

Edna Hall Terrell 1

This recording is of an interview conducted by Dr. Alvin Jackson of Edna Hall Terrell. The interview takes place on January 30, 1993, at the home of Terrell, in Youngstown, OH. Topics addressed within in g family genealogy, the Tornado of 1929, and Terrell's time in school spent at Willow Hill and Polk's Academy.

ALVIN JACKSON: Today is January 30 --

EDNA HALL TERRELL: Let's talk a little bit before you start on that thing.

JACKSON: All right! (laughter) Well, today is January the 3-- let me get the day, though, January, January the 30th, 1992. We're in Youngstown, Ohio, at my cousin's house, cousin Ed--

TERRELL: Nineteen ninety-three.

JACKSON: I'm sorry, 1993. See, she's 83 years old and she's helping me out with the date! This is 1993, you're right, and we're in Youngstown, Ohio, at 539 Foster Street, at my cousin Edna Hall Terrell's house. In fact, a few months ago, we were here and we sat down and had a discussion, and I happened to be back here again tonight and wanted to come back and continue the discussion that we had last time. Now, you can go ahead and talk a little bit more, whatever you want to talk about, you know, the kids are fine, my wife's fine, they all say hello to you. You know, after coming this close, I just at least wanted to see you. (laughter)

TERRELL: Yeah, well, I'm -- well, listen, how long you been coming to Youngstown?

JACKSON: Well, I hadn't been coming. See, the last -- before I saw you last time, the last time I was here was probably about 10 years ago.

TERRELL: Oh, that long?

JACKSON: Yeah, well, either some --

TERRELL: And you didn't know how to find me.

JACKSON: I just knew that I had a cousin and I knew what the last name was, so I looked in the phone book. But I always heard of cousin Edna Hall, and I don't know if Aunt Roxie told me or somebody told me in terms of --

TERRELL: I saw you when you was small.

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.

TERRELL: I went to Cousin Bar Missy house, and she told me about you and your sister.

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.

TERRELL: And you came in, and so, I spoke to you. And then the next time, somebody was telling me that you was up in Columbus.

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am, sure enough, well... Lived up there. OK, some of the things I wanted to know about -- and you know, there are not a lot of people left in Willow Hill to ask these questions to. There's not a whole lot of them, so that's why this is so important, and I want to try to get as much as you possibly can. Now, you told me -- tell me when you was born, again?

TERRELL: I was born the 28 of June, 1910.

JACKSON: Nineteen-ten, and the last time I saw you, let's see, you know, we lost Cousin Artie since then, Artie Wiggins.

TERRELL: Is Artie gone?

JACKSON: Yes, she just died in -- she just died, they just buried her. Let's see, she died December, about December 20 -- I think it was the 29th day of December.

TERRELL: What about her sister that was so sick?

JACKSON: She died -- She died January the -- they died about a week apart.

TERRELL: Oh, she died, too?

JACKSON: Cousin Wilma.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: They both died, about a week apart.

TERRELL: Yeah, Artie was a good friend of mine. We went to school together.

JACKSON: That's why I was going to tell you that because I know she was --

TERRELL: I'm so glad.

JACKSON: -- she was born in 1910, too.

TERRELL: Was she?

JACKSON: 'Cause on her funeral, I had a -- if I had really thought about it, I would have brought you a copy of her funeral program because I got a copy. She was born, I believe, in March of 1910, and Cousin Sug was born in 1916. She was 76. So, Cousin Cee Parish is the only one left, out of all the cousins, Dan Parish children.

TERRELL: Only one left... Well, now, listen: John, he's dead. John, he was in Cincinnati. And then... I thought they had a brother in Jersey, but they didn't.

JACKSON: They had one in Philadelphia at one time, Cousin Doc.

TERRELL: And he's dead.

JACKSON: He's dead. His wife is living -- Willie Mae -- but Cousin Doc is gone. In fact, Cousin Cee is the only one.

TERRELL: He's the onliest one.

JACKSON: Left. He was the baby of that bunch --

TERRELL: Yeah, he was a baby.

JACKSON: -- and he's the only one left. So, I was going to tell you about that, and Cousin Sug.

TERRELL: I'm so glad.

JACKSON: Cousin Sug had Alzheimer's, you know? She had been going down for years. But Cousin Artie had done OK, but you know, she had diabetes and sugar, and --

TERRELL: Oh, that's what I have.

JACKSON: -- and she lost her legs.

TERRELL: Oh, did she?

JACKSON: Both of them.

TERRELL: Oh, and both of mine is getting sort of flimsy.

JACKSON: Well, your legs are doing real fine.

TERRELL: Well, I hope and pray God I'll be dead before I have to have any amputations.

JACKSON: No, don't even worry about that, don't even be thinking about that.

TERRELL: I'm telling you.

JACKSON: But she -- they took her back up to Jersey, with her kids. She had a son named Buck -- I believe [05:00] that was his name, Ernest -- and he came down and got her. So, she died in New Jersey, and they brought her back at buried her at Johnson Grove. That's where her membership was. And Cousin Sug, they buried her at Fish Trap. Fish Trap, that's down where -- you know where Fish Trap is?

TERRELL: Yeah, that's where my sister Pearl was buried.

JACKSON: Oh, I didn't know she was -- Oh, because that's where Cousin Bud was buried?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK. OK, so, you --

TERRELL: Now, that's the last time I was down in Georgia, is when Pearl died.

JACKSON: Now, what year was that?

TERRELL: I don't know unless I look.

JACKSON: It was in the '80s, OK, it was in the '80s, I imagine. Now, there's something else I had wanted to ask you. Cousin Pearl was a Hall, but she married a Hall.

TERRELL: That's right.

JACKSON: Now, who was Cousin Bud Hall's people?

TERRELL: Now, that, I don't know, but they was a different Hall than we were.

JACKSON: These are not the same Hall?

