

Della Hodges Johnson

This recording is of an interview conducted by Dr. Alvin Jackson of Della Hodges Johnson. The interview takes place on November 5, 1993. Jackson is in Fremont, OH, calling Johnson in Metter, GA. Topics discussed within include family genealogy, attending the Banks Creek and Fish Trap churches, the building of Highway 80, and the division of Bulloch County into Candler and Bulloch Counties.

ALVIN JACKSON: Today is November 5th, 1993. I'm in Fremont, Ohio. Will make an attempt at this time to call my cousin Della at 912-685-2936 in Candler County, Metter, Georgia. She is the daughter of Wesley Hodges and Moselle Holloway.

DELLA JOHNSON: Hello.

AJ: Hello, Cousin Della, how you doing? This is Alvin. You remember me? From Bulloch County over at the Willow Hill School? Used to live by -- Cousin Bonnie's grandboy.

DJ: Mm-hmm. Yes.

AJ: I hope I didn't wake you up. Did I?

DJ: No.

AJ: Well, I had been thinking about you, and I don't know why. I was trying to put together some history. On the Hodgeses and a lot of other things. And I kept thinking. I was saying, "Gee, you probably know about as much history as anybody else." And then the other day I was trying to find something on the Wallaces and the Lees and I had talked to your son James and his wife, and then I kept thinking about you after that. And so I got your number from them, and I said I was going to give you a call, just see how you was doing.

DJ: I'm just fine.

AJ: That's good. So things are going pretty good for you.

DJ: Going nicely, thank you very much.

AJ: That's good. That's wonderful. And then the other thing, I heard you'd been involved in a little accident.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: And God had blessed you to come out of that real good.

DJ: He blessed me all the way.

AJ: That's good. That's good. Well, your voice sounds real clear and plain.

DJ: It hasn't been changed.

AJ: Now listen. You got a little minute? Or you want me to talk another time? I want to ask you a couple questions on the Hodgeses if you had a minute. But if you don't I can catch you another time.

DJ: Oh, yeah, I have plenty of time.

AJ: OK. Now your daddy was Cousin Wesley Hodges. Is that true?

DJ: Yes.

AJ: OK. And his wife was --

DJ: Moselle.

AJ: What was she before she married?

DJ: Holloway.

AJ: She was a Holloway. Who was your mother's mother and father, your grandmother on your mother's side?

DJ: On my -- grandmother on my mother's side was Lucindie Parrish.

AJ: Lucindie Parrish?

DJ: Yes. Which was Mr. Andy Parrish and Mr. Moses Parrish and Canes Parrish's brother.

AJ: OK. Lucindie Parrish is the sister to Moses Parrish now?

DJ: Yes. And Andy Parrish.

AJ: That's all they sister. OK. So Lucindie Parrish married a Holloway.

DJ: Yes. Andy Holloway.

AJ: His name was Andy Holloway.

DJ: Andy Holloway. I learned since I talked with you last.

AJ: OK. So Andy Holloway married Lucindie Parrish. And they had children, and one of their children name was Moselle.

DJ: Moselle.

AJ: OK. Do you know how many sisters and brothers your grandmother had?

DJ: I do not, because my daughter-in-law, since she's a minister, Rose, so she was searching the records for me, and she said they (inaudible) down, they had to re-- I can't quote it right now, but anyway, she got to Andy Holloway, which was my mother's father, and Lucindie Parrish.

AJ: OK. Did you know any of Andy Holloway's people or brothers and sisters?

DJ: That I don't know, no more than hearing them talking about (inaudible) his sister (inaudible) on my mother (inaudible) you know Jesse Holloway?

AJ: Yes, I know them.

DJ: OK. His father (inaudible) first cousin, something like that.

AJ: Cousin Jesse Holloway's father is your mother's first cousin?

DJ: Something along like that. I didn't get enough [00:05:00] on my mother's side of knowing who all are -- well, you see (inaudible) grandmother or (inaudible) know who was who. But you see, I'm the last one in the family of 11. So I just only just got the hearing how that connection was.

AJ: OK. Now let me ask you another question. Now Lucindie Parrish. Did you ever know who her mother and father was?

DJ: I did not.

AJ: You didn't know that. But this is Uncle Moses Parrish's sister.

DJ: (inaudible).

AJ: Moses.

DJ: Moses and Uncle Canes Parrish.

AJ: Did you know who Uncle Canes Parrish married?

DJ: He married Georgiana (inaudible).

AJ: OK, so that was Moses Parrish's brother who married Georgiana Riggs. That was Moses Parrish's brother who married Georgiana Riggs. OK.

DJ: Canes married Georgiana Parrish.

AJ: OK. All right. Well, I've learned something there then. Now let's try a little bit on your daddy's side. Now Cousin Wesley Hodges. What was his daddy's name?

DJ: Tom Hodges (inaudible) Tom Hodges.

AJ: His daddy name was Thomas Hodges?

DJ: Tom Hodges.

AJ: And what was his mother's name?

DJ: Gracie Munlet.

AJ: Gracie Munlet. And that was Old Man Aaron Munlet's sister?

DJ: (inaudible) Aaron some (inaudible) Gracie and (inaudible) Aaron and (inaudible) Gracie and I can't think of the other sister's name. But anyway (inaudible) years ago just who my grandmother's daddy and mama's name was, Uncle Aaron's father and mother and Grandma Gracie was Hannah and Johnny Munlet.

AJ: Hannah and Johnny Munlet.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: That was Aaron Munlet's --

DJ: Daddy and mother.

AJ: OK. Now they came from South Carolina, didn't they?

DJ: Yes.

AJ: They came from South Carolina. OK. Now did you know -- so your uncle Wesley Hodges's daddy name was Thomas Hodges.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: Now he was a brother to Wash Hodges, wasn't he?

DJ: Right.

AJ: And Uncle Wallace Hodges.

DJ: Uh-huh.

AJ: Did you know any other brothers that your granddaddy had other than that?

DJ: No.

AJ: You didn't know any more. Hello?

DJ: Now, see, the situation of this (inaudible) searching records. As the reunion comes around (inaudible) I got this part on my daddy's side (inaudible) Johnny and Hannah. If you ever know of (inaudible) Lee.

AJ: Yes, I heard of him.

DJ: Well, he married my first cousin, which is my daddy's little sister's oldest daughter and (inaudible) daughter is named Verdelle. I don't know who she married, but she was in Florida (inaudible) Verdelle is (inaudible) Florida. You know (inaudible) Jackson?

AJ: [00:10:00] Yes, I know her.

DJ: You see, this is her (inaudible) oldest daughter (inaudible).

AJ: Right.

DJ: (inaudible) first cousin (inaudible).

AJ: Is that where you got some information from?

DJ: Oh, no, I had it before that. But anyway (inaudible) well, Cousin (inaudible) before she died, we got -- I got (inaudible) so anyway she said she had Grandma Gracie and the family (inaudible) not being closely in touch with all (inaudible) her cousin (inaudible) well, he had all of it. And when he died I think she said some of the girls, granddaughters in Florida got it. The reunion (inaudible) anyway, I was relating to how (inaudible) grandchildren, they didn't know how the connection (inaudible) was. I had to (inaudible) together and the (inaudible) and related to them how the connection and everything came about. You see, now I'm far down. The ones that know personally who all these people were, you see they all been gone the time they started the reunion. Well, then I was the only one (inaudible) and the ones that I was trying to give (inaudible) get in touch with or find different parts of it. Didn't seem as if they was too interested. Which made it hard on me getting as much of it together as I did, but I got quite a bit of it together.

