing, where did you go from there?

Russ: Well after I got away from that I went to public work there. Boy, I was close to 20 years old I went cross tied. You a good man if you did cross tied.

Sullivan & Barnes: Cross tied?

Sullivan: You mean with the railroad?

Russ: For the railroad. Not for the rail railroad, but for the tram road. You know them big mill had a tram road. It wasn't up to date like this mine line out here.

Barnes: So where did you-you did work in Tallahassee?

Russ: No, east of here, about close to bout four miles.

Sullivan: Its called a tram road now. It's still tram road...is the name of this road out there.

Russ: No ma'am, no ma'am. That aint that same. That tram road now they are just owned by a company or them big mill like that had them tram road. That umm took something to supply them there for cutting and they had to have tram mill to get to bring in all the logs.

Barnes: And so you would-what was your job with that? Did you hog the logs on sight...

Russ: I logged the logs out of the woods and put them on the side of the road where people could pick them up you know.

Barnes: What kind of transportation did you use to hold hog?

Russ: What was that?

Barnes: (repeat question)

Russ: I use two mules and a wagon.

Barnes: Two mules and a wagon?

Russ: Yes ma'am.

Barnes: And I'm trying to get to-okay so you take the logs out the wagon and take them to...

Russ: Certain different places and then the train would pick them up. Man would load them on the train when they come.

Barnes: Oh and take them to different places to build or whatever they need.

Russ: The train would hull them in to the mill. With a big mill like that it took some loads attain them.

Barnes: Well how did you pick the logs up and get them on the way?

Russ: Well, just say you had to be a man. We picked them up and load them on a wagon and we had a four or five loads a day.

Barnes: For how much?

Russ: For \$1.75. That was big money back then.

Sullivan: \$1.75 cents a day?

Russ: Yes ma'am, if we hogged four or five loads but if you didn't hold five loads, you got something. Somewhere around a dollar and a half or something. Guess what say the superintendent.

Barnes: So somebody else was helping you with the log- lifting the log and putting them in the wagon?

Russ: No ma'am, no ma'am. Man to the wagon.

Barnes: Man to the wagon?

Russ: (Unsure on what was said) tied the end of it to my chest one morning, forced it on the ground and slipped. I went catch the end of tusk and the end of it touched my chest and they had to carry me to the doctor.

Barnes: Which doctor did they carry you to?

Russ: The doctor named Doctor Gill Buck. He was at (Don't catch the name)

Barnes: Doctor Gill Buckely?

Russ: Doctor Gill Buckley.

Barnes: Did you ever go to any doctors in town?

Russ: Yes ma'am, I went to doctor in town. Doctor Campbell, you know or have heard of him don't you.

Barnes: That's what I was hoping you would say, because we getting ready to do an exhibit about Doctor Campbell.

Russ: He had a hospital on...

Barnes: Doctor Neil Campbell...had a hospital on Virginia Street. You went to him on-a few times?

Russ: I guess I went to him. In order words, I got a finger broke out way there in the shipyard in a Panama City during the World War II. Never let not about half sleeping. I worked day and night much as I could. You know the more you work the more you get and half sleep. At that time, I missed and dropped something on my finger and I thought I wasn't going come back. This finger here (shows hand) Now the finger don't grow back straight...Crock one way and the other goes up. See that finger is crock and...

Barnes: Oh yeah, I see it. Did Dr. Campbell set that one?

Russ:

well I went to him for that but they have doctors in the shipyard...So I come home for a while and if it need dressing, I went to Dr. Campbell for that. Dr. Campbell was he a pretty good doctor. He made a mistake somewhere. I don't know, but he got all what doing (don't catch this). I think he had bad luck and lost all of that money, I heard him say...and he had a grandchild come to school. Of course, I was up there at the A&M and the parents would come and see the children. Like from Jacksonville and different places like that and he had a daughter. I forget her name and she was the mother of that boy...I think his name was Wily. That's Mr. Campbell's grandson and now, I hate to say this...she was dark like me and you. Mr. Campbell's wife was real light and he made fun of his own daughter. That's what she said. She said, "She don't like her daddy for nothing because she couldn't help it for having that color." She never did like him. She said, "She don't care about getting that color on count of him being messed up." The grandchildren took after his wife, but Dr. Campbell is a dark man just like I am. Which I imagine you know him, but you know some people got funny ways about them.