TERRELL: No.

JACKSON: Because I know Cousin Bud's dad was Randall Hall.

TERRELL: Yeah, and that's who Pearl married, was Bud.

JACKSON: But I don't know -- Right. But you don't know who Cousin Randall Hall's people was, or where they came from?

TERRELL: No, oh, you seen that they come from up somewhere, you know, not 'round Willow Hill, somewhere else.

JACKSON: They weren't from around Willow Hill?

TERRELL: No.

JACKSON: OK, now... So, you don't know -- did you know what -- did you remember Cousin Randall Hall? Did you remember --

TERRELL: Oh, yeah.

JACKSON: Did you know his wife, Cousin Lizzie?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Now, that was -- Cousin Lizzie was a Parish, wasn't she? When was she married to Cousin Randall, do you know that?

TERRELL: I think her and Artie's...

JACKSON: Daddy.

TERRELL: Daddy...

JACKSON: Brothers and sisters.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Now, Cousin Lizzie, what kind of looking woman was she?

TERRELL: She was dark.

JACKSON: She was a dark woman?

TERRELL: But he was a big, light-skinned --

JACKSON: He was more of a light-skinned type of man? But she was a dark, real dark woman?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Was she a big woman or little?

TERRELL: Dark -- she was small. Aunt Annie was small. Then, I had an aunt named Molly. She was the sturdiest one.

JACKSON: Molly Lee?

TERRELL: Yeah. She was Molly Lee, but she married a Professor Polk.

JACKSON: OK, so she was a great, big woman?

TERRELL: Yeah, she was bigger than the rest of them.

JACKSON: I see.

TERRELL: Now, I don't know whether they was whole or not. I'm telling you, I don't, 'cause they were some half, you know, they was half-brothers and sisters.

JACKSON: Now, she -- You said she was your aunt, Molly?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: How did she -- Was that --

TERRELL: On my father's side.

JACKSON: That was his sister?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK, that was his sister.

TERRELL: Do you know Maybelle, that live across the river?

JACKSON: Burns?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: That was her mother.

JACKSON: Oh, is she still living?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: How's she doing?

TERRELL: Now, the last time I was there, I didn't go over to see her. But before, let me see, who died... I don't know whether Eula Lee died because I went to her funeral, and I went over there. And May Bell was doing real good. Her house had gotten burned down, and then she --

JACKSON: Oh, did it?

TERRELL: And then she had a long trailer, beautiful trailer.

JACKSON: I bet you she lost all her pictures in that house.

TERRELL: I imagine. I imagine she did because I was up here and when I went -- 'cause I always went over to see her -- and... so, but the last time I went, that's when she had this trailer home. But the other time, you know, she had a big, big home.

JACKSON: Now, did you know her husband, Mr. Polk?

TERRELL: Oh, you mean --

JACKSON: Aaron Polk?

TERRELL: -- Aunt Molly?

JACKSON: Aunt Molly, oh, yeah, did you know him?

TERRELL: He was the principal at the first school that I went to, Polk's Academy. Now, I don't know whether they still have that as a name.

JACKSON: OK, you went to school there?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: You went to that school?

TERRELL: That was my first -- Yeah, that was the first school that I ever went to, you know, when I was -- Yeah.

JACKSON: OK, Polk's Academy? It was named after him?

TERRELL: I don't know. It was a new school.

JACKSON: Did y'all have to pay to go to that school?

TERRELL: No. [10:00]

JACKSON: Now, so, what --

TERRELL: We never paid for no school, I don't think, but in Statesboro.

JACKSON: OK. Now, when you started the school at Polk's Academy, he was the principal?

TERRELL: Yes.

JACKSON: Were there any other teachers there, other than him?

TERRELL: Yeah, I think maybe Sue Lee, the one that was the principal where I was teaching, she was teaching there. Seemed like there was another one, seemed like there were three teachers, but I can't remember because I was so young.

JACKSON: How long did you go to school there for?

TERRELL: I don't know. I guess I must have went there until I was about 10. So, that would be about four years.

JACKSON: OK, now --

TERRELL: Because we moved from out that way and moved up Willow Hill side.

JACKSON: OK. Now, whose place was y'all staying on when y'all -- when you went up to around Polk's Academy?

TERRELL: Webb Akin.

JACKSON: You was on Webb Akin's place?

TERRELL: Uh-huh.

JACKSON: OK. And then y'all left his place and went up around Willow Hill?

TERRELL: We went some-- to another place, but I can't remember who -- who that -- who owned that place. I can't remember now.

JACKSON: Now, so, Polk's Academy was on whose place?

TERRELL: It was back in the woods. It wasn't on nobody's place, it was just back in the woods.

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: Maybe it's still there, if it was when you was coming up. You should have known about it.

JACKSON: I heard the name, but I never saw it. Was it a woo--

TERRELL: But it was a new school.

JACKSON: Was it a wooden building?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Was it one of the Rosenwald buildings?

TERRELL: No.

JACKSON: It wasn't a Rosenwald building?

TERRELL: No, it was just -- you know, just a straight wooden school. Now, when I came up here, Willow Hill wasn't a nice school like it is now. It was just a board school, you know? It was made like an L, you know, made this way and then that way.

JACKSON: OK, so, now, was Mr. Aaron, was he a light-skinned man or dark-skinned man, Mr. Aaron Polk?

TERRELL: He was light.

JACKSON: He was a light man?

TERRELL: And tall.

JACKSON: Was he a fat --

TERRELL: No, not fat.

JACKSON: Real tall. Now, did you know where he had gone to school?

TERRELL: No. See, I was too little, maybe.

JACKSON: Where did -- You don't know what year he died then, huh?

TERRELL: No.

JACKSON: But your daddy's sister married him?