AJ: Well, that's good information.

DJ: They thought it was very good, cause in '89 the reunion went to Los Angeles, California, and that's where we got (inaudible) of the family but if I'd had help I could have (inaudible).

AJ: Now how did you say the Brannens were related?

DJ: Oh, Carol Brannen was my daddy's sister. And she married William Brannen.

AJ: I see. Do you know who William Brannen's mother and father was?

DJ: I don't know.

AJ: You don't know them. But that was your aunt Hannah.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: And that's Cousin Emma Jane's mother.

DJ: Right.

AJ: So Cousin Emma Jane and you are first cousins.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: OK.

DJ: I can tell you some more first cousins again. Now you see my father's oldest sister is named Ann James Henry (inaudible) Williams and Henry because (inaudible) she just died last year.

AJ: She was your first cousin?

DJ: Yeah (inaudible).

AJ: Now how many brothers and sisters did Cousin Wesley have?

DJ: Well, the only one that I know was Aunt Ann Jean and Aunt Hannah. They had a brother named Willie but see, I didn't ever know about him. But the older ones knew him (inaudible) family other than that.

AJ: Who did Willie marry? Did he marry anybody?

DJ: Yeah, that's what I don't know.

AJ: Oh, you don't know that. OK.

DJ: The older ones knew, and I didn't get anything on him.

AJ: OK. And so Cousin Wesley married Cousin Moselle. Now who was her sisters and brothers?

DJ: The older sister (inaudible) Isabelle, she married Albert (inaudible) she married Willie Williams (inaudible) my mother's older sister Isabelle, she was the [00:15:00] mother of three daughters. And the three daughters, two of them died. The oldest one (inaudible) late teenage, and the other one in the middle teenage, and so the only one that lived was named Lucy. You know Willie Ben Bible?

AJ: Willie Ben Long?

DJ: Yeah. No, he's Bible. But his mother married a Long.

AJ: Oh yeah, I've heard of them.

DJ: (inaudible) he drove a school bus.

AJ: Yes. I remember I used to ride his school bus.

DJ: Yes. Well, he was my mother's oldest sister's grandson, only one.

AJ: Oh, I didn't know that. I declare.

DJ: Now well, Nancy, she had a large family. But (inaudible) quite a bit of them. I can name (inaudible) the family, at least their family (inaudible) many of them didn't have no children. Anyway (inaudible) mother's side.

AJ: I see. But your mother's mother was Lucindie Parrish and her daddy was Andy Holloway. OK. Now which part of -- were they from Bulloch County or Candler County?

DJ: Now see, if this would have been (inaudible) earlier back when some of them was living, because your grandmother Bonnie, when we lived in Willow Hill, now, see she (inaudible) with my older sisters and brothers. So she knew the history.

AJ: She knowed it pretty good?

DJ: Oh, she knowed it well, oh yes. She'd tell my children. She'd say, "Well," she said, "you all girls," said, "you all (inaudible) nothing but a (inaudible)." And I tell my children today. I say, "Don't go down Statesboro (inaudible) your mama was so and so and so, your mama was my step-aunt (inaudible)," I said, "You can't fool down Statesboro. Every little bitty come up say, 'Mama, so-and-so said that her -- they knew you.'" I said, "Oh well, oh well, only where I can stay, stay with the up ahead. Come down (inaudible) need branches, ah, ah, ah, ah." What I was interested in, Al, getting the older ones together down to the generation (inaudible) OK? And my (inaudible) see, all my generation, see (inaudible) but yet I'm young now in that generation. Because see, I'm second from slavery, because see, my father was born in slavery.

AJ: Oh. Wesley was born in slavery.

DJ: Oh yes.

AJ: Have mercy. Now name all your brothers and sisters for me starting from the oldest.

DJ: Henry Hodges.

AJ: Who did he marry?

DJ: His first marriage he married in the Millen family. And because they was married maybe 12 or more years. And then she passed and he married then another lady over around Wrightsville (inaudible) but anyway he had one son and she inherited his family that he had. OK, and the next one in the family. I'm going to name them just as they was (inaudible) my sister Alice. She married Ed Cone. See, she had quite a family. But Johnny, that was the third one. He married Gertrude Frippe. And they had quite a family. And come on down, sister Millie. Her first marriage was to an (inaudible) doctor, Dr. (inaudible) anyway he had two children (inaudible) and then Teesee. Well, she married right up here around (inaudible) [00:20:00] sister Millie. Now the brother I don't remember (inaudible) his name was Norm Hodges. And the next brother was Wesley Junior Hodges (inaudible) he married Mincie Trott, Mrs. (inaudible) Mincie or William Mincie (inaudible) so William Mincie and Clarence Trott (inaudible) you see, when it come down to William Mincie, Ivy, her father was Hill Mincie (inaudible) anyway he (inaudible) OK. Then my brother Andy is in Ohio, he had one son.

AJ: He still living?

DJ: Oh yes. He's the one I am next to, Andy Hodges. And after me then my brother Rufus that was a minister.

AJ: Right.

DJ: And the baby brother is named Lester lives in Jersey.

AJ: OK, so there's three of y'all living? There's three of y'all living?

DJ: Three of us living (inaudible) Lester is in Jersey and I'm in Georgia.

AJ: Where did you all live when you all was growing up as children?

DJ: Now I was born in Bulloch County and brother Rufus was born in Bulloch County. But the rest of them born here in Candler County. See, before Candler County was cut off

from Bulloch County that was about seven years before I was born (inaudible) sisters, they were already born. So sister Millie was 11 years older than me. There was just three of us girls, Alice and Millie and myself (inaudible).

AJ: Now were you all living in the same place that just changed the county, or did you all move?

DJ: Now we -- did you ever hear them talk about Rastus Byrd?

AJ: I've heard of him.

DJ: You ever know of Leroy Byrd and his son?

AJ: I've heard of Mr. Leroy Byrd. He had a cotton gin.

DJ: Yes, he did (inaudible) well, we were staying on Leroy Byrd's daddy's place. And my father bought -- purchased a place over here. See, Bulloch County at that time when he purchased where the whole place is now, it was Bulloch County then. A few years later when they cut the county up because the courthouse, the people had so far to come to get to the courthouse. That's why they cut Bulloch County in quite a few parts. So (inaudible) what I learned of the history there, about seven years before I was born. So really I was born in Bulloch County (inaudible).

AJ: But you all had already left Mr. Rastus Byrd's place. And your dad had bought some land.

DJ: Oh yes.

AJ: Where did you go to school?

DJ: Over here in Parrish (inaudible) do you know where Saint Matthew's Church is?

AJ: I don't know where that is. I've heard of it.

DJ: Well (inaudible) might be south (inaudible) south of where I live now (inaudible) about a three-mile place (inaudible) you know, my daddy. My daddy (inaudible) you know where (inaudible).

AJ: Right.

DJ: Well, see, I sold them, that part of the (inaudible) stayed.

AJ: Oh. That was Cousin Wesley's place?

