

Edna Hall Terrell

Part Three

This recording is part three of Dr. Alvin Jackson's interview of Edna Hall Terrell. Topics discussed within focus on family genealogy.

EDNA HALL TERRELL: And he left. And I guess in two or three days, he would just sit right on his front porch with some of his friends, playing cards. And he told his wife to bring him a drink of water. And she started with the water, and before she got there, he was dead.

ALVIN JACKSON: Had a heart attack?

TERRELL: I guess that's what it was. Just that quick.

JACKSON: And now, he didn't do that well after his mother, did he? How long after that? Was that several years, or...

TERRELL: No, it wasn't. I'm telling you the truth -- I don't know how long it was, but it wasn't a whole lot of years. It wasn't. But we was -- I would go there for Cousin [Mason?] was there. And his wife tells me, said, "And Lord, you sure can tell you all was related 'cause you come and see him and her all the time, and now he dead and you don't come no more." (laughter)

JACKSON: Now, how was you related to Aunt Mason?

TERRELL: Aunt Mason? She was not -- Aunt Mason was my first cousin.

JACKSON: Now, how was you related to Aunt Mason?

TERRELL: Now, listen, Cousin Mason and your grandmother, they were sisters, wasn't they?

JACKSON: Yeah, my great-grandmother, they were sisters.

TERRELL: And you wasn't born when [Ross?] died. All of them had [Ann?] in their name.

JACKSON: Right.

TERRELL: Couldn't meet... There was a lot of them, all of them had Anns in their name. They was cousins.

JACKSON: But you don't --

TERRELL: They was not -- No, I don't know how that worked.

JACKSON: But Aunt Mason said she was your first cousin?

TERRELL: Yes. Cousin Mason's father, uncle --

JACKSON: [Wash Hodge?].

TERRELL: And my brother was brothers.

JACKSON: Your brother?

TERRELL: My daddy's brother. I know you can't -- you -- you ain't gonna need a -- you're trying to think it up for you? Can't think it unless some of them tell you, and all of them dead.

JACKSON: So, now, your daddy was related to Aunt Mason's father?

TERRELL: Cousin Mason's Uncle Wash and my daddy were brothers. Now, Uncle Wash had another brother -- what was his name?

JACKSON: [Wallace?].

TERRELL: Yeah, Wallace, and that was the one that died later, up at [Tory Fall?]. I was down South when he was buried.

JACKSON: Oh, were you?

TERRELL: That time, I was down South. When he died, I went to his funeral.

JACKSON: Oh, did you?

TERRELL: 'Cause those two were brothers to my daddy. They was older than my daddy, but...

JACKSON: They were brothers to your daddy?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And your daddy's name was [Ben Hall?]. Oh, I didn't know that. And they were brothers to Wash Hodge and Wallace?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: So, did you know Aunt [Jo?] used to live here?

TERRELL: Yeah, I knew Cousin Jo. I would go over there all the time to see her. Went to her funeral.

JACKSON: She was old when she died.

TERRELL: Yeah, she was 109. That's what the paper said. That's -- the paper said she was 90-something, but when you figure out the year that she was born to the year that she died, she was 100-and-something. Yeah.

JACKSON: Now, what kind of person was she?

TERRELL: She was... she was nice. I stayed with her the first year I got married.

JACKSON: Oh, did you? You mean when you was down in Georgia?

TERRELL: No, when I got married here.

JACKSON: Oh, here?

TERRELL: I got married here.

JACKSON: OK. Now, she was one of the first ones, I guess, from [Bullet County?] to come up this way?

TERRELL: I don't know was she up here before my sister came in. I don't know. But yeah, I know Cousin Mas-- Cousin...

JACKSON: Did you ever hear them talk about the old times, their people, very much? Did Aunt Mason talk a lot about that?

TERRELL: Yeah, she talked about her people all the time. And you see, now, Cousin Jo, that was Ms. -- wasn't that Ms. [Roofat?]?

JACKSON: Yes.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Ms. [Del Roofat?].

TERRELL: Because I knew her brother, [John?]. Yeah, I knew him. And I knew all of them. I knew Ms. [Meer?]. [05:00]

JACKSON: Ms. [Amanda?].

TERRELL: Her son -- Ms. Amanda's son, I think, is a one year in Atlanta.

JACKSON: I don't know about that.

TERRELL: Oh, you don't know. I got -- I stayed in [Hartsville?] for three months and got out and I traveled to the ushers convention. And I went down there, stayed with [Delaware?]. You know Delaware?

JACKSON: Yes, that's Cousin [Mann Hall?]'s daughter.