TERRELL: Yes.
 JACKSON: Molly.
 TERRELL: Yes.
 JACKSON: OK. And your daddy was Ben Hall?
 TERRELL: Yes.
 JACKSON: Ben Hall. And that was Alex Hall, brother to him?
 TERRELL: Yes.
 JACKSON: OK. Now, what kind of looking man was Alex Hall?
 TERRELL: He was tall and sort of light.
 JACKSON: He was on the light side, too?
 TERRELL: Yes.
 JACKSON: Was your dad on the light side, too?
 TERRELL: I don't think, 'cause see, my daddy died when I was four.
 JACKSON: Oh, so you don't remember him as well?
 TERRELL: No.
 JACKSON: OK.
 TERRELL: But I think my dad was a small man, like Cleve. Do you remember Cleve?
 JACKSON: I remember Cousin Cleve Hall.
 TERRELL: Well... Not --
 JACKSON: Now, he's your brother?
 TERRELL: Yeah.
 JACKSON: Not tall like Mann, you see, Mann was tall.
 TERRELL: He was tall?
 JACKSON: He was a tall man. Now, who was some of your daddy's other brothers? There was Alex Hall was one, was Brian Hall one of his brothers?
 TERRELL: Yes.
 JACKSON: Do you remember him?
 TERRELL: Oh, yeah. I visit them, when he went to New York to stay with his daughter.
 JACKSON: Brian Hall, he left and went to New York?
 TERRELL: Mm-hmm.
 JACKSON: About what year did he die?
 TERRELL: I don't know.
 JACKSON: You don't know, OK. Now, who did Brian Hall marry?
 TERRELL: I don't know -- her name was Edith, but I don't know the last name.
 JACKSON: Was she related to the Donaldsons?
 TERRELL: That's what I don't know.
 JACKSON: You don't know that?
 TERRELL: She was a stout, light-skinned lady.
 JACKSON: OK. Now, who were some of their children?
 TERRELL: Daisy Mae and Eunice and Bernice and then there was two boys... I think I have Eunice in... And they might have -- maybe pictures somewhere. [15:00]
 JACKSON: Are they still living?
 TERRELL: No. I think all of them is dead.
 JACKSON: They're all dead?
 TERRELL: 'Cause the last time I went to New York, I tried to get in touch with the boy that was supposed to be leaving, but I didn't.

JACKSON: Now, were Brian Hall's kids about your age, or were they older than you?

TERRELL: Well, Daisy, I think Daisy Mae was the oldest, and she was older than me. And then there were Eunice and Bernice, and the two boys. Now, I can't remember where the boys come in, but there was two boys.

JACKSON: So, those were Brian Hall's kids?

TERRELL: Yes.

JACKSON: OK. And he married someone named Edith?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK. Now, Alex Hall, who did he marry?

TERRELL: Now, why can't I remember her? Because I was over to her house when my aunt died and they brought her there. And I lived right across the street, you know, from Uncle Alex with Aunt Minnie.

JACKSON: What aunt was that, that died?

TERRELL: That was on my mother's side.

JACKSON: Your mother's sister had died?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK, and then this was --

TERRELL: Yeah, and they brought her from -- at that time, they was operating in the doctor's office. She had cancer at this breast.

JACKSON: And they took it off?

TERRELL: Yeah, they took it off five years before, and then it came back in the ribs. And they dug down in the ribs; she never woke up off the operating table.

JACKSON: She didn't, huh? That was in Statesboro?

TERRELL: Yes.

JACKSON: What doctor did that?

TERRELL: I don't know.

JACKSON: Were you a little girl then?

TERRELL: No, I was going to Statesboro.

JACKSON: No, Alex -- And so, that's Alex Hall's wife. Was her name Ruthie?

TERRELL: Yeah, that's right, Aunt Ruthie. But I don't know -- I don't know her last name, who she was before she married Uncle Alex.

JACKSON: Well, I heard that she was related to the Loves, Uncle Alfred Love's sister.

TERRELL: Oh...

JACKSON: Ruthie, she was a Love. OK, I heard she was Uncle Alfred Love's sister.

TERRELL: Sister.

JACKSON: That's what I hear. Now, I don't know.

TERRELL: Well, that's about it.

JACKSON: 'Cause her name was Ruthie.

TERRELL: Yeah, that's right. She named me.

JACKSON: She named you?

TERRELL: Yeah. Edna Mae.

JACKSON: Oh, did she?

TERRELL: Mm-hmm.

JACKSON: OK, now what kind of looking woman was she?

TERRELL: She was sort of stout and light.

JACKSON: She was on the light side?

TERRELL: Mm-hmm.

JACKSON: Now... She was on the light side, OK, now, and you said Uncle -- what were some of their children named, Uncle Alfred's children?

TERRELL: Uncle Alex?

JACKSON: What's Uncle Alex's children's names?

TERRELL: Let me see... I can't remember right now, but one of them was a preacher that lived in Statesboro.

JACKSON: A preacher?

TERRELL: She had a rink-style home, I've been to her home.

JACKSON: Oh... Bessie?

TERRELL: Maybe one -- I know, yes, they had one named Bessie, now, but I'm not sure whether she was Bessie.

JACKSON: Oh, I remember them -- because that's Cousin Tett's sister.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And Uncle Alex is Cousin Tett's daddy.

TERRELL: Yes.

JACKSON: OK, I know there was one named Bessie. I don't know what the other one's name was.

TERRELL: I think there was one named Leon?

JACKSON: That's right. That's the one who got the preacher's -- you're right.

TERRELL: Is she still living?

JACKSON: I don't know.

TERRELL: Oh, you don't know.

JACKSON: I don't know. So, how many children did Uncle Alex have?

TERRELL: I don't know.

JACKSON: You don't know?

TERRELL: I can't much remember the boys.

JACKSON: He had some boys, too?

TERRELL: That's what I can't remember.

JACKSON: OK, I don't know --

TERRELL: I know he had -- Liz had -- let me see, Cousin Tett... [20:00] And they had one that worked down in Savannah, I believe she was a nurse.