DJ: Yes.

AJ: OK. Now what was the name of the school you all went to?

DJ: It was named Parrish Public School.

AJ: Who was the teacher then?

DJ: Oh my (inaudible) the first teacher that I knowed of was named Professor Kemp.

AJ: [00:25:00] Where was he from?

DJ: Oh, he was -- now where he was from, but he was living in Pulaski.

AJ: And is his people still living?

DJ: Oh (inaudible).

AJ: He didn't have any children?

DJ: Not that I knowed of. There was many other teachers after that, so it'd be hard for me to (inaudible).

AJ: Where did you all go to church when you all were growing up?

DJ: (inaudible) when I was growing up was (inaudible) Fish Trap and Old Bethel down there, that time Uncle Wash Hodges was the pastor. But now see, I relate to him where Fish Trap down here, the church, the first church, they had moved down there where it is now, and it was just over (inaudible) I was just a little kid (inaudible) go to church and the first (inaudible) was on the third Sunday there. And Banks Creek on the fourth. And see, my

father, Old Bethel down there, well, you see, he would go down there on the second to Old Bethel, but I was a little girl (inaudible) the only (inaudible) part of it was just one block of it. There were the (inaudible) and where the first (inaudible).

AJ: And you all used to pass there when you all was children going to Old Bethel?

DJ: Yeah, when my dad, he (inaudible) me going to Old Bethel. Because see, wasn't a paved road (inaudible) I was just a little girl, and I just loved to hear that horse feet hit that, well they called it the rubber, it was just some pavement. Well, I just loved to hear that horse (inaudible) that hard road.

AJ: When you got to Statesboro you had a hard road.

DJ: Yeah, just one block.

AJ: One block of it.

DJ: Just one block.

AJ: Oh, I thought that was something else then, I bet you.

DJ: Ooh, what you say! And you know what, the first brick house that was that I knowed of, you know out from Portal, coming back out this way out from Portal. (inaudible) called the (inaudible) that was the first brick house. The first brick house.

AJ: Is that house still there?

DJ: It's still there but they remodeled it. I think they remodeled it down to (inaudible) remodeled it down. But it was a big old house. They remodeled it down now, and seems like it's a block, it's that --

AJ: Well, it must have took you all a long time to come all the way from there to go to Old Bethel.

DJ: Well, Al, it was about the same distance from here to Banks Creek (inaudible) related to them, my travel driving a mule and buggy, me and my sister Millie (inaudible) Banks Creek.

AJ: Just you all two?

DJ: Oh yes. Both Saturdays and Sundays. I've drove it a many time (inaudible) relate to some of where (inaudible) well, you see, 80 was the first concrete highway road come through this part of the country.

AJ: Oh, was it?

DJ: And that was around -- I don't know whether it was around 1924. My mother passed 1924. And I don't know whether this was in along at the time she passed or whether it was 1925 when 80 was put through. So first concrete road ever come through this part of country.

AJ: My goodness.

DJ: And Route 46. Now that was a dirt public roadway. And the dirt public road from Statesboro, best of my ability, comes out through in there. I call the Wind Settlement, and came on out from Miller. Now I can remember when the bed over 25 was just being built.

AJ: My goodness, you got a lot of history there.

DJ: Well, I'm blessed to (inaudible) 82 now.

AJ: God has blessed you. Your mind is clear.

DJ: [00:30:00] But they thought I was a star up there in medical custom, accident. I never was knocked unconscious. And I never was frightened. And I could explain a lot of things to them. And they thought I was just a star.

AJ: Well, you are a star.

DJ: Up there (inaudible) accident, they was asking me, and I was talking. Just as clear as I'm talking now.

AJ: Well, the Lord has always given you a gift that way.

DJ: Amen.

AJ: Certainly had.

DJ: (inaudible).

AJ: I'm just so fascinated by these stories, because I never heard a lot of this. And you put it in a way where you can see it. You have a way of explaining where you can see. Now I wasn't even back there but I'm seeing all what you're talking about, almost like I was there. And that's wonderful. Now when you were going to school did you all ever come up to Willow Hill, when you all were girls?

DJ: (inaudible) I come to Willow, I spent many nights in Willow Hill to these different cousins and uncles. So (inaudible) well, I tried to get in Willow Hill, but not school.

AJ: Elder Wash Hodges, he was your -- that was Cousin Wesley's --

DJ: Uncle.

AJ: Uncle. You remember him as a preacher?

DJ: Oh yes, I can remember him. When he comes (inaudible) this is why the Fish Trap church down here (inaudible) changed to the -- well, they were changed to a second Sunday, Elder Smith, at the time when Uncle Wash comes (inaudible) the ministry. And Elder Smith, his old home church is up here to (inaudible) Saint Paul. Old home church, but that's where his native county was, where he came from. And he had the first Sunday. And see, Old Bethel was on second Sunday. And so anyway his church (inaudible) third Sunday. So he said (inaudible) I can tell you who was the members at the time. My stepmother Mary, which is Mary Lee's grandmother. And Aunt Georgiana. No, no, not Aunt Georgiana. But another Mary.

AJ: Now is that Mary Kirkland?

DJ: Yes. Mary Kirkland. And Cousin (inaudible) which was Uncle Wash's daughter. Cousin (inaudible) that married Stuart Kirkland, which was (inaudible) Matty Lou's (inaudible) mother. It was about (inaudible) Cousin Fanny, she was younger than (inaudible) but then, well, the members of the Fish Trap Church, and Stuart Kirkland, which was Matty Lou's daddy, when this church (inaudible) and so Elder Smith, he told Uncle Wash, he says, "Now as you move service (inaudible) members you have. See whether they agree to change the Sunday." And they chose the second Sunday because that's the only available Sunday that he had. So he had (inaudible) other three Sundays. That's why. And they (inaudible) one person could remember when that church pastor there was on the third Sunday (inaudible) well, you see (inaudible) began to (inaudible) when Stuart Kirkland died. Then there wasn't a male member. And see, that's when my father was barred from Banks Creek church down here to Fish Trap Church, evicted.

AJ: Because there wasn't any male members.

DJ: There wasn't any male members.

AJ: It was all women.

DJ: All just them four, five women.

AJ: Mm.

DJ: Mm-hmm. See, I can relate from (inaudible) Fish Trap Church (inaudible) I was really outdone when I found out that Donaldson, they had -- there were more down there. See, I

didn't know about it. That's the part I would have really loved to have been in with them.

AJ: [00:35:00] Because you know that history.

DJ: (inaudible) because see, there was much history that I was aware in on for quite a bit of it. And I just, that would have been the goodest part to me.

AJ: Now where the church is now, has it always been there? Did they move it from someplace else?

DJ: Well, the first plot of ground that church was built on that (inaudible) that's been about 170 years ago (inaudible) donated the acre of land for that church to be built on (inaudible) to get it closer down to the bridge there (inaudible) they sledded it on poles down there where it's at now. And this is why I (inaudible) that church, because see, I know from my time where it came from up till now.

AJ: Is that the same old original building?

DJ: Yes. Same building. They just added a little more on to the church. And then later they built the dining hall there.

AJ: So that is the original.

DJ: That's the original church. And the front of it, they put this porch on it. But that's the same frame of the old building of Fish Trap Church (inaudible) seven, eight years ago.