TERRELL: Mann, yeah. She talked to me in -- hasn't been too long ago. She made out she was coming up, and she ain't come up yet. But anyway, I went into a coma, so he come and worked on me, and they got me a week so I wouldn't have to go to the hospital.

JACKSON: OK, that's good.

TERRELL: See, I knew all of those...

JACKSON: Now --

TERRELL: But you know, when you get older, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

JACKSON: I was just gonna ask you about your son. Now, how many children did you have?

TERRELL: Just the one.

JACKSON: This is your only son?

TERRELL: Yeah, and I adopted him at three months.

JACKSON: At three months old? OK, so you never actually birthed any children? OK.

TERRELL: I was pregnant twice, but I lost (inaudible), hold him.

JACKSON: OK, so you adopted him, and -- but at least you got -- he had two sons?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK. And this starting --

TERRELL: And he got two. Yeah, [Sterling?] is the one --

JACKSON: Of Columbus, OK.

TERRELL: But you see, he got those before he -- I mean, he never been married. He never did marry the girl, so the children had to go in, you know?

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: In their mother's name. So, that's why they're [Haywood?].

JACKSON: OK. Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. I didn't hear anything about that. And that had his funeral service all here, huh?

TERRELL: Mm-hmm.

JACKSON: Did he look like himself?

TERRELL: Yeah, 'cause he wasn't sick a week.

JACKSON: He wasn't sick a week?

TERRELL: He had double pneumonia and he was in Detroit and had a bad operation, and they put a plastic tube leading to his heart, and that got cankered, where he couldn't get oxygen. Then he got that pneumonia. He went to the hospital Friday night, and Thursday before that Friday, the next day, he was dead.

JACKSON: Good Lord have mercy, that was so shocking. So, they brought him from Detroit, here?

TERRELL: No, he was here. He had come back here.

JACKSON: OK. Now, is that [McCullough?] related to Lord McCullough? This McCullough Funeral Home?

TERRELL: No.

JACKSON: That's a different set of McCulloughs?

TERRELL: Yeah. He was -- He have a son in Columbus, is a lawyer.

JACKSON: Oh, really?

TERRELL: And he have a son in Warren, Ohio, is the undertaker.

JACKSON: Which one is this? Who has a son in Columbus? This McCullough, here?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: His name is Sterling.

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: And then, his son and daughter is twins, and she's an undertaker and he's an undertaker, and then his oldest son is a lawyer in Columbus.

JACKSON: Oh, how nice. I didn't know that.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And I'm sorry to hear that, but you know, he was able to certainly give a good life to somebody, help him out...

TERRELL: Yeah. If he'd have lived to see -- he died in January -- I mean to say in February. If he'd have lived to see the 14 of April, he'd have been 40.

JACKSON: Forty. You mean 50? Forty?

TERRELL: Fifty.

JACKSON: Fifty.

TERRELL: He would have been 50.

JACKSON: Right. Well, let me get on. I know you've got to get some rest, but it was cert--

TERRELL: I don't go to bed till about 12:00, 11:30.

JACKSON: You're like them folks down home, you just ain't never got that out of your system, huh?

TERRELL: No, I look at a religion program at satellite, where they send in the satellite all over the world, and I'm just interested in that. And I just stay up to see what's going to come next.

JACKSON: OK, all right. Are they --

TERRELL: Yeah, so you're not keeping me up.

JACKSON: OK. Are there any other people from Bullet County here, other than the ones we already talked about?

TERRELL: Maybe this whole lot, but I don't know.

JACKSON: And Cousin [Nug?] went back.

TERRELL: Yeah, and she living in [Vanny?]'s house. That's what they told me. Now, she had a nice place here. A big lot. And she was working with somebody you ever seen in your life to be as young as she was, and she just wasn't satisfied. [10:00] She wanted to go back there and build a house, and they had a new van and had another van and then had a station wagon. And I don't know how many, about four freezers, they were just as full as you can stick something in. You never seen a person having much as young as she was, and she wasn't satisfied. And she went down there to Savannah, let her daughter or somebody buy a house, and she hadn't even seen the house. And then her husband just walked off. And he come on back to Alabama, and I hated that. So, every Thanksgiving, most, [Cleo?] would come from Cincinnati and we would go out and have Thanksgiving dinner with her.

JACKSON: At her --

TERRELL: At her house.

JACKSON: She did cook, huh?

TERRELL: Oh, and cooked so much!

JACKSON: So, it was a hard working woman, huh?

