

**Interviewee:** Jackson, Lettie  
**Interviewer:** Barnes, Althemese  
**Assistant:** Catiana Foster  
**Name of Project:** Urban Education in Tallahassee  
**Date of interview:** February 1997

Barnes: It is 1996. I am in the home of Mrs. Lettie Jackson....

Jackson: This is '97

Barnes:... '97, February 1997, thank you. In the home of Mrs. Lettie Virginia Jackson Braxton. (pause) Mrs. Braxton, I understand that you were one of the pioneer's educators in negro rural schools here in Leon County. Which schools did you work in?

Jackson: Richardson school...

Barnes: Richardson school and where was that located?

Jackson: On the Springhill road, I believe....

Barnes: On the Springhill road. Okay, so you worked at Richardson school first and what was the next school?

Jackson: The next school is Horseshoe...

Barnes: Horseshoe school...

Jackson:...that on the Thomasville highway...

Barnes: Okay and what was the next school you worked at?

Jackson: The next school was Saint Stephen, school down in Miccosukee. I worked down in church, the school had burned down.

Barnes: Okay the church had burned...

Jackson: The school had burned and I was working [in](#) the church.

Barnes: Okay, but the school had moved to the church and they called that Saint Stephen school?

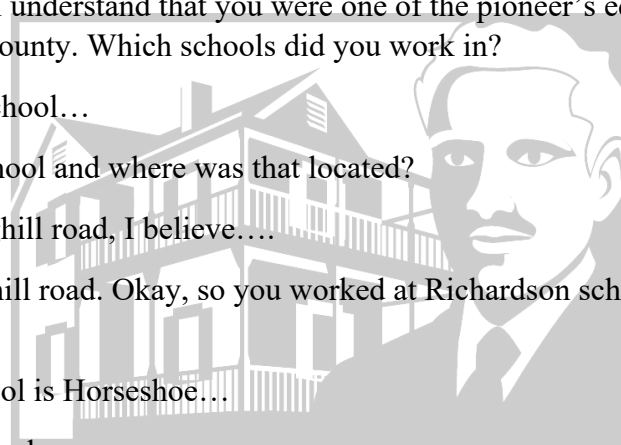
Jackson: I believe it was Saint Stephen church, I believe it was Saint Stephen school then.

Barnes: And then where did you go after Saint Steven?

Jackson: From Saint Steven's, I went to Centenary (This is not the correct spelling) ....

Barnes: Ciam (This is not the correct spelling) and that on the old Centerville road?....And there was another building near that school wasn't it?

Jackson: It was a church...Centenary (This is not the correct spelling) church



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Barnes: And when you left Centenary where did you go?

Jackson: I went to Lake McBride.

Barnes: And when you left Lake McBride....

Jackson: I went to Lincoln for one semester.

Barnes: And then?

Jackson: Lincoln to Timabland (This is not the right spelling) ....Which is now Gilchrist

Barnes: When you left Lake, McBride was that the last year that school was open or did they....

Jackson: That's the year the school was integrated.

Barnes: So, do you remember what year you left Lake McBride?

Jackson: No, I don't know exactly what year...I can't remember right now. I would have to do a little checking.

Barnes: Now, where did you go to school as a little girl? When you started school...

Jackson: When I started school, I started at Copeland School that near the Georgia land....

Barnes: Down near the Georgia land...

Jackson: Sunnyhill Plantation.

Barnes: It was on Sunnyhill Plantation?

Barnes: And was there a church near that school?

Jackson: Yes, it was Brown Cherry and they moved the church.

Barnes: Do you remember who the principal was when you went to Copeland?

Jackson: When Copeland...One teacher for all the children.

Barnes: And what was her name?

Jackson: Ms./Mrs. Lula Spencer

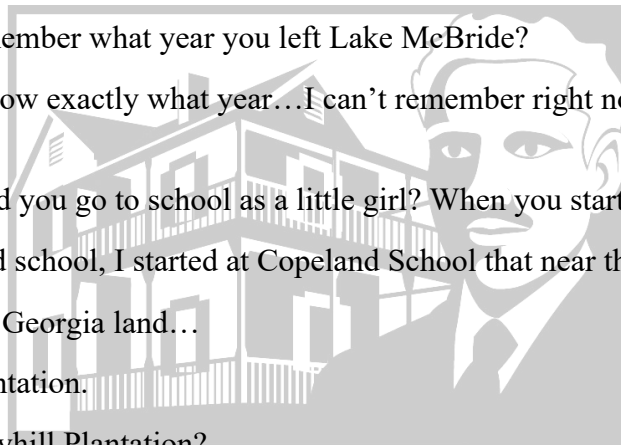
Barnes: Does she have people still living?

Jackson: Yes, do you know Daisy Gaines 'em that live out in the blocka (this is a misspelling)? Do you know Elizabeth Gaines? Those are her.... Those are Mrs./Ms. Spencer's nieces.

Barnes: Now where you ever at a school by yourself?

Jackson: Yes, I was. It was Richardson, Horseshoe, Saint Stephen, and (I did not hear the late school she mentioned) is where Mrs./Ms. Simpson and I worked together.

Barnes: Since you were at three school by yourself, did that mean you have to teach...



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Jackson: All the grades. That means 1-6. That's right.

Barnes: How long did the children go to school?

Jackson: They go to school about 8 or 9 months. Yeah, but I know they went longer than I did. I went for about 5 months, but they go longer.

Barnes: You told me earlier that the county would pay for you all as a little girl to go for 3 months?