AJ: Now was there ever a school at Fish Trap?

DJ: Well, the school was on this side of the church where these McRae -- they all attended the school. It was on this side of the church.

AJ: So it wasn't right on the same ground.

DJ: No, oh, no.

AJ: But it was called Fish Trap School though.

DJ: Oh yes, it was. Because it was (inaudible) Moses Kirkland, which was the (inaudible) Ed Kirkland, they was brothers. This Moses Kirkland, now the best of my ability, because (inaudible) but it's Moses Kirkland was my mama's uncle in there somehow, but see, I didn't (inaudible) I can't search the people on my mama's side. The only ones knowed who was who (inaudible) your grandmama, Bonnie, see, she knowed all these people. All these people tied in there, through in the families some way.

AJ: So Moses Kirkland is somehow related to your mother.

DJ: Oh yes, first cousin or something, yeah, uncle, whatever it is.

AJ: Well, I declare.

DJ: Yeah.

AJ: Now have you ever heard of a church called New Bridge?

DJ: Well, that's where (inaudible) my mother, that's where she was a member, to the New Bridge.

AJ: Well, where was that located at?

DJ: Well, from here, well, it's on the same creek line. And they got the same bridge put in there (inaudible) they put it in before they got this one in down here at Fish Trap, because there was some little confusion. Or someone didn't want to give the land for the highway, because this (inaudible) this road supposed to have been paved (inaudible) this side of Fish Trap Bridge (inaudible) out from 46 now. That's highway. And (inaudible) brought over to the highway over there from Mary's and Dougie's from 46 (inaudible) there. But they just got (inaudible).

AJ: So where county is New Bridge located? Was it in Candler County, was it in Bulloch County?

DJ: Well, see, it's the line of Bulloch County. It's on the same line just like Fish Trap.

AJ: So it's right on Lotts Creek.

DJ: Right. Lotts Creek (inaudible) line but he was over -- the church is over in Bulloch County just on the other side of creek, just like Fish Trap be.

AJ: About how far from Fish Trap was it?

DJ: Well, I would say (inaudible).

AJ: Who got the land now where it would have been?

DJ: Oh Lord, oh Lord, don't mention it, don't mention it, because I ride along that (inaudible) doesn't look like ever been a church out there. Now Uncle Canes and [00:40:00] his wife Aunt Georgiana, I can't remember hardly.

AJ: Now I know Grandma's mother Aunt Roseanne was at that church.

DJ: Sure enough. Sure enough.

AJ: Because I heard my grandmother say that. That's how I heard that name, New Bridge.

DJ: Oh, and Mary, she said, "Well," she knew, she could remember the church and everything. And they called it New Bridge. But I told her to the best of my remembrance it was called the Mount Pleasant Church or association. It was in -- I done forgot the name of the association it was in.

AJ: It wasn't in the same association?

DJ: No, it wasn't in the same association that Fish Trap was in. I can remember the pastor that pastored there. It was Scott Rich.

AJ: Scott what?

DJ: Scott Rich. He was a little short minister but that little man could preach (inaudible) he attended my mama's funeral at the -- at Albert Hall, because everyone was down with the measles when she died. Now see, my daddy, he lived in this big old house with his big hall down through it, and when she passed, it was in April that year, the 1st of April, and I remember they attended her funeral on Saturday. She passed on Saturday morning. You see, embalming wasn't going on among the colored race of people at that time.

AJ: What year was that, '24?

DJ: Yes, 1924.

AJ: And so her funeral was held in the house.

DJ: Yes, in the home house.

AJ: Did people come?

DJ: Oh yes, there was quite a bit of people there.

AJ: And why didn't they have it at the church?

DJ: Well, none of the family wasn't even going to the church and --

AJ: Oh, everybody was sick.

DJ: Everybody was down sick, dead sick, with the measles.

AJ: Mm.

DJ: See, my mama had the measles, and she (inaudible) pneumonia, and she didn't last hardly a week.

AJ: Oh, so she caught measles, that's why she died.

DJ: Mm-hmm.

AJ: Your daddy didn't catch it?

DJ: Well, I guess he (inaudible) only two of them (inaudible) my father and my oldest brother Henry. Every last one was down with the measles.

AJ: Except them two.

DJ: Except them two.

AJ: Mm. And your mother was the only one that died from it.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: Now where did they bury your mother?

DJ: Cemetery. Well, the cemetery, you know where (inaudible) your grandmother and all (inaudible).

AJ: Up at Hodges Cemetery.

DJ: Yeah. That's where they (inaudible) because that was the Hodges land at the time. And I guess the plat of it is down there in the trunk somewhere (inaudible).

AJ: Huh, well, that's a lot of history. Now what year did your dad die?

DJ: My daddy died 1950.

AJ: Oh, he lived a long time.

AJ: Oh yes. Because Louis was -- well, he wasn't quite 18 months old when my father died, and the grandfather on the Johnson side, he died in November, and my father passed in March the next year.

AJ: In 1950 you said. Now where's Cousin Wesley buried at?

DJ: He's buried up there to the Hodges Cemetery. My father, my mother, my grandmother, and this brother that I didn't know about, Norman, but I remember his burial (inaudible) the two bodies by the way of wagon, the cemetery men.

AJ: Now which grandmother you're talking about is buried up at (inaudible).

DJ: (inaudible) Gracie.

AJ: Gracie Munlet.

DJ: Yeah.

AJ: She's buried up at the Hodges Cemetery.

DJ: Oh yes.

AJ: And who did you say her husband was?

DJ: Tom Hodges.

AJ: And he's buried there too.

DJ: Oh yes.

AJ: OK, and that's Cousin Wesley's daddy. So I think they had a tombstone up there.

DJ: My mother's stone, and it got broke off (inaudible) he had a stone put on her grave, one month after she passed. Now the new stone that's there to my father's grave, I put that there, well, just before (inaudible) passed.

AJ: Now your grandmother and grandfather, do you know where their graves are?

DJ: No, I don't.

AJ: You don't know where your grandfather's grave is.

DJ: No, I don't.

AJ: But you know they're up there.

DJ: It's there in the midst where you see just stone, Wesley Hodges and Moselle Hodges.

AJ: It's not too far from there.

DJ: Well, you see, Al, there wasn't (inaudible) putting no kind of (inaudible) see, and they were (inaudible) and the old ones what knew where the grave was at the time (inaudible).

AJ: [00:45:00] You were saying that a lot of the older ones, they didn't tell the young people where they were.

DJ: Well, you see, they knew where they were, but you see, there wasn't anything put there to knowledge (inaudible).

AJ: I see. They didn't put tombstones there.

DJ: No, no, no, no, no. So this what made it difficult. But you see, by my father, he put a stone on my mama's grave, one month after she passed, but you see, at the time they wasn't blocking them then.

AJ: I see.

DJ: Way back then, uh-uh.

AJ: I see.

DJ: And so see just like you (inaudible).

AJ: Yes.

DJ: Well, OK, well, you see all them is buried (inaudible) was buried there.

AJ: They buried up there, huh?