Barnes: When you stop hogging the logs what was your next job?

Russ: I went to the railroad.

Barnes: What you do for the railroad?

Russ: I worked on sections. I got dollar sixty cents a day. That's big money for me.

Barnes: What were you-what were you doing then?

Russ: Doing? Well in tires, taking them out, sparking up and dressing off the track.

Barnes: You said putting in tires?

Russ: Yes ma'am. You see when a tire get old, they get old you have to take it out. The train come in and out in new tires.

Barnes: And then when you left the railroad, what did you do?

Russ: Well after I left I realize I got to be a grown man and I went to South Florida and I went to West Palm Beach and stay there and that's where I made my home at...and (unknown) was just opening up...making dirt...all them streets where just dirty except about three. Flager street and streetcar line...and the other street was named I can't think of that street, but that's all it was.

Sullivan: How did you get to Miami?

Russ: Uh?

Sullivan: How did you get there? How did you arrive in Miami?

Russ: We took the train.

Sullivan: You took the train all the way?

Russ: Yes ma'am. I caught-well in order words, to get down south they had (unknown) in those days that take you to different places. Sometimes they (unknown) would tell you, "you grind hard, you grow old and went (unknown) still".

PT1 ends

Second half of video

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Russ: Let's getting paid and so he always showed Judith the shy side.

Barnes: The crew leader?

Russ: That man was the crew commander get him a crowd of man. He got so much ahead and so...went about 27 heads when I went there.

Barnes: So you went with a group of people going to work a field?

Russ: Worked on that railroad down there..

Barnes: On the railroad in Miami?

Russ: Yes ma'am. The Florida east coast...for a while it was nothing went down there on that Florida East coast but the Florida East Coast later then comes the sea boat.

Barnes: And which did you work on?

Russ: I worked on the Florida east coast. I didn't have another chance but I kept that one.

Barnes: And that went as far as where then?

Russ: What? What, distance or wages what you speaking on?

Barnes: How far-Did it just go to Miami and stop?

Russ: It went to Key West. You see when you get to Key West you can't go no further on land...90 miles across there.

Barnes: So the Florida east coast went all the way into Key West?

Russ: Yes ma'am. Florida East Coast was independent too. Charge you what they want.

Barnes: And when you left there what did you do?

Russ: Well I stayed round there quite a while because I like that and when I left there, I come back home and went back to the railroad.

Barnes: And you left there and went to FAMU?

Russ: Oh, it was a long time before I went to FAMU, I didn't go to FAMU until after I left the shipyard then I went to FAMU...and I went there as a janitor for 3 years and I went up to supervisor and then I stayed at that 7 years. Well in other words, I got too old and they told me they couldn't kept me no longer they were gone fire me, but they asked me to quit. You see, and that's why I quit because I kinda like that check I got.

Barnes: So how old were you when you left FAMU?

Russ: When I left the school? 70 years old. When you get 70 years they'll ask you to quit.

Sullivan: And where did you meet your wife?

Russ: Ma'am?

Sullivan: Where did you meet your wife? Was she from Chairs' or was she from Miami?

Russ: She was raised over there on Miccosukee Road.

Barnes: What was her name?

Russ: Viola Porter...Yeah she was raised up there close round them Crump. You hear about them Crumps? Yeah she was raised up there close round them Crumps. Some of them Crumps was kin to her.

Barnes: Yeah, I was asking about Miccosukee Road because my fathers people were from out there, but now my mother was a Porter but I think it was a different set of Porter.

Russ: There's a set of-there a bunch of Porters back down there between Aunt Karabell...

(Barnes asking about Porter relatives)

Russ: Now mr. Crump, now he had a black wife and he had a white man but plenty of that went on. I don't need to say nothing about that because Mr. Lloyd, I wondered a many day, he was a rich man and he had a black wife.

Barnes: Who was this?

Russ: Mr. Tom Lloyd down at the lot. Yes ma'am.