JACKSON: OK, I don't know.

TERRELL: But I can't remember her name -- I was thinking about her the other day. At least there must have been about four girls.

JACKSON: OK, OK. All right. And other -- So, we named Alex Hall, Brian Hall, Ben Hall -- that was your dad -- now, who was the other Hall? Any more Hall boys? Any other -- Your dad's brothers?

TERRELL: Well, they was half-brothers to the Wallace, Uncle Wallace Hodge.

JACKSON: Uncle Wallace Hodge?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: They were half-brothers to him?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Wallace Hodge?

TERRELL: Wallace and... what was the other one named? Lived up toward Statesboro?

JACKSON: Wash?

TERRELL: Yeah, Wash was the oldest, and Wallace was the second. They was half-brothers to them.

JACKSON: Ben Hall and them?

TERRELL: Yes.

JACKSON: Was half-brothers to Wallace Hodge?

TERRELL: Yes.

JACKSON: How was that?

TERRELL: (laughter) Don't ask me.

JACKSON: Your daddy and them told you that?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK. Wash, Uncle Wallace Hodge, who married Melindie?

TERRELL: I don't -- I done forgot who he married, but he lived --

JACKSON: Uncle Wallace Hodge?

TERRELL: He lived out towards Pulaski. That's where he used to live.

JACKSON: Now, was he the one used to go up to Bank's Creek?

TERRELL: No, the other one, Wallace and Wash, Wash, Wash...

JACKSON: Was Wash a minister? He was a preacher.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Was he a preacher?

TERRELL: Well, he lived out towards Pulaski.

JACKSON: Was Wash a preacher, the one you're talking about, was he a preacher?

TERRELL: Yeah, Uncle Wallace, that was the oldest one, I think, and Wash, Wash, Wash... Wash... One of them lived up there not far from Portal.

JACKSON: That was Uncle Wallace. Wash lived over by Meadow Way.

TERRELL: Yeah, and he was the preacher.

JACKSON: He was the preacher?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And they were half-brothers...

TERRELL: To my daddy.

JACKSON: Now, how could that be?

TERRELL: Well, now --

JACKSON: How can your daddy --

TERRELL: Now, listen, the thing about it -- Cousin Maisanne said don't have no sisters living?

JACKSON: None living. So, Cousin Maisanne said... OK, Wash was her daddy?

TERRELL: Yeah, 'cause that's how me and her was first cousins.

JACKSON: You and Cousin Mae said first cousins?

TERRELL: Yes.

JACKSON: OK, so her daddy and Ben Hall were brothers, and you say they were half-brothers?

TERRELL: Yes.

JACKSON: OK, now, so Wash Hodge and your daddy were half brothers?

TERRELL: And I think that Uncle Alex was half-brothers to my dad.

JACKSON: Uncle Alex was a half-brother?

TERRELL: I think. You have to get somebody, find somebody older than me.

JACKSON: OK, now, let me -- who was your daddy's daddy?

TERRELL: I don't know.

JACKSON: Now, come -- You've never heard what your daddy's name was?

TERRELL: My daddy's daddy?

JACKSON: Yes, your granddaddy.

TERRELL: No.

JACKSON: Did you --

TERRELL: I never had no granddaddy and no grandmother.

JACKSON: You never heard of what they were named was, though?

TERRELL: No.

JACKSON: Now, let me tell you what I heard.

TERRELL: OK.

JACKSON: I don't know if this is true or not. I can tell you what Uncle Alex's daddy name is, but I don't know if he has the same daddy as your daddy. Uncle Alex daddy name was James Hall. That's what Uncle Alex daddy name was.

TERRELL: I have a nephew named James Hall, lived down there in town in Statesboro.

JACKSON: Right, but Uncle Alex's father's name was James Hall, and James Hall married -- see, now, this is why I'm confused about this. James Hall, I heard, married somebody named Susan Riggs, she was a Riggs.

TERRELL: Yeah, 'cause we was related to the Riggs, but I didn't know how.

JACKSON: I heard that James Hall married Susan Riggs, and they had several children, and their children names was Alex Hall, Brian Hall, that whole -- all them Halls came from James Hall. He was one of the old Halls. [25:00] Now, but what's confusing me is that my, see, Wash Hodge is my great, great, great grandfather. Because my grandfather's Sol Lee. And Aunt Maisanne said --

TERRELL: See, I know Sol just like I know my brothers almost, 'cause we lived right --

JACKSON: Near them?

TERRELL: Yeah, right across the field from them.

JACKSON: OK, well, we're going to talk about that a little later. But Sol Lee's mother, and Aunt Maisanne were sisters, 'cause her name was Aunt Sarah Ann. Now, what -- And Aunt Sarah Ann's daddy name was Wash Hodge, and Aunt Maisanne said her daddy's name was Wash Hodge. And what I heard was that Wash Hodge married Eliza Riggs. And what I heard was that Wash Hodge's wife, named Eliza, and James Hall wife, named Susan, were sisters. That's what I heard.

TERRELL: I don't know that first.

JACKSON: But I heard that Eliza was a Riggs, that's how we were related to the Riggs. Eliza Riggs and Mr. Herbert Riggs's grandfather name was Steve Riggs. Steve Riggs -- Eliza Riggs, who was Aunt Maisanne's grandmother... No, that would be Aunt Maisanne's... see, Aunt Maisanne's daddy would be Wash, so that's Aunt Mae's mother, was a Riggs, before she married. Because Aunt Maisanne's daddy name was Wash Hodge, and her mother's name was Eliza Riggs. Now, that's what I heard, so that's why I was trying to figure out how they'd be half-brothers. Unless -- I don't know how that could be. It might be, though, I just don't know. But you always heard that, though?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: That Ben Hall -- unless Uncle Alex and Ben was half-brothers, that might have been...