TERRELL: Yeah, and I begged him not to -- I said, "Why are you gonna go back?" Well, I just want to go. She wanted to be close to her children, and -- and she left. When I know anything, she had done sold the place, had a nice house all on one floor. She wasn't satisfied. He just walked off and left her. That's all I know.

JACKSON: Yeah, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

TERRELL: I'm going to call her.

JACKSON: Yeah.

TERRELL: But I don't know [Porter?]...

JACKSON: Area code?

TERRELL: Area code.

JACKSON: Nine-one-two.

TERRELL: Oh, 912.

JACKSON: Nine-twelve. That's Porter.

TERRELL: Yeah, 'cause I was dreaming something. I dreamed I had -- I just a lot of things, oh, let me dream tonight. I dreamed something and I was giving somebody my phone number, and I said, "Oh, my zip code is... 216." (laughter) That's what -- And I woke myself up saying that.

JACKSON: Oh, yeah?

TERRELL: I said, "Now, isn't this something?" And 912.

JACKSON: Nine-twelve, that's the area code down there.

TERRELL: I may call her -- oh, but I don't have her phone number.

JACKSON: Well, you can probably get it from Aunt Hazel, or you can get it from the information. You can ask for -- I guess she go to [Willie May Holloway?], I guess.

TERRELL: 'Cause I called her one time, know she would go in [Willie May Rogers?], I think.

JACKSON: That's right, that man she just married, wouldn't she? That's right.

TERRELL: Yeah, so I would say she's marrying someone (inaudible), but I don't know. But anyway, I talked to her once and she just didn't want to hang up. I said, "Girl, do you know this is long distance?" (laughter) I use it just enough to make one long distance call a month, you know, so I can keep my long distance. And --

JACKSON: Well, you got a lot of discipline to get -- more than I got. (laughter) OK, Cousin, well, I tell you --

TERRELL: Well, you better -- you better give me your -- do you --

JACKSON: Yeah, I can give you mine, and I need to get yours 'cause we're gonna actually get back again.

TERRELL: Well, the next time you come, you be sure to come and stay some time.

JACKSON: Well, I certainly will try to spend a little time. It sure was nice to, you know, meet old relatives, and...

TERRELL: Yeah, I'm so glad that you... that you come by.

JACKSON: OK, well, see, at least I thought about you. OK, 91-- oh, that's -- I'm gonna just put 912 so you can remember that.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And this is 865-2304. This is [Hazel?]'s number. So, Hazel [Allen?]. That's her number. Now, my number is 614-253-3608. That's Alvin Jackson.

TERRELL: Oh, you a Jackson?

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. My mother, [Louise?], they call her "Gran," she married [Ezekiel Jackson?], and this is in Columbus, Ohio. This here is in the way with this. OK.

TERRELL: OK, I'll put that in my book.

JACKSON: OK. Well, and I certainly do thank you -- you sure look good, I tell you! I would have never thought you was up in the eighties, looking like that, with your skin looking all that good.

TERRELL: I --

JACKSON: Give my wife her coat...

TERRELL: I went over and [Roxanne?] met me. When she comes to check, I was sitting the way up, and she came on up and sit by me. And she said, "Edna, I'm telling you, you look so good!" (laughter)

JACKSON: And y'all -- I tell you --

TERRELL: I was so glad to see Roxanne, and I'll tell you who I don't know -- did you ever know [John Ratherford?]?

JACKSON: I've heard of him, yes.

TERRELL: Oh, but you was too little, wasn't you?

JACKSON: I don't -- I just heard my grandmother and them talking about him. [15:00]

TERRELL: Yeah, but was it last Saturday? Last Friday, I think, night, his daughter, oldest daughter, called me from Savannah.

JACKSON: Oh, really?

TERRELL: I was so surprised and so glad.

JACKSON: Now, Mr. Ratherford's not living, is he?

TERRELL: No, him and his wife is dead.

JACKSON: That's her son. And she just recently buried him.

TERRELL: When did you marry her from?

JACKSON: She's from Baltimore, Maryland, but I met her in Columbus. We went to school together at Ohio State.

TERRELL: Oh! Yeah. This is -- That's my oldest grand, when he was in the service. That's my brother.

JACKSON: Now, which one of your brothers is it -- [Linwood?]?

TERRELL: [Booker?].

JACKSON: This is Booker?

TERRELL: Yeah, that's my mother's -- one of the older children. And this... this here is Sterling, right here. That's Sterling. That's [Tony?], you know that's him for you just looked at him. This is my pastor, here.

JACKSON: Oh, that's your pastor? I saw her picture over there, too.

TERRELL: Yeah. And this is my goddaughter that live in Columbus, right here. Yeah.