Jackson: That was for 3 months when we were living on the plantation. That is the Northerners plan. The Northerners would pay 2 months and that would make us get 5 months of schooling.

Barnes: Now, can you give me the name of your parents?

Jackson: Umm Lessie Grant Jackson and Lessie Jackson. My father was Grant Jackson and my mother was Lessie Jackson.

Barnes: What was your mother maiden name?

Jackson: Hall... Lessie Hall. My mother was a Hall before she married my father, Grant Jackson.

Barnes: What about your great grandparents?

Jackson: Great grandparents were Hicks.... you know I told you about the story with the Halls. Well my grandparents were Halls and my great grandparents were Brandons. That was the...my great grandmother was married to an Indian. They had 19 boys and 3 girls. The girls were Charlotte Black, Mary and Lettie Bryant...Mary Bryant...That was the Indian and my great-grandparent.

Barnes: Can you go back any further than that?

Jackson: No, I don't can't...I don't think I can go no further...I forgot that because I would ask them "will who is so and so", "well what is your...", "well what are their parents name". we would ask them all those kinds of questions and they give us, but now I can't go too far. I done forgot (laughing). They tell us. They tell us who they were and where they come from and all of that kinda stuff.

Barnes: And so, you grew up around the area of Brown Cherry, which was near the Georgia line?

Jackson: Yeah, I was there until I started the school in Thomasville...went to school in Thomasville for four years and then went to Douglas High School. After Ms./Mrs. Pittman...Ms./Mrs. Evelyn Pittman was teaching out there and she said, "since your daughter...you're in Leon County, you should let your daughter go to school in Leon County"...Go to school to Lincoln and she did...and the first night I spent in Tallahassee, I spent it with Ms./Mrs. Pittman, in the Pittman home, down on Cornell...I think its Cornell street.

Barnes: And she is the mother of Congressmen Carrie Pittman?

Jackson: No, that is her sister. Her sister was teaching out there. Carrie Pittman's mother was named Carrie Pittman and her father's name was Will Pittman, but Ms./ Mrs. Evelyn Pittman was a teacher at Lincoln and she encouraged my mother to send me to school at Lincoln. That's how I got to Tallahassee and so I stayed with them. After then, I stayed with the Hutter's, Ms. (I don't catch her name) Hutter and her sister. I stayed there and finished high school. After finishing high school, I started teaching there. After teaching there, I got married there. I was there for ten years, in one place.

Barnes: Where there many people living around Brown Cherry back when you were going to school?

Jackson: Well, umm quite a few was on the plantation. Quite a few, but many of them brought...they brought the site they wanted to buy and build for themselves.

Barnes: So, you was actually living on Sunnyhill Plantation?

Jackson: I was actually living on Sunnyhill Plantation when I started but, you see right after that, both my parents moved down to Miccosukee.

Barnes: So, you do remember playing on Sunnyhill Plantation?

Jackson: Sure, with the other families.... picking cotton. It was a farming plantation and we had cows and we had hogs, chicken, turkeys, ducks, guineas. You name it, we had it. Hogs and...

Barnes: What kind of games did you all play or had a chance to play?

Jackson: Oooo around the mulberry tree. Now, you played the mulberry tree and you played ball and you played hopscotch. All these little games.

Barnes: So, where you like sharecropping farmers?

Jackson: No, my father rented his land...he don't sharecrop. He rented his land and he farmed it like he wanted to 'cuz he rented, and he paid rent. You pay rent once a year.

Barnes: He rented it from Mr. Thompson?

Jackson: You see Mr. Thompson, the plantation owner, was Luke Thompson and Luke Thompson had overseers...

Barnes: Was Luke Thompson black or white?

Jackson: He was white...

Barnes: Because I know a Luke Thompson and he is a...

Jackson: My brother was named for him. I had a brother named for him...

Barnes: Luke...

Jackson: My brother name Luke Thompson Jackson, but he is named for the northerner that owned the plantation. Mr. Strangler, Frank Strangler, was the overseer of the plantation for the

northerner. You see the northerners would come one, twice a year...They come down and they and when hunting season was over, they leave and go back. The overseer was Frank Strangler

Barnes: So, did you all work for Mr. Thompson?

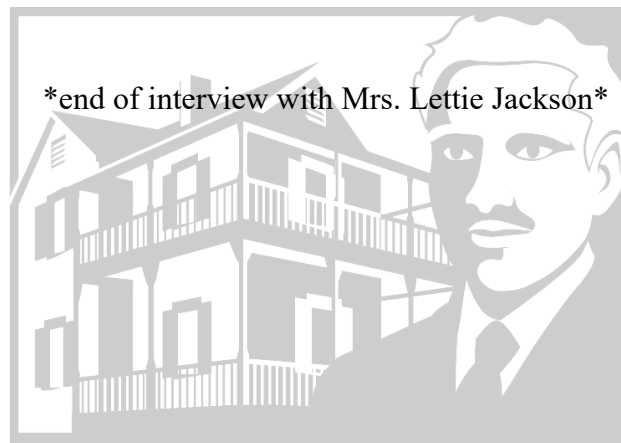
Jackson: No, we worked for ourselves.

Barnes: So, you never worked for the owners of the plantation?

Jackson: No, we don't work for them. See when you work every year, at the end of the year, they pay rent. Your rent is seventy-five acres of land for seventy-five dollars and so we had cotton and then sell a bale of cotton to pay the rent.

Barnes: So, you all were tenant farmers?

Jackson: Yep



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