Barnes: He had a what kind of wife?

Russ: A black wife...Tom Lloyd and he a rich man.

Sullivan: That's the town of Lloyd, down here? That's named after him?

Russ: Yeah, that's what the slaves named after...Mr. Lloyd was a rich man.

Barnes: Is he still living?

Russ: Ooh no, he been dead but he left his children all right. Mr. Lloyd had more sense than the average man, white or black. All right. Now tell you how he left them keep them from getting broke. They can't throw over just so much of money...small amount. In case of a doctor bill, they can draw more...case of a coach you know, they can grow more. Hospital, anything, yes...

Barnes: So they don't waste it up to quick?

Russ:...The common wages was better for them, but it couldn't get no better than this. Well that's what I call he was looking fo them. Most people just leave everything for their children and if they get broke overnight too some of them. I had a grandson married...in the family of them Lloyd's. He got a bunch of girls. They separated, but she was getting some money but not much. Mr. Lloyd had plenty sense. I aint know naina other white man to left this family, you know, like that. The children so much money and no more. In case of doctor bill...if you was in a case, a law case, they be able to...anything you know. I aint see nobody else around...now if owed Mr. Lloyd you going' pay him.

Barnes: That probably how he kept the money.

Russ: He use to loan money to white and colored, but you goin' pay Mr. Lloyd. See he would rub his hands together like that. Suppose you do this here when you come he come out there suddenly, (Don't catch what was said).

Sullivan: I was going to ask how many children y'all-you and Mrs. Viola had? How many children?

Russ: Well that's the biggest we had. They had no line, no money, and so we had a pretty good increase. Now, we had eight children, but I wont talk about them-wait. Now, I've got nine- two sons living. One of my sons got killed, you might have heard of him...blow up that house in Dantana housing. My son was working at a place where a recap tires and he put too much air in a truck tire. They called the old pecan place. They're closed today. I reckon working with baskets and umm lets see whats the name of that? Lord he put too much air in that truck tire and it blow the rim off. The flick of the wing flew up and killed him. Struck him in the head and it just messed up his head. It messed up the ceiling up there. Now, Aunt Mary (Don't catch the name)

Barnes: And who living?

Russ: Ma'am?

Barnes: It was three sons. Who still living? You say you still have one living?

Russ: I said I got two sons. Let me give you all of them. Cuz umm it aint fair the way I'm treating you. I had umm three sons before that got killed and six daughters, but after that got killed that left me two sons.

Barnes: Okay, I see what your saying and what was were their names?

Russ: My-my...you want the boys or the girls. Give you the boys first...Daniel Russ and Hezekiah Russ and Fiero Russ and that was the boys.

Sullivan: Im sorry, what was the last one name? What was the last boys name?

Russ: Fiero

Sullivan: And your daughter's?

Russ: Alright then my oldest daughter was Panza, and next was Vanta. Then after Vanta, I had some twins...Rebecca and Ethel...then after that, I had another girl name was Lillin. She the one who takes care of me now...wash my clothes and see if I can get something to eat...(mutters something really low). Now, I never did finish giving you all my children names. When you asked, "well, how many did you have?" I said, "That's all I had". I had a daughter now the baby girl, her name was Olivie...That's one thing poor people can have a heap of is children.

Sullivan: Yeah, my grandmother had 13 and-

Russ: Peter, I don't stop there. I was convent at St. John and I stayed there two years and went to St. Peter. In other words, I convent 19...1915. At St. John, I stayed there two years and went to St. Peter in 1918.

Barnes: Where is St. Peter?

Russ: Well you passed it on the road...remember you come to two roads, two churches.

Barnes: Okay I saw (don't catch the name)

Russ: (don't catch the name) and that one is my church, St. Peter. It use to be way back then, but we moved it.

Barnes: There is a lodge up here come where to...

Russ: Yes ma'am. You remember passing umm a church, where it's a little umm pond there...while its next to that lodge.

Barnes: What lodge is that?

Russ: That's the Joshua Lodge.

Barnes: Do they still met?

Russ: Yes ma'am, they using it.

Barnes: Who is the president? Are you a member?