JACKSON: OK, what's her name? You know, what's her name?

TERRELL: [Adria?]. And this is Ben's baby boy.

JACKSON: Ben Hall?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK. Where does he live?

TERRELL: It's the baby boy. He's in Los Angeles. And that girl, that's Linwood's older daughter, out of 11 boys. That one, there. And this over here is them going down, but that's (inaudible) oldest. It's going down, but that's her graduation picture. Yeah, and she's in California.

JACKSON: OK. Now, you said this is your mother, here?

TERRELL: Right here.

JACKSON: OK, and who is that with her?

TERRELL: That's some -- one of her good friends. She look like she white, but she isn't.

JACKSON: Now, is that -- OK, now, was that up here where this was taken?

TERRELL: Yeah. We was having something at the church, yeah.

JACKSON: OK. Now, was your mother's mind pretty good, up until the end?

TERRELL: Yeah. Every once in a while she'd want to go home. She'd say, "Edna, I want to go home now." I said, "Well, you're already home." And she said, "I got a little girl and two little boys, and I wouldn't have that little girl ruined for nothing in the world." I said, "Mother, this is that little girl!" I say, "I'm 50-something years old!" (laughter) I said,

“This is that little girl!” And sometimes, I had the television in here, and she’d be in there, in the hospital bed, and she would hear the men’s talking. She’d say, “Edna, you know I don’t like no men in this house.” (laughter)

JACKSON: Is that what she said?

TERRELL: Yeah! (laughter) I tell you, I love her so.

JACKSON: Oh, that’s funny.

TERRELL: ’Cause I was a -- You know, I was 27 when I got married, and I never -- I never had a man. And she just didn’t want no man hanging around! (laughter)

JACKSON: And that was your mother, there, when she was younger, huh?

TERRELL: Yeah, yeah. No, she was old.

JACKSON: OK. She had the round glasses.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: OK, now, service of installation... So, you got a white minister?

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And she’s a [holiness?] minister?

TERRELL: Uh-huh. She’s 40, 47.

JACKSON: Is she a good speaker?

TERRELL: A good speaker.

JACKSON: They won’t -- like her pretty good?

TERRELL: Yeah. We having some trouble with our -- we have a big church, and we having some trouble with the fellowship float. And we got to have that fixed so that’s cheaper. Cost \$40,000 to get it fixed, but that’s cheaper than buying a church. A church cost about don’t know how many millions.

JACKSON: Oh, my goodness, I’ll tell you, everything is expensive.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: And see, you got these old lamps and things, huh?

TERRELL: Yeah, I like these old-fashioned things. I say I’ll soon be dead, all these whatnots... Somebody take ’em and put ’em out there in the street.

JACKSON: No, that’s nice, I like the old kind of stuff, and all the crochets. Well, I certainly -

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TERRELL: Oh, well, let me show you my little... I showed you the mother and father but didn’t show you those... in here. I have two little new -- two little new grand, great-grand. One, I just saw just a while ago.

JACKSON: Oh, isn’t she cute?

TERRELL: She live in Columbus.

JACKSON: Oh, how pretty. Oh, my goodness... Oh, look at there. (laughter)

TERRELL: And he is new. [20:00] Now, these two is the new one.

JACKSON: Oh, isn’t that wonderful? Look at it --

TERRELL: This one was two --

JACKSON: -- that looks like one of our babies, one time.

TERRELL: This one was too young to come Christmas, so when we -- and [Rhonda?] died, they brought him to the funeral.

JACKSON: Oh, isn’t that wonderful? You got a chance to see him.

TERRELL: Yeah, and this little one, I saw her just a while ago.

JACKSON: Beautiful.

TERRELL: And this is --

JACKSON: She's cute, she's like (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

TERRELL: -- this is my grand.

JACKSON: And now, where does she live?

TERRELL: She live here. She going to a Christian school.

JACKSON: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) those little kids are so precious, so precious.

TERRELL: And here's my other two. (laughter)

JACKSON: Oh, aren't they wonderful?

TERRELL: This one is so cute, he got great eyes.

JACKSON: They look so...

TERRELL: Now, he's in Columbus and this one is in Columbus, so when you get acquainted with them, you go visit.

F1: Yeah.

JACKSON: Well, we certainly will. We'll certainly try and do that. Well, that's wonderful.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Well, you got a lot of people who care for you.

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Yes, indeed. Well --

TERRELL: Yeah, I'm coming to Columbus some time, and I'll get a chance to call you.

JACKSON: Well, yes, you've got our number. Please do that, and you'll certainly be welcome to come by our house.