TERRELL: Yeah, they was half -- they was half-brothers.

JACKSON: OK, Uncle Alex --

TERRELL: They wasn't whole.

JACKSON: See, then, that might be it.

TERRELL: They wasn't whole brothers.

JACKSON: OK, then that might be it, then, if Uncle Alex and Ben are half-brothers... then that means that -- I don't know how that would be, but they -- that -- they probably would have to be half-brothers for them to be half-brothers to Wash Hodge. But you always heard that?

TERRELL: Yeah, Cousin Maisanne, she told me so many times. And I knew we was first cousins, me and her. I knew that.

JACKSON: You knew that?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: So, if you're first cousins, that means that your daddies had to be brothers?

TERRELL: They wasn't brothers.

JACKSON: All right.

TERRELL: Don't you know nobody older than me?

JACKSON: I don't know.

TERRELL: That can tell you more about it?

JACKSON: The only person that I know, but they're not old as you, they're about the -- well, I know -- I know one person was two years older than you, that's my uncle, Doogie Lee.

TERRELL: He's still living?

JACKSON: He's still living. He's 80 -- let's see, he was born in 1908.

TERRELL: Two years older than me.

JACKSON: And that's the oldest one I know that knows the people.

TERRELL: And he's in Florida?

JACKSON: No, he's back up in Georgia, now. He lives over by Metter. He lives on the same place that Wash Hodge -- he lives on that place.

TERRELL: Oh!

JACKSON: He lives on that place where Wash Hodge was. He said that was his grandfather lived over there, and his grandfather was Wash Hodge.

TERRELL: Yeah...

JACKSON: So, he is the only one that I know. Now, there was a woman, but she died last year. She was 102 years old, and she lived in Waycross, Georgia, and she was related to the Riggs. She was Dan Riggs's daughter, and Dan Riggs and Mr. Herbert Riggs's father, Steve Riggs, were brothers. And this woman, I think, was first cousin, or Cousin Maisanne said -- she died about a year ago, though.

TERRELL: Have you been down in Georgia? Or you don't go down there much?

JACKSON: Well, I usually -- in fact, I was thinking about going down there later this month.

TERRELL: Well, if you go down, then you go down and see him.

JACKSON: I'm gonna do that because I'm gonna find this out.

TERRELL: And let him tell you as much as he knows. He might not know as much as I know.

JACKSON: He might not. [30:00] But I'm gonna find out if he knows anything about that. I want to -- 'Cause I don't know that. But now, did -- Now, Uncle -- Your daddy has some sisters. What was your daddy's sister's name? You told me Molly was one of them.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And she married Uncle Aaron Polk?

TERRELL: And she married a Lee, Jesse.

JACKSON: Jesse Lee?

TERRELL: Lee.

JACKSON: OK. Now, how many children did --

TERRELL: And then the one that married the Saturday, that was my aunt.

JACKSON: What was her name? Eliza? Jane Saturday? The one that married Adolfo Saturday?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK, I think that --

TERRELL: That was one of them.

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: It was three.

JACKSON: Any of their children living, the Saturdays?

TERRELL: No, I think the last one died a few years ago, in Glenwood, a suburb of Cincinnati.

JACKSON: OK. Now, what did Eliza Jane look like? Do you remember what she looked like?

TERRELL: Yeah, all of them were sort of small women. They wasn't real big and tall, you know, they were sort of small.

JACKSON: Were they dark or light women?

TERRELL: They was lighter than me. So, that would be sort of dark, dark...

JACKSON: OK, now, and then you said Molly -- now, did you know if --

TERRELL: Yeah, Aunt Molly, now, she was... stouter and taller and lighter.

JACKSON: Than the rest of them, some rest of them?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK. Now, what about Aunt Annie?

TERRELL: Aunt Annie, she was a small lady. She was about my color.

JACKSON: OK. Now, who are some of her children, Annie?

TERRELL: (inaudible) I know that none of the Saturdays is living. I know all of them deceased. 'Cause they didn't have but one sister -- all the rest of them was boys, and all of them would be a -- and I can't remember whether... I think some of Aunt Minnie's girls is living, but they live in Philly.

JACKSON: They live in Philly?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Now, Aunt Minnie, who did she belong to? Aunt Annie?

TERRELL: Yeah, they're sisters.

JACKSON: When the -- Aunt Minnie was a sister to Aunt Annie?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Oh, so that was one of your dad's sisters too?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: -- Aunt Minnie?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK, now, she was dark, though, wasn't she?

TERRELL: Yeah, and she was tall.

JACKSON: She was tall? OK. Those were your dad's sisters. OK, now, can I turn that television down a little bit?

TERRELL: Oh, sure, I can turn it down.
 JACKSON: OK, I just don't want to...
 TERRELL: (inaudible)
 JACKSON: Oh, I'm sorry, that -- I just --
 TERRELL: Oh, no, that's OK, that's OK, I wasn't listening to it because I was talking to you, trying to think.
 JACKSON: OK.
 TERRELL: That's OK.
 JACKSON: Now, tell me a little bit about you said you knew my grandfather, Sol?
 TERRELL: Mm-hmm.
 JACKSON: You said you all lived close to them?
 TERRELL: Yeah.
 JACKSON: And you was right across the woods?
 TERRELL: Yeah.
 JACKSON: Now, you were living on Webb Aiken's place then?
 TERRELL: No, I was living on John H. Moor's place.
 JACKSON: John H. Moor's place?
 TERRELL: Mm-hmm.
 JACKSON: Were they living on the same place, too?
 TERRELL: No. I don't know whose place they was living on. Maybe it was Uncle Moor's... Or whether it was some white person's place. Cause the -- When the tornado come, it tore their house up. I know you hear you --
 JACKSON: No, I didn't know that.
 TERRELL: Oh, yeah, they -- we had a bad tornado down there in '29 and it tore Bonnie's house up [35:00] and set it afire and just took her and the children out on a mattress and sit them out there in the woods.
 JACKSON: Oh, my lord!
 TERRELL: Oh, you're talking about God blessing a family.
 JACKSON: They come so close, didn't they?
 TERRELL: They come close.
 JACKSON: Oh...
 TERRELL: Yeah.
 JACKSON: And it tore the house up?
 TERRELL: Tore the house down and the lightning struck it and burned it up.
 JACKSON: And you was --
 TERRELL: And just took them, and I was going -- I was down in Statesboro, going to school with my sister, Eulee, and Bonnie say it just took them out on the mattress and just set them out there in the woods, and then the house burnt up.
 JACKSON: And now what --
 TERRELL: None of the children didn't get hurt.
 JACKSON: Now, you know that was the Lord.
 TERRELL: Oh, it was him. That was terrible --
 JACKSON: That was about as close as you can get.
 TERRELL: Yep, yeah.
 JACKSON: So, you was living near them then, huh?