DJ: Uh-huh. Same cemetery. That place out there where it look like woods now. My older sister Alice, I used to -- after my father passed, I would -- when we got a car, I would go and pick her up, and my sister Millie, and we'd just go up there and -- and so later years (inaudible) tree, and you know who had it cut down and pushed away was your Auntie (inaudible) and so then she went round trying to collect money to help pay that cost. So Louis was just talking today about he want to get with Arelle and several more. Because there's so much (inaudible) different people, the ancestors, the people is buried there. The cemetery just gone down. See, my father bought wire, and fenced that cemetery in by himself.

AJ: Oh, he the one who fenced it in.

DJ: Yeah. But you see (inaudible) illegal fence (inaudible) they said, "Well, it don't look like there ever been no fence there, I guess not." Around like near 60 years ago, how can it look like it?

AJ: Yeah, well, listen -- I've seen a fence up there. But --

DJ: Well, now this chain-link fence what they got in the front, you see (inaudible) and had that put there here, these later years over.

AJ: Oh, I see.

DJ: Because people was using for the dump, just going to dump their trash out there.

AJ: Oh. I see. Now so your grandmother Gracie Munlet is buried there and your grandfather Thomas Hodges, and that's Wash Hodges's brother.

DJ: Yes, and Uncle Wash, he's buried there also.

AJ: Oh. Did you go to Uncle Wash's funeral?

DJ: Oh yes (inaudible) mule and wagon, his body was carried with mule and wagon.

AJ: Now where was his funeral preached at?

DJ: I guess to Old Bethel, I guess.

AJ: Or was it Banks Creek?

DJ: (inaudible) I can tell you this much, Alvin. Now he was the second pastor. So Uncle Aaron Munlet was the established (inaudible) church. And then they see the need of a church closer to town. And that's when they built Old Bethel. And Uncle Wash Hodges was the first pastor.

AJ: At Old Bethel.

DJ: Yes. And he was the second pastor of Banks Creek Church behind Uncle Aaron.

AJ: Was he a good preacher?

DJ: Who that?

AJ: Uncle Wash.

DJ: Well, you see, by time I come to know him, he was done disabled to preach.

AJ: Oh, he wasn't preaching much.

DJ: Uh-huh, I heard him (inaudible) but he done got quite a bit feeble at the time.

AJ: He was old then, huh. Was he a dark-skinned man or a brown-skinned or light-skinned man?

DJ: Well, he was (inaudible) so I don't know what you would call (inaudible).

AJ: Now you said that Cousin Wesley married again. Who did he marry?

DJ: His second marriage was Mary Kirkland, which was Uncle Ed Kirkland's -- which was Mary Lee's grandmother, her mother's mother.

AJ: Did he have any children by her?

DJ: Oh no, no.

AJ: They were old people then.

DJ: Yeah. Well, she was 10 years older than my daddy.

AJ: Oh, was she? Well, which one died first?

DJ: Her children was grown. See, Mother Mary had 12 head of children. And they was all grown when she and my father got married.

AJ: I see. And you say she was 12 years older than him?

DJ: No, 10 years older than my daddy.

AJ: I see, well, who died first? She did?

DJ: Oh yes, and see, my daddy married again, he married a Kennedy.

AJ: Oh, he married three times.

DJ: Oh yeah.

AJ: And who was this last Kennedy lady?

DJ: [00:50:00] Well, Preacher Bennett Kennedy down at Claxton side well, he was the last pastor that pastored New Bridge Church.

AJ: I see.

DJ: And my father married his (inaudible) have any family.

AJ: Now what year -- do you remember what year Miss Kirkland died?

DJ: (inaudible) Mary died, let's see, mm, I had to pick a year, my daughter Rose, well, Rose was not quite a year old (inaudible).

AJ: OK. And then what year did he marry Miss Kennedy?

DJ: Well, he married her the same year that Mother Mary passed. And that was -- let's see (inaudible)

AJ: Now who died first, Miss Kennedy or your daddy?

DJ: The Kennedy lady, she died. She died in February of '50 and my father passed one month to the Sunday that (inaudible) March.

AJ: Now where's Miss Kennedy buried at?

DJ: Well, she's buried down here at Claxton, the cemetery and the church at that time was named (inaudible).

AJ: It was a Primitive Baptist church?

DJ: Oh yes.

AJ: OK. And then was your dad sick when she died?

DJ: No, no. Just feeble, old, feeble (inaudible).

AJ: How old was your dad when he died?

DJ: He was around about -- the best I can describe it, since I don't have his certificate, right, he was around about 78 (inaudible) my father's age. And I imagine I'm up there around my grandmother's age when she passed.

AJ: Gracie. Mm-hmm. Where did your daddy go to school at?

DJ: (inaudible).

AJ: He did -- he could read and write.

DJ: Oh yes.

AJ: So he went to school someplace.

DJ: Well, however it was, Al, Grandma Gracie did not have not one day of schooling. But her zeal by the power of God, he give her a job of a doctor.

AJ: Oh yeah?

DJ: And she doctored in the slavery among the white and the black, she was a doctor.

AJ: Oh, was she?

DJ: Uh-huh.

AJ: Isn't that wonderful? I didn't know that. Now she came from South Carolina though, didn't she?

DJ: Oh yes. When they were (inaudible) over here she was just a girl (inaudible).

AJ: Now I'm jumping around a lot but I'm learning so much from you. Let me go back. One thing, to this New Bridge Church. Now this New Bridge Church. Do you know what year it stopped being a church?

DJ: (inaudible) I mean (inaudible) it's kind of hard right now.

AJ: Was it a church when Aunt Roseanne died? She died in 1931. Was that a church then or was it already finished?

DJ: Well, at that particular time it had to have been a little (inaudible) I think (inaudible) Elder Kennedy was the pastor at that particular time. Because you see, I can remember when they used to come out there to the house when he -- well, see, my father, he still attended that church then, because that's where my mother was a member at. This New Bridge Church. Now but your granddaddy Ben Johnson, I say he give in to Banks Creek Church.

AJ: Yeah, he did. But my grandma Roseanne, I know she went to New Bridge.

DJ: She went to New Bridge all the while. I can remember when your uncle (inaudible) I can remember him well when he would be down there to New Bridge Church, and you see, when they said, "Get on the ground," [00:55:00] (inaudible) spreaded it, on that (inaudible) that white tablecloth spreading it with them white tablecloths on the ground. And (inaudible) oh, boy, and they'd be (inaudible) just like you see a swarm of birds (inaudible) there wouldn't be hardly spot for you to walk, Lord, there'd be some big congregations of people. But there wasn't a whole lot of churches like there is now.

AJ: Now was Grandpa Ben a big eater?

DJ: Oh, you better believe it (laughter) I done forgot how (inaudible) your granddaddy Ben Johnson (inaudible) some kind of (inaudible) and he was just as funny as he could -- I can remember him well.

AJ: Oh really?

DJ: Remember your uncle Benny. Oh yeah (inaudible) he was long in my beginning, growing days. But anyway he was some of the words down in this area, he was (inaudible).

AJ: Yeah. Now Aunt Roseanne, was she a short woman or tall woman?

DJ: Well, she was just medium size, she wasn't too short, and she wasn't too tall. And her other sister's name, let's see what her name was. She married Love. John Love. Aunt Penny.

AJ: Aunt Penny.

DJ: Yeah. I can remember her very well, she was Old Bethel.