TERRELL: Now what -- what kind of work are you doing?

JACKSON: I'm just finishing up my residency in family medicine.

TERRELL: Oh! You're gonna be a doctor?

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am, I am a doctor.

TERRELL: Isn't that nice?

JACKSON: And my wife is a pharmacologist. She -- She's a doctor, too.

TERRELL: What is that?

JACKSON: She is a research doctor.

TERRELL: Oh, that is nice.

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am, so we're kind of --

TERRELL: Yeah!

JACKSON: -- a hobby, we like to go around and talk to our relatives and try to learn what we can and --

F1: Yeah! Sorry I slept on you today.

TERRELL: Oh, that's OK.

JACKSON: Well, she's been real tired.

TERRELL: Me and him were just running off at our mouths.

JACKSON: Having a good time, telling me about Uncle Ben going under, Cousin [Manhoff?] for breakfast. (laughter)

TERRELL: Yeah.

JACKSON: Oh...

TERRELL: And I'm so glad, now --

F1: And next time, I'll be more awake. (laughter)

TERRELL: Don't worry about that, don't worry.

JACKSON: How's Cousin [Eula?] doing?

TERRELL: Now, let me see, I saw her when [Emory Hall?] died. You knowed Emory?

JACKSON: Oh, Emory --

TERRELL: [Mann?]'s son.

JACKSON: Oh, when did he die? He died -- was that recently?

TERRELL: No, that's been about --

JACKSON: OK, a few years ago, with --

TERRELL: Oh, yeah. At least five, maybe five. He -- He -- He died before [Bert?] and her son died because they died in the same year.

JACKSON: OK, right. OK, so you saw her and she was doing fine, then?

TERRELL: Yeah. They say she had been very sick, had a stroke, but she seemed like had got over it.

JACKSON: So, unless she -- she -- you say she's at least -- she's -- so, she's up in her eighties pretty good?

TERRELL: Yeah. 'Case Bert, when she died, she was 85. And she was five years older than me.

JACKSON: OK.

TERRELL: And I guess Eula and [Cora?] must have been, you know, around that age. They was about five years older.

JACKSON: OK. Was Aunt Cora mean when she was going to school?

TERRELL: (laughter) Let me see, was she mean? None of them was mean to me 'cause I was meaner than any of them! (laughter) 'Cause I was so spoiled.

JACKSON: I just want to -- Well, Cousin, we gonna get on and then 'cause we got to get back early in the morning, so I just kind of want to just --

TERRELL: Do you have to work tomorrow?

JACKSON: Well, we got a lot of other kind of things to do tomorrow because I got a few days off, and so...

TERRELL: Oh, I see.

JACKSON: We got to get on back in. We brought our daughter here 'cause her friend lives here, and they wanted us to come over and have Thanksgiving dinner.

TERRELL: Well, how old's your daughter?

JACKSON: She's 17.

TERRELL: Seventeen! Are you sure? (laughter)

JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.

TERRELL: My goodness!

JACKSON: So, we brought her over here to visit her friend, you know, and we came over to visit the families and all.

TERRELL: That's nice.

JACKSON: That certainly was nice. Well, OK, then, well, let me give you one of my hugs, and so good to see you, and...

TERRELL: OK, I'm so glad to see you.

JACKSON: Alrighty.

TERRELL: 'Cause I'm always glad to see any of my people. (laughter)

JACKSON: Well, you sure look good, I'll tell you.

TERRELL: And (inaudible) all, I just love to go down there to see her.

JACKSON: Yeah, she was a --

TERRELL: And when I would go down, you know, to a funeral, I always would go to see her.

JACKSON: Yup, sure was.

TERRELL: Yeah, always.
JACKSON: Sure was. Alrighty, then, thanks a lot.
TERRELL: (inaudible)
JACKSON: We can.
F1: I got it.
TERRELL: Sometimes, it seems like it locks, but you can just open it.
JACKSON: OK, can you drive?
TERRELL: No. (laughter)
JACKSON: Oh, I saw a car there, I didn't know if you was driving.
TERRELL: That's the people next door. That's my driveway, but I let them -- you know,
nobody in it.
JACKSON: All right, Cuz, you say a prayer for us, now.
TERRELL: OK, I certainly will.
JACKSON: And you be sure you lock the door.
TERRELL: And you be going in the morning?
JACKSON: Yes, ma'am.
TERRELL: What are you driving, a van?
JACKSON: We're driving a van. Alrighty.
TERRELL: OK, bye-bye.
JACKSON: Bye-bye.

END OF AUDIO FILE