TERRELL: Yeah. I was living right down the road from them. It was a new house when we moved in it, and I think Hankie Hall used to live in that same house.

JACKSON: OK, she used to live in that same house?

TERRELL: Uh-huh. But when I went back down there to Pearl's funeral, that house was tore down.

JACKSON: It was tore down, OK. So many things have changed down there, and now it's so hard to figure it out, isn't it?

TERRELL: Yeah, and downtown, just looked like a different Statesboro. Yeah.

JACKSON: Did y'all go to Statesboro very much when y'all were children?

TERRELL: Yeah, every Saturday we would go to Statesboro.

JACKSON: So, you didn't go to Portal much, then, huh?

TERRELL: No, cause Portal was so little.

JACKSON: How did y'all travel to Statesboro?

TERRELL: In a wagon, I think. On that -- that way back then, you didn't have a whole lot of cars, and so we went -- I know I went to church a lot, nobody but my mother, and she always carried me with her.

JACKSON: And she would drive the wagon herself? Would y'all have a mule?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Do you remember the mule's name?

TERRELL: (laughter) Done forgot. My sister-in-law was telling me the other day about the mule because she started talking about her husband, how he loved dogs and mules and things.

JACKSON: Which sister was this?

TERRELL: That's the same one that have Alzheimer's.

JACKSON: Oh, so she was thinking a little bit about it, huh?

TERRELL: Oh, yes, she -- she thinks about different things at different times. Especially when she come here and see the kitty, then she start talking about how her husband loved pets.

JACKSON: So, she knows you and all, though, huh?

TERRELL: Oh, yeah.

JACKSON: Can she call on the telephone and things like that?

TERRELL: No.

JACKSON: She can't remember how to dial numbers or anything like that, huh?

TERRELL: No, and they don't let her answer the phone because if she do, she don't know how to hang it back up.

JACKSON: Who's she staying with?

TERRELL: One of her sons. She had 11 boys and one girl.

JACKSON: I declare.

TERRELL: And one of the boys is a preacher, so he stays in Atlanta and the girl was here, but she wasn't right, and so he just left and come on -- come on up here, you know? And he's the one taking care of his mother, having nurses to come in and the people to come in. He cooks and wash.

JACKSON: How old is she?

TERRELL: She was born in 1914.

JACKSON: Nineteen-fourteen. OK.

TERRELL: This year I think she'll be 78, I think. 'Cause then was -- My brother was born in 1914. I was just looking at that death today.

JACKSON: So, y'all -- do you remember who was some of the first people around Bulloch County to get cars? Who were some of the first blacks to get cars that you remember?

TERRELL: No, not in Bulloch County. I have an uncle in Ogeechee, he was the first one [40:00] I know that had a car. He was, you know, sort of big-shot.

JACKSON: What was his name?

TERRELL: William Burns.

JACKSON: That was your mother's people?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: But I can't remember, in Statesboro, I may say up there around Willow Hill was the first one that got a car. Maybe I was too small or something; I don't know.

JACKSON: Did you know Uncle Ben and Aunt Roseanne, then?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Do you remember them?

TERRELL: Uncle Ben Donaldson?

JACKSON: Yes.

TERRELL: Yeah, I knew him real good. I was with Uncle Ben most every week when I go and stayed with Mann, he would always come down every Sunday morning and have breakfast with Mann.

JACKSON: Oh, did he?

TERRELL: And even with you -- since I've been up here and went back down there when Roxie was taking care of him, I went and stayed all night with her. He was a very sick man.

JACKSON: He was sick then, huh?

TERRELL: Very, very sick. I mean, Roxie had really went through with something. I just don't know, when she saw me, she was so happy, "Edna, you look so good..." And I have had it pretty hard, too, but not like her. You know, taking care of all these -- all those sick people, one had before I told you, we went over there and Bonnie in one room, very sick, and the mother in one room. And one of her daughters had got killed and the other one was in a wheelchair. Oh, she have had a time. I know she missed that boy 'cause he give her a lot of trouble, but at least she can be at a little bit of ease. Now, you know, maybe she can get herself together.

JACKSON: Yes, she did. Now, you said Uncle Ben used to come down to Cousin Mann's house every Sunday morning?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: They was that good of friends?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Wonder why he came to see him so much -- they just liked each other?

TERRELL: He just wanted to have breakfast with him. Mann had a lot of people -- he was somebody who just loved to feed people.

JACKSON: Oh, did he?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: So, he'd invite people to his house?

TERRELL: Yeah. And he eat real fast, with -- by the time they get started, good -- he'd be done, finished.

JACKSON: Who was that?

TERRELL: Mann. He eat real fast.

JACKSON: Oh he eat real fast?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Now, where was he living at, then?

TERRELL: He was living right down the lane, in front of where you -- your mother stayed. You know, they have a lane that go down there? Now, I don't know who live down there. I mean, you were little and living with your grandmother.