AJ: Oh, she was a member at Old Bethel.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: Did she and Aunt Roseanne favor?

DJ: Uh-huh, much.

AJ: Which one was the biggest?

DJ: Well, they was just about the same size of woman.

AJ: Were they about your size?

DJ: Yes.

AJ: Something about your size.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: Did they have short hair or long hair?

DJ: Well, I tell you, Al, I wasn't one of them kind paid too much attention to the hair.

AJ: Well, you had so much yourself. Lord have mercy, where you get that hair from?

DJ: From my grandmother's side.

AJ: Lucindie?

DJ: Oh, my grandmama Gracie.

AJ: Oh, she had a lot of hair.

DJ: Mm-hmm, they said she (inaudible) Indian.

AJ: Because I remember one time I came out and you had that -- I didn't even know you had that much hair. I was shocked, because I used to see it on top of your head, and one day I saw you combing, I said, "Oh God, it just kept coming." And so did any of your other sisters have hair like that?

DJ: My sister Millie, her hair was longer than mine.

AJ: Was longer?

DJ: Yes.

AJ: Ooh.

DJ: Now she had a head of it. My sister Alice was different.

AJ: She didn't have much.

DJ: Uh-uh.

AJ: So she took -- now did the Hodgeses have hair much? The Hodgeses, did they have any hair much?

DJ: Now my aunt Hannah Brannen, she said she had long hair in her young girl day. She would have got from her illness.

AJ: Now your mother, you said she had long hair too?

DJ: No, not my mother, she did not have long hair. And neither her sisters didn't have long hair.

AJ: But your --

DJ: But on my father's side.

AJ: On your father's side, OK. Now did you ever -- now your grandfather was Thomas Hodges. Did you ever hear of what your great-grandfather name was? That's Cousin Wesley's grandfather.

DJ: (inaudible) like I said, Johnny Munlet was my mother -- their mother.

AJ: That was on Grandma Gracie's side though.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: But I'm talking about Grandma Gracie's husband, name was Thomas.

DJ: Yeah.

AJ: His mother and father. That's what I was trying to -- see, Tom Hodges and Wash Hodges were brothers.

DJ: Right. But now (inaudible) Uncle Wash's family had a reunion this year in July. And that was the first one I'd been in. So we's all one family, but see, when they got started with reunions, they just -- wherever they got (inaudible) so anyway my daughter, she (inaudible) is married to Johnson, brother to my husband. [01:00:00] Well, her daughter, well, see, they (inaudible) children. Rock's children and my children (inaudible) brother's children. And that's where they come first cousins. So my daughter then, she got in touch with Rock's daughter. And so they was invited down to Holiday Inn to the reunion which was the Williamses and the Hodgeses and the Edmondses. But now you see, the Williamses, they come into Hodgeses (inaudible) Uncle Wash's daughter. See, she married Sam Williams. And this is where (inaudible) started down from there. From Cousin Mitt. But my children started with the Hodgeses from my daddy (inaudible) to give her the bits and pieces to go up to the upper generations and so anyway she got me in and carried me down there that Sunday (inaudible) have something to say (inaudible) anything. But anyway I brought it out, I brought the history to them. They said they done started their reunion before we, the Hodgeses on my daddy's side, had started. And they said I brought the history out because see, the (inaudible) you see, when I brought it out (inaudible) Washington Hodges and my father's mother, I said, "Some of you here (inaudible) Wesley Hodges which is my father." I said, "And Gracie Munlet Hodges was my father's mother." And I said, "And she married to Tom Hodges, which was Uncle Washington Hodges's brother." And so then that's my great-uncle, Washington Hodges. They said I brought the history out to them. Now they (inaudible) 20 years (inaudible) but see, they started (inaudible) Cousin Mitt (inaudible).

AJ: I see.

DJ: See, that family, see, when they was babies, and I was a big girl, these what started it. I could relate when they was babies. And I said, "Oh my Lord, oh my Lord." I said (inaudible) but they said I brought history to them.

AJ: Well, sure you did. Well, how are the Edmondses related?

DJ: Well, you see, the Edmondses, you see (inaudible) Sam, which is Cousin Mitt's son, married Lillybell. She was an Edmonds. You see, and they had a pretty good size family. And see, and then (inaudible) and all of this now (inaudible) well, see, they are the generation that's carrying on.

AJ: I see.

DJ: So that's where the Edmondses are tied in there. And so they had -- since they was all tied in, like -- that's (inaudible) the Munlets and the Parrishes and my father's first cousin married my mama's first cousin.

AJ: OK, now your daddy's first cousin, who was your daddy's first cousin?

DJ: Oh (inaudible).

AJ: Ella.

DJ: (inaudible).

AJ: Right.

DJ: OK, Cousin Emma that married a Dan Parrish (inaudible) Parrish is her daddy. OK, Cousin Emma, that's Uncle Aaron's daughter, she married Dan Parrish which was -- Uncle Andy Parrish is her son. So (inaudible) my father's first cousin married my mama's first cousin.

AJ: I see.

DJ: (inaudible) your grandma, Bonnie, she said, "Lord, honey," she said, "we're going to be dropping it down to second and third cousin, the other one married, pull it back up." I'm telling you, Al. You know what I told her? I said, "The way this generation," I said, "in the older (inaudible) when people was bought and sold in slavery, they didn't know who was who. [01:05:00] They didn't have no choice (inaudible) but as (inaudible) when people don't know enough about their relative people (inaudible) their close relative people today. They don't know who their roots (inaudible)."

AJ: Did my grandmother know as much as you know?

DJ: She knowed, well, she knowed beyond me because she was (inaudible) my older sisters and brothers.

AJ: Well, goodness. I wish I could have got a chance to interview her. I never even talked to my grandmother about this stuff.

DJ: Well, you see, well, when I was at Willow Hill, you see, she would come and visit me on Sunday. And we'd get to (inaudible) talking and (inaudible) them all be talking about the so-and-so, the so-and-so and (inaudible) get married. They say, "Oh my God, they married their cousin." And she said, "My girls, when I get married and have my family and my girls, they couldn't even find a friend to court because they'd always be their cousins." She said, "Mama, is you kin to everybody?" I said, "Let me tell you one thing." I said, "When it comes down in your bracket," I say, "I don't know who is who." I say, "I know the older parents." I say, "The one that come along with me." But I say, "The families, I know (inaudible)." But anyway, I can (inaudible).

AJ: Yeah, you doing real good. Have you ever heard that now Wash Hodges, I know a little bit about that family, because that's my grandfather's grandfather. Sol Lee, that's his granddaddy.

DJ: Sure enough, sure enough. Lord, Al, I'll tell you. Now Hazel that married the Lovett. When he -- now she's tied in with both grandparents, Uncle Washington on her daddy's side was her great-grandfather, and on her husband's side was Uncle Aaron Munlet.

AJ: That's right.

DJ: And so she's tied in twice.

AJ: She tied in to both of them.

DJ: Mm-hmm. But now your Aunt Hazel (inaudible) she's tied in with Washington Hodges.

AJ: That's right. Now I hear that Wash Hodges and Tom Hodges had a brother named Shep Hodges too.

DJ: Right (inaudible) knew them.