Russ: Yes ma'am, yes ma'am. I am a member.

Barnes: Do you know who the president is now?

Russ: Lets see umm his name is Miller...Miller. He stays up here on the road like you going to Miccosukee.

Sullivan: I'm sorry. I don't know Joshua Lodge is. What is the Joshua Lodge? I've never heard of the Joshua Lodge.

Russ: Well umm that lodge is not so old and its pretty good too. Now, say for instances, there was lodge that black people had, but Nubberland...but black people way back then had too much confidence in one another and umm they had to have money or property and one man name...you know that aint goin' work. So he got in tight, he grabbed the money off, and all the (don't catch that) cars.

Barnes: So that went the lodge?

Russ: The lodge went down and then it got another name, Joshua and that was in 1929.

Barnes: That's how Capitola started off?

Russ: Now, Mr. Barry Board...

Barnes: Barry Bart?

Russ: And Mr. Upchurch. Them was the two big man in the county at that time. Now, Mr. Board, he came to this country, he told me from ummm Valdosta Georgia and he told me that he worked for a man that was rich, but they man aint have no learning at all...and he had book learning and told the man to let him run this business and the man did. He say the man went broken after nine years and I said who broke him? He said he wasn't listening. Well now Mr. Board been catching. When the man went broke, then he came to down to Florida and start him up a business. I asked where did you get your money from the start? He laughed and said George you wanna know too much. That man you see don't have no learning and the man just paid what he told him and the man was giving him money off the top. If you don't know, you have to pay for not knowing.

Barnes: And so that how Capitola passed on?

Russ: Well see now, I don't tell you how Capitola got started. Alright Im give you the name of the person that Capitola is founded under. Now Mr. Chris Coloma (don't catch the last name) bought a lot of people with him and there was a man by the name of Joe Dupure and he had a daughter named Capitola...see how that is and so they named this place after his daughter, Capitola, but it come a fever around...I remember when she died, but I've seen a person so small and she died, plenty people died because of that fever...and umm say for instances, I don't give you all of it. Mr. Board and Mr. Upchurch, the one who bought this place, this piece of land. They bought-it belongs to the Maize plantation, but its just a little small piece on this side of the railroad. You see Mr. Maize don't want it and he saw to that. It don't cost him much. It was acres and he sold it, but they took it and cut it up, in lots called land capital town and say

for instances, they got the money back then some. I use to tell Mr. Board...now the white folks use to stay down here, but I wasn't living, but I seen height with life and Ive got some sides and the black folks cross that railroad...but after they name it Capitola and (don't catch that) had all this place stacked out and lots and things take time, while then, say for instances, the white people went up there. That's higher land. I told Mr. Board yall just cheated us black people. Yall took all the high land and put us down here in the bottom. He said this land was just good as died...

Barnes: So you all use to be on the other side of the railroad?

Russ: No the black people was over there, but umm say for instances, after they name this place Capitola the white folks left here. The white people use to be right here and they had a commissary out there cuz I use to play it in after my aunt bought this here and is was white people over there, just all about. I can go to the place where the white people use to be and you see then the coast line for the railroad engine and he bent down there to the final floor. That's all that getting down there all ten times and so they did this...they took on the east side of that coastline and went through some train road. Now and they give us the west side...we black and that's the way it was...Now Mr. Dupree, now I don't know how-I know some of his children, but-

Barnes: Was Mr. Dupree a black man? White man?

Russ: Sure he was white.

Barnes: White man...His daughter was named Capitola and they named Capitola after his daughter.

Russ: Yeah, after his daughter. That's were Mr. Board messed up. See they was wealth. Mr. Board was a timber time man and Mr. Upchurch was a saw mill man. They were the man that wore the big hats in that day. Mr. Board told he had umm...

Barnes: Mr. Riles house, you know, is still standing on umm, where it was when you use to go to it on Jefferson Street and we are working with it now as a museum and see tapes like yours, we wanna put them in there so people can come and listen and hear about how the town developed and different areas like this...share the history, but ummm-so you knew Professor Riley?

Russ: Sure I did-

Barnes: Short man?