JACKSON: Now, the lane right down in front of where we used to stay is where Mr. Joe Reed and them used to stay, down there. Or is that where Mr. Chick Daltry stayed? Which one was that?

TERRELL: Yeah, right at the end of that lane down there, that's where Mann used to live. And then, Artie's daddy lived right up on the hill, in the house.

JACKSON: In that same lane?

TERRELL: I don't know whether the house is still there or not.

JACKSON: Oh, I see. So, they lived down that same lane?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And Uncle Ben walked way down there?

TERRELL: It wasn't far.

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: It wasn't far. And then I had another uncle, named Uncle Mart.

JACKSON: Mart Hall?

TERRELL: Yeah. And he had a clementine still down there.

JACKSON: OK, now --

TERRELL: And they was a house, just after you crossed that little water, like, then the house was sitting there and the still was sitting over here. He had a clementine still.

JACKSON: Now, Martin Hall was Ben Hall's brother?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: That was your daddy's brother?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: That was your uncle?

TERRELL: Yeah, he was one of the young ones. He might have been the baby. And he went to Florida and he got killed.

JACKSON: Oh, did he? Who did he marry?

TERRELL: I done forgot her name.

JACKSON: OK, did they have children?

TERRELL: They had one daughter, but it wasn't their daughter. It was... I don't know whether it was somebody related to her, and her name was Bernice. And I went down there once and I saw her at -- they had some kind of little meeting, like a club meeting, and I saw her.

JACKSON: OK. OK, now, did you remember Aunt Roseanne, much? [45:00]

TERRELL: That is... Uncle Ben's wife?

JACKSON: Yes.

TERRELL: Yeah, I knew her.

JACKSON: You remember her, too?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: What kind of looking woman was she?

TERRELL: She wasn't a big woman.

JACKSON: She was a little woman? Was she light or dark?

TERRELL: I think she was about, like -- she about like me. But Uncle Ben was light.

JACKSON: He was light?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Real light, or --

TERRELL: Big, real big.

JACKSON: Was he big?

TERRELL: Uh-huh, and tall.

JACKSON: Was he big as Cousin Bud Hall was?

TERRELL: I think he was bigger than Bud.

JACKSON: He was bigger than Cousin Bud?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Great, big old man, then?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And he was a light-skinned man?

TERRELL: Yeah. Now, Roxie could have told you all about him.

JACKSON: I'm gonna go -- When I go over to see her, I'm going to ask about him. But he was a great -- Now, did you remember when he used to have the store?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Did you ever go to the store?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Get candy and stuff?

TERRELL: Yeah. Cause the railroad track was right in front of the house, but I think they tore that railroad track down, didn't they?

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. Did you ever ride that train?

TERRELL: I can't remember riding it because I believe it was a freight train. That's what I believe it was, a freight train.

JACKSON: But it came right in front of his house?

TERRELL: Yeah. Every day.

JACKSON: I see. Now, did you ever go to visit Uncle Ben's house?

TERRELL: Yeah. A lot of times.

JACKSON: You say you spent the night there with Aunt Roxie one time?

TERRELL: Oh, yeah, after I had been here and went back to somebody's funeral. I can't remember whose funeral because I went to everybody's funeral. All my peoples and my cousins, and... and my sister-in-laws. I went to all of them.

JACKSON: Who was the first -- What was the first -- Who was the first funeral you ever remember going to, as a little girl? First time you ever went to a funeral.

TERRELL: I don't remember that. But I remember after I got up here, one of my brothers died, and I went back down there. I wasn't living in this house. I been in this house for 40... ever since '45.

JACKSON: Been a long time.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: What year did you come to Youngstown?

TERRELL: Nineteen-thirty-four.

JACKSON: (whistles) Thirty-four. That's a long...

TERRELL: The first day of June, the first day.

JACKSON: June first.

TERRELL: 'Cause when I closed the school down on the 17 of May, I came to Cincinnati. And I stayed there with Artie's older sister, Bert, and she married my brother, Theodore.

JACKSON: Oh, that's your brother?

TERRELL: Yeah. And I came there and stayed with them until the first of June, and I left and I got over here. The first of June.

JACKSON: Well, that was just so shocking about Cousin Ted died right after his mother did, didn't he?

TERRELL: Yeah, I imagine it was just too much because they were so close. Because she had six miscarriages before she had him.

JACKSON: Really?

TERRELL: And when I came up here and he was two years old, because he would just be saying, "Milkman, milkman." Yeah. And she raised him. And she just thought the world of him, and he just loved her.

JACKSON: And that's the only child she had?

TERRELL: That's the onliest one that she had that lived. She had some twins, but they died. She just -- they just -- she just couldn't hold them.

JACKSON: What -- They were -- She would take them for a certain part of time, and then they'd come before -- it's too early, huh?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Now, what year did your brother, Theodore, die?

TERRELL: I don't know.

JACKSON: They were living in Cincinnati when he died?

TERRELL: Yeah. But I had been there a lot of times before he died. [50:00] He wasn't sick no times.

JACKSON: Just -- What killed him?

TERRELL: Well, he went to the hospital and I think they was taking testing, and they thought he had TB, I think. And then she went to see him, and he said he wanted some cornbread and greens, and she said, "Well, when I go back to the house, I'm gonna fix you some, and when I come back in the morning, I'll bring it to you." And when she got to the house, the phone was ringing. And when she run in to pick it up, they told her he was dead.

JACKSON: Good gracious alive, that quick?

TERRELL: That quick.

JACKSON: I know that just shocked her too much.

TERRELL: That quick.

JACKSON: About how old was Ted, then?

TERRELL: Let me see... I don't know, but he was sort of big. He was pretty big, then.

JACKSON: When you was in Cincinnati, did you see Aunt Cora? She was there then, wasn't she?