AJ: And they said that the Shep Hodges, that's where Cousin Crip Hodges and them people come through. Cousin Vonzie and Cousin Crip and Cousin Leman Hodges. And say Cousin Shep had a son named Tom Hodges who married Clorie Love (inaudible).

DJ: Clorie Law, right, see, I knew her in time.

AJ: You know that Cousin Clorie Love.

DJ: When she married the son of Tom Hodges.

AJ: Yes.

DJ: And for him, I knowed him well.

AJ: Did you?

DJ: Yeah.

AJ: Now the other thing I was getting ready to tell you. Now I heard this, and I heard that Wash Hodges's daddy name was Tom Hodges. And his mother name was Fanny. That's what I heard. But I'm not sure of that just yet. But so your granddaddy Tom Hodges may have been named after his daddy. That's what I've heard.

DJ: Well, this is (inaudible) Johnny Munlet, you remember Floyd Munlet?

AJ: Yes.

DJ: Well, see Floyd Munlet, see his daddy was named Johnny Munlet. He was named after his father. Grandfather, grandfather, and see, and Hannah Brannen, see (inaudible) named after her mother Hannah Munlet.

AJ: OK, now Hannah Brannen was named after who?

DJ: After her grandmama.

AJ: And her grandmother name was Hannah Munlet, who married a John Munlet.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: That was Gracie Munlet's mother and father.

DJ: Yeah (inaudible).

AJ: And the Old Man Aaron Munlet.

DJ: Uh-huh.

AJ: Now that's the farthest back they can go on that Munlet side.

DJ: Yeah, they have searched in that part of it. So, the Mcraes trying to search going over into Atlanta, trying to search to see if they could. But anyway some of them found it on record. Some of them got it on record.

AJ: OK, I didn't realize they had found all that. It's so much.

DJ: [01:10:00] And they had -- oh boy. Munlet (inaudible) I was up (inaudible) reunion up there at Banks Creek, and one of the girls, one of the great-granddaughters (inaudible) said they had searched and they got that part of it. I had (inaudible) that part of it.

AJ: Now let me ask you a little bit about your husband's people. Who was your husband's mother and father?

DJ: Bennett Johnson (inaudible) Atlanta people too, because when my husband and I got married, his grandfather married and he had married again and they had two, a girl and a boy. Because Johnson's father, he was 103 when he passed in 1976 (inaudible).

AJ: Now his name was Alex Johnson?

DJ: Yes.

AJ: And he was 103. And he was -- that was your husband's grandfather.

DJ: Yes.

AJ: And his name was Alex Johnson. Now what was your husband's father name?

DJ: Em Johnson.

AJ: Em Johnson?

DJ: Yes, now he was the only one that came out from Atlanta down in this part of the country when he was a young man, that I learned. The rest of them, they was over in Atlanta, and all, they were (inaudible) Atlanta, and then their families began to branch out, then they began to branch out like New York and Jersey and places like that.

AJ: Well, who was Em Johnson's wife?

DJ: His first wife was named [Alzalea?], and they had two children, Tom and (inaudible) now Tom, in the time I knew him, he had (inaudible) because his body was (inaudible) any other body. He (inaudible) any type of wrestling (inaudible) and Bessie, her first marriage, she married Steve McRae. Her children, Steve McRae's first wife was named Fanny Lee. Fanny Lee. So she was a Lee.

AJ: She's a Lee or Hodges?

DJ: She was a Lee.

AJ: She was a Lee. So that's some of my grandfather's people.

DJ: Uh-huh. I can't tell you too much (inaudible) that part of the Lee family at all.

AJ: So that must be Cousin Ednas and then people.

DJ: (inaudible) Edna, that's (inaudible).

AJ: Steve McRae is her daddy.

DJ: Yeah. Edna and -- let's see, what the other one named -- Edna and Essie.

AJ: OK. So are you talking about Cousin Edna's mother?

DJ: Yeah.

AJ: Her mother names is Charity.

DJ: That's it, that's it (inaudible) Charity, that's the name.

AJ: And then her sister name is Fanny I think or Roxy or something.

DJ: I know (inaudible).

AJ: OK, so this Steve McRae married Betsy.

DJ: That was his first wife.

AJ: His first wife. And she died in childbirth or something?

DJ: Something like that.

AJ: And then he married this Lee woman.

DJ: Uh-huh. Bessie I guess was long (inaudible) might have been as old as his oldest daughter (inaudible).

AJ: Now where did your husband come in? Who is Bessie to him?

DJ: See, when (inaudible) Father Johnson's first wife got (inaudible).

AJ: Em Johnson's first wife?

DJ: Uh-huh (inaudible).

AJ: Alzalea.

DJ: Alzalea and she -- his next marriage, he married -- she was a Walker. Her name was Rosie Walker.

AJ: Miss Rosie Walker, the schoolteacher?

DJ: No, she was just an ordinary housewife. And she had this big family. So (inaudible).

AJ: [01:15:00] And that's where your husband come through?

DJ: Yeah.

AJ: That's his mother?

DJ: Yeah, Rosie Walker Johnson.

AJ: Now are they from Bulloch County, Rosie Walker?

DJ: Oh my, I wouldn't be able to tell you.

AJ: OK, but at any rate your husband came through this. Now how many brothers and sisters did your husband have?

DJ: Bessie (inaudible) Susie and (inaudible) there were four girls. And then the boys, Tom (inaudible) Junior, Ellis, my husband James, and (inaudible).

AJ: Are they related to Colonel Johnson and them?

DJ: No. But Johnson (inaudible) a lot of people (inaudible) they say, "Miss Johnson," they say, "well, the colonel, is he your brother or what?" I say, "No," I say, "Johnson is not no relative (inaudible) close like that," I say, "but now he's close on his mother's side of the family." Because like I'm saying now this other Ed Kirkland and this Moses Kirkland was my mama's -- I don't know, they was close I don't know it's first or second cousin (inaudible) I can't bring none of that out.

AJ: Who did Moses Kirkland marry?

DJ: She was named Lola. But now what she was (inaudible) you know Al McDonaldson or what his name (inaudible).

AJ: Cousin Chet?

DJ: Yeah. What I'm trying to say, Alma, see, she was a Mercer before she married Garvey. So they ties in there somewhere.

AJ: To the Johnsons?

DJ: No, they tie --

AJ: Oh, you mean to the Kirklands?

DJ: To the Kirklands. However, just like I'm saying, Al, if there ain't someone to tell who was who and where they touch base (inaudible) this is why it is so tangly until a lot of people begin to -- they say, "Well, my so-and-so was named so-and-so, boy, there must be some," there's quite a few that's middle-aged today, talking about the relative of a parent who that some of them were, and I say, "Well, they touch base (inaudible) my mama's side or my daddy's side (inaudible)." But I said, "Now I'm not able to put nothing together."

AJ: Well, maybe this Moses Kirkland, maybe Lola was a Parrish then.

DJ: She could have had been.

AJ: And then that may be where that connection is, because if she was a Parrish then she might be related to Lucindie Parrish.

DJ: It's tied in there somehow. It's tied in there somehow.

AJ: So the key is finding out who Moses Kirkland married.

DJ: Well, Josephine which is Mary's baby sister down here said she searched and got much on the Kirkland side of that family. But you see, I'm not far enough along to know how they touch place and get to my mama.

AJ: I see.