Russ: Yes he was a short man, but he had his hair straight, kind cut it. Now, Professor Riley, he told me and the others, he come out there where we be working sometimes, talking all the time...say that man, he got 21 years old...when he left his home and come down here. He say he come from Mississippi I think. He come down here and you can tell he had got educated before he come here. He a smart man...machine for everything but the herd and somewhere or other,

he from around there and caught him, one of his hands and just cut- picked him up, carried him where he went run and pick him up over that arm, broke off and fall on the ground and the people called him one arm Dan from then on...and he had a new ground he went in the woods and built and plenty white folks from around town go out there and, "Lets go to Dan new ground". Alright-

Barnes: Whats a new ground?

Russ: A place you cleaned up in the woods. They call it a new ground and it was off set, set off from where the tenants land. That's right off in the wild wood and took it dead and everything else out there. So they was talking about it one day and I say, "Do yall know what yall talking about"? The white folks wanted to say, "Whats the matter with you, George"? I said, "That was my granddaddy new ground" and they just laugh and say, "George that was your granddaddy new ground", sure it was. That's his new ground, say I can go right this spot everywhere and he cleaned it. Talking about you a descendant from him. I say, "One didn't have nothing but children and he had a son named George and that was my daddy". I think when I thought (don't catch what was said)...had 2 or 3 wives.

Sullivan: One thing I wanted to ask you and that was your brothers and sisters.

Russ: Ma'am?

Sullivan: The one other thing I wanted to ask you was about your brothers and sisters and what their names were? How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Russ: Well I am-My family is very small. My mother died, she was twenty...twenty-four years old. Not twenty, but thirty-four years old when she died. Now, concerns about my brothers and sisters, I had three sisters, but no brothers.

Sullivan: That was a very small family for back then, wasn't it.

Russ: Ma'am?

Sullivan: That was a very small family for the time, wasn't it.

Russ: Yes ma'am for that time.

Sullivan: What were your sisters name?

Russ: My oldest sister name Cora...and the next one name Ruby and the baby was named Penzey cuz Mommy had lost a child. She said it was between me and sister, but now my oldest sister, she would...be able to dance. We just laughing. I jokes about him and I say, "Mr. Board?" "What is it George?" I say, "Now, you may not farm this, but the old man Footman, the one who had them" "Yeah, I know them old man George Footman". He said, That nobody would live to see four Chairs, that's why I call you rich man. He just laughed. They may have spent three generations on that money and that's why its gone.

Barnes: What was his name? Bird...

Russ: Bird Chair

Sullivan: B-u-r-r-o-t-h

Ruth: Now, Im little bit older than him. Im from the 21st of November till about 5th or the 8th of December. A little older than him.

Barnes: Say that again- your great grandmother was what?

Russ: My great-grandma her name was...um lets see Nellie, but they say her name was Helen, but then she was sold back to, her and her ancestor...had a daughter named Helen and so they changed her to Nellie.

Barnes: And she was a-what did you say about the Indians?

Sullivan: No he said she was a slave to Mrs. Clayton's ancestors?

Russ: She can tell you the same thing better than I can. Now, the Indians, lets say for instance, that come out the papers here...few years ago, it was about the real black bird Indians in the United States. I imagine you know that. If you any kin to white people, you kin to the Indians. Now in slave time, I hear my granddaddy and all them say white people be treating any of them mean they run away and go to the Indians and they wouldn't let the white people get them. White people come down and they give them so many minutes to get away from there then they kill'em. So they just run away, just run away...say the Indians come out there and be hiding in the brushes, but umm that overseer man called allseer, he was agent, he rode a horse. There was so much land, he couldn't stay in one place long, he had be gone. The Indians be watching and when he leaves, the Indians be coming back out. "Run away, come on with us" (laughing),but nobody gives you something for nothing. Now, you know what that was for-

Barnes: What?

Russ: He wanted them black women (laughing). That want it for. They talkin' about, if you don't do something, I'll tell you I'll have to let you go back, but they wasn't going back that way. When freedom cried out, the black people were slaves come to be free, they went to the Indians camps and told them yall come on out now...yall aint got to hide, everybody free, but most of the black women had just abandon their man...