TERRELL: Oh, yeah, Cora and Eula, they were my best friends. They was older than me by five years, older than me, but I just run with them. I've never run with people my age. There would always be somebody older, and they was my best friends. And I --

JACKSON: Did you go --

TERRELL: -- used to always, when I'd go to Cincinnati, I would never go unless I'd go to Cora's house.

JACKSON: Did you know her when she was up at Willow Hill, before she moved?

TERRELL: Oh, yeah, that's when we was good friends!

JACKSON: Oh, y'all ran as children together, huh?

TERRELL: Yeah, went to school together, yeah.

JACKSON: And what kind of person was Aunt Cora?

TERRELL: She was nice. She was real nice.

JACKSON: Was she a hothead type?

TERRELL: No. And Eula was nice, too. Eula's still living.

JACKSON: How's she doing?

TERRELL: She had a stroke.

JACKSON: How long ago was that?

TERRELL: I think that was since Emory died because -- did you know Emory?

JACKSON: Emory Hall?

TERRELL: Uh-huh.

JACKSON: OK, now, that's Cousin Mann Hall's son?

TERRELL: Yeah, yeah.

JACKSON: When did he die?

TERRELL: I don't know. I have to look.

JACKSON: Now, he was at Cousin Bert's funeral, wasn't he?

TERRELL: He had been dead.

JACKSON: He died before Cousin Bert?

TERRELL: Oh, yeah.

JACKSON: Cousin Alberta?

TERRELL: He died -- He must have died in the early eighties 'cause my niece was here from California, and we all went down to the funeral, my sister-in-law, and...

JACKSON: Well, Cousin Eula was at Cousin Alberta's funeral.

TERRELL: Yeah, but she had got better.

JACKSON: Oh, she had gotten better, then?

TERRELL: Yeah. They said that she come out from under that stroke good, but when she was t Emory's funeral, she had got so fat, but she said she had that -- what is that --

JACKSON: Thyroid?

TERRELL: Yeah, that's what she said she had. No, she looked real good. I went over to see her, but she wasn't home.

JACKSON: OK. Now, so, you used to run with her, y'all was all up at school together, were they good students at school?

TERRELL: Yeah. Yeah.

JACKSON: But you said they was ahead of you in class, though?

TERRELL: Oh, yeah, 'cause they was about five years -- they was along with Bert, and Bert was five years older than me. I thought she was a more -- I thought she was old, much

older, but that's what she said. That she was five years older when I went down to Emory's school.

JACKSON: Now, my grandmother, [Bonnie?], she wasn't at Willow Hill when you was there, was she?

TERRELL: If she was, she was -- she was older 'cause she's older than Eula and...

JACKSON: She was born in --

TERRELL: I don't know.

JACKSON: She was born in 1900.

TERRELL: Oh, well, she must want -- maybe she was out of school. She was about out of school 'cause she had children, let me see how many children she had. Your mother was the one got burned up, huh?

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.

TERRELL: And she had that boy, what was his name, Cardale?

JACKSON: No, June. They called him Russell. [55:00]

TERRELL: Oh, yeah, I know it was an L or something. And then the oldest girl --

JACKSON: Wadele.

TERRELL: -- and then Missy. I believe your mother was born, she must have been the baby when I left.

JACKSON: When did you leave?

TERRELL: How old was your mother?

JACKSON: Let's see, my mother was born in '31.

TERRELL: Well, you see, I didn't leave until '34.

JACKSON: And then, so, Uncle Bobby was a baby, he was born in '33. So, she was the Lee baby, she was the Lee baby.

TERRELL: I know she had quite a few children when I left, then, yeah. But what I have been trying to get together, after the tornado tore her house down, where did she go? Did they build another house down there? And I can't get that together.

JACKSON: Yeah, I think they built another house back up in that wood.

TERRELL: Yeah, back there.

JACKSON: But then they went to Grandpa Ben's house after that. He came and got them and her -- but that -- I don't really know, though.

TERRELL: I know you don't, 'cause you wasn't even born. And that's what I have been trying to think.

JACKSON: Did you know any people other than her house that got torn up in the tornado?

TERRELL: Yeah, Cousin Huck Saturday, his house was down there by the sinkhole. Did you ever know where the sinkhole was?

JACKSON: No, ma'am.

TERRELL: Oh, you never did know where the sinkhole was?

JACKSON: Sure didn't. What was the sinkhole?

TERRELL: That was a place they say didn't have no bottom. It was, let me see... just like you go past Willow Hill and get that road going out that way, it was on that road. And Cousin Huck and his family lived in a house not far from there. And that tornado tore their house down and scared -- just started at a mule's tail and skinned all the hair, all the skin, skin off of them. And they was up in the air with the chickens and the hogs and everything, and his neck... I imagine his neck got broke and his jawbone, when I went to

the hospital to see him -- 'cause I was going to school down in Statesboro -- all of his jawbones and things was wired together. And his head was big as two --

JACKSON: Who was that?

TERRELL: Cousin Huck.

JACKSON: Oh, he was hurt up bad, huh?

TERRELL: And his wife got her leg broke. And one of the daughters got her leg broke. And they had a baby, and the baby was carried down there not far from the sinkhole, with his head put into the wire fence, just like the wire fence was made around his neck. And he lived 'cause he come here to see us I don't know how many times.

JACKSON: Well, I declare!

TERRELL: Yeah. And -- But she is dead and he is dead 'cause I went to the funeral, to his funeral. Oh, you see, he was my first cousin.

JACKSON: The Saturday, OK, that's right. 'Cause --

TERRELL: Yeah. And the girl, she still is crippled. You know, they didn't fix the peoples up like they fix them up now. If you get something broke about you now, they can fix you where you won't -- you much -- you'd be walking crippled.

JACKSON: So, she was crippled from that tornado, still?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Where does she live now?

TERRELL: She lives in Glendale.

JACKSON: Ohio?

TERRELL: Mm-hmm.

JACKSON: OK, now --

END OF AUDIO FILE