DJ: They touch real close in here. But it's Uncle Ed Kirkland and Moses Kirkland. See, OK, Uncle Ed got killed at the grist mill.

AJ: Oh yeah?

DJ: (inaudible) Mary's grandfather Ed (inaudible) Kirkland. But see, Uncle Moses, the firstborn on this side of the Fish Trap Bridge. He was the firstborn on that land.

AJ: Oh, was he? Did he give the land to Fish Trap?

DJ: No.

AJ: But he owned that land at one time.

DJ: The land, that creek line (inaudible) you see that land no doubt was struck before the county was cut off. Because I did know the oldest daughter's girl was named Sadie. And they lived up there round Swainsboro, back up in that area and one of the girls is named Doshie, and I don't know who any of them married. But (inaudible) from the [01:20:00] time I was a little girl, and there I done had all my children (inaudible) around 11 years old or whatever. And they came up trying to find (inaudible) Alma that married Doc Donaldson and (inaudible) they were working and the people was telling where the house was. And so they couldn't find nobody. So they stopped there in the lane (inaudible) and my husband met them out there, and they said who they were. And see, and the man, he was called Josie Boy, Boy Baby, and my mama called my brother what was a minister (inaudible) and my mama called him Big Baby, and Cousin Lola called her son Boy Baby. And so my husband called me out there in the lane where they were to talk to. He said, "Do you know these people?" I said, "Well (inaudible) but," I said, "I can't put no name to them." He says, "You don't remember a boy they called Boy Baby?" I said, "Yeah, I heard that name." Said, "Would you know him?" He said, "I'm the Boy Baby," and Lord in heaven, well, I did indeed. And Lester Parrish (inaudible) his grandfather. Now he could remember when my mama -- he's the only one could remember my mama. All the other people don't remember my mama. The Lester Parrish what married Tara. He was the only one could remember my mama. The year my mama died, they all come and (inaudible) my father's farm, Artis Parrish. But Lester and his brother Lon and Leon. He took his boys. My father had me, because he know (inaudible), they come planted my father's crop that year (inaudible).

AJ: Now is this Lester Parrish still living?

DJ: No, he died now a year or so ago.

AJ: OK. Now what was his sister's name? You say his sister name was Tara? What was his sister name? Tara?

DJ: His wife was named Tara.

AJ: His wife was Tara.

DJ: She's still living.

AJ: How old is she?

DJ: Well, I guess she (inaudible) eighties, because I'm 82, and she's beyond me some.

AJ: Now these are Canes Parrish's children? I mean people?

DJ: Yeah. This is Artis Parrish was Canes's son. As well as Cousin Joe Parrish.

AJ: Yes.

DJ: They were Canes's sons.

AJ: Well, how are the Byrds related in there?

DJ: Well, now Detoe Byrd, now I wouldn't know about any relations there. Now they said Aunt Sally, his wife, they said she was a Kirkland before he married her.

AJ: So one of the Kirklands married a Byrd.

DJ: Detoe Byrd married Sally and they said she was a Kirkland. He married her (inaudible).

AJ: Were some of the Mercers related to the Byrds?

DJ: (inaudible) the Mercers -- the Byrds married in the Mercer family.

AJ: Because my uncle Benny married Maggie Byrd.

DJ: Right. I remember (inaudible) I was married, let's see, was I married? I was married I believe before Maggie. So maybe we all (inaudible).

AJ: So you remember Maggie Byrd then.

DJ: Oh my God, we went to school together with Ed Parrish.

AJ: Oh, did you?

DJ: Oh yes we were all schoolgirls.

AJ: Who was her mother and father? Do you know who Maggie's mother and father --

DJ: (inaudible) and Sally Byrd.

AJ: Her daddy was Sally -- her mother was Sally Byrd?

DJ: Yes.

AJ: And who was her dad?

DJ: Toke Byrd.

AJ: Toke Byrd. And this is the Sally who was a Kirkland?

DJ: A Kirkland.

AJ: I see. Now who was Miss Pecola?

DJ: That was the baby of the Byrd family. And she married Themuel Parrish.

AJ: Was that her sister?

DJ: Yeah, she's the baby one of them. Because Aunt Sally and Uncle Toke, they had a big family (inaudible) about 10 or 11. And there was a lot of girls. Troy and [01:25:00] Elmo and Wallace. The three boys. Now the oldest one, I don't know, did he get destroyed in World War I? I did (inaudible) I don't know if you know his name (inaudible) he died way back then when I was a small kid (inaudible) Elmo and Wallace. See, Wallace, he married an Ivy, which was Missie, which was (inaudible) they were tied in to my family.

AJ: Well, I tell you. I never realized you knew so much. So you know you're going to be hearing from me. So you're going to be hearing from me because I got an interest, trying to pull a lot of this together.

DJ: Well, my daughter Rose when she met you, when you got talking, she said, "Oh my Lord." And (inaudible) when she got to know your Aunt Hazel, and then got to know the other cousin up there, what her name, that married Jack Lee.

AJ: Miss Sarah Lee.

DJ: Sarah (inaudible) said, "Oh yes." She said, "Oh my Lord," (inaudible) she said, "And Louis told me, Louis (inaudible)," we were in school (inaudible).

AJ: Yeah, we're running boys.

DJ: (inaudible) she said, "Oh my Lord." She said, "Mama." I said, "Oh well, I can give you the trail to follow." So (inaudible) oh boy, I get (inaudible) they said, "Well, so-and-so is your (inaudible)." I can't put no name (inaudible) I said, "But ain't nobody no stranger to me."

AJ: Mm.

DJ: And also when you go to talking, that's when you begin to trail them which way it's going. And like I told them, Al, when you say a family reunion, now to come to know the family, the family have to make connections. And making connection just like a barrel of fishhooks. You took a bunch of fishhooks together, churn them up, you can't throw one single one out to save your life. Churn fishhooks, they'll tear you just that bad. And I'm saying that's how the nation or the generation of the people is. They tied and mangled just like fishhook.

AJ: Mm.

DJ: OK, I got a niece, and she married double into the family. The Hodges family.

AJ: Who is that?

DJ: Rachel that married Al Lee, which is Ronnie Lee (inaudible) son, younger son. This is Brother Rufus's daughter, the baby daughter. And she married into the Lee family. And see, Ronnie Lee's mama and my daddy was first cousins. Brothers' children.

AJ: Have mercy. Oh boy, I tell you, you got my brain all just going back and forth. My brain is like help. I tell you what.

DJ: (inaudible) shallow water and (inaudible) out in the deep.

AJ: Ooh, you done got me out in the deep now. No I tell you what, we going to be talking a lot because what I'll do is I'm going to call back and I'm going to tape it all so I can -- because you got to put this on tape. You can't just try to remember this kind of stuff.

DJ: That's what they was telling when I was relating to them at our reunion in '90. They said now they need to be -- this need be taped, and keep talking. Because one reason, Al, they don't -- we not got our own life in our hand (inaudible) point that (inaudible) touching bases.

AJ: Well, I tell you what. Our whole conversation tonight, I've taped it.

DJ: Oh you have?

AJ: I have taped it. Now hold on one minute because my tape is almost gone. But let me let you hear just a bit of what we were talking about. Hold on.

DJ: OK.

END OF AUDIO FILE