



Interview with Edward Gamble, Sr.

July 5, 1994

Transcript of an Interview about Life in the Jim Crow South
Moultrie (Ga.)

Interviewer: Sally Graham

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Edward Gamble, Sr. interviewed by Sally S. Graham, July 5, 1994,
Moultrie, GA. Transcribed by Greta Ai-Yu Niu. 1 tape

tape 1: side A

Edward Gamble: ...Jakin, and that's Early County, the county
seat, it's uh I know it well, oh, well I get back
to you, because I know it I just can't Blakely
Blakely Georgia

Sally Graham: and your name is

EG: E d w a r d G a m b l e

SG: g a m b l e

EG: senior

SG: Do you have a middle name?

EG: no middle name Edward Gamble, Sr. that's him right here.

SG: all right

EG: all right, now you want to know what school I went to

SG: Well when were you born?

EG: Jakin Georgia

SG: What year?

EG: I was born 1912, June the sixteen, and the man talking to
you here is 82 years old

SG: Well, you'd never know it

EG: Well, I figure on getting married, I want some money she don't got no money she can't be here

SG: oh, ya'll two are getting married?

EG: oh, no, I'm getting her married to a rich girl

?: ()

SG: oh okay

EG: naw, she's a poor girl, and I ain't gonna marry no poor girl then I was uh, my mother was working for Mrs. Flora Smith and she was young girl working at those peoples she got married, work with those peoples they give the name and I and my granddaddy he was a preacher and my great-granddaddy was a preacher, and they owned their own, farming land, and raised hogs and cows so, as far as I know, they did, pretty good, but there is another who didn't do as well uh when they made the crop, it was their crop and they gathered the crop, it was the other man's crop and you couldn't go in and she brought, and how much she was gonna bring you had to start on the outside, well, that's what she wanted to do, you had to stand on the outside regardless to what the cotton weighted you had to stand on the outside, and if it was a bale, if it was five hundred or six hundred pound bale and you got so many seeds out there you can take and sell your part of the seeds and

buy you some grocery with that you didn't have to go back to the man because you getting ready to, uh start the uh gathering, back then alot of people didn't have that, chance, you had to wait 'til gatherin' time come and uh, you go ahead and say well, you just did, come out of debt you took all the cotton, you took all the corn and all the potatoes so you didn't leave nothing and look at this (hog?) that was left and uh, this was a family that I know about, but, the weather being pretty rainy like we gettin' rain and the man done got out of debt now, and the cotton took and had, put more boll on, on the cotton stalk, and it had a what we would say a top crop and the man had four or five bales of cotton, so what I'm thinkin' the Lord sees that everything the man had worked for and just got out of debt, left him black, He took them stalks and greened them up and made the most cotton come on, it's true and it was a top crop and about five or six bales of cotton come out of that top crop and so that made the man have some money didn't it when the devil get on you it take God to loose ya, 'cause the devil ain't bothered 'bout the crowd he already got, he bothered about me and you, () and if he get me and you fired up after awhile he got alot on his side that's why, God has got just a few and if he can get

somebody who can represent who he is and get on his side then he will be able to go through, but without it the devil got his crop

?: ()

EG: so uh what I went to school I went to school

SG: what school did you go to Mr. Gamble?

EG: well this school was Early uh uh uh and let me see it was the Early School Early County School in Jakin Georgia

SG: was it at a church or was it

EG: it was a little school

SG: it was a school okay

EG: a little school it had four rooms in that school so it wasn't no big town and all different places around there had churches that they had schools in

SG: mm-hmm

EG: they didn't have like we got now big schools that are like mansions like we got now, we had what we could go so I uh, went to the third grade I guess I thought I was going because of baby and sugar and darling and we moved so much, I just lost trail of school, because sometimes you can get with experienced people and pick up, more than you can get in the book, experienced people is what makes this thing happen if you, don't have much learning and get with

educated peoples that will make you come up if you got a little time to listen. Now, I'm going to stop right on, I think I done said enough that's going come on girl

SG: oh you think that's enough!

EG: now

SG: so you um, you finished the third grade

EG: yeah ma'am

SG: in the Early County Schools

EG: that's right

SG: okay

EG: that's right

SG: and your family were you moving around to different places or

EG: well me and my mother see wasn't nobody but me and my mother and her husband, my stepdad, and me

SG: oh you didn't have brothers and sisters?

EG: oh no brother and sister

SG: ohh

EG: just me and see when I got ready for something I just tell the white people what I wanted and I got it 'cause they furnished the name, Edward

SG: I see

EG: and they wasn't poor peoples

SG: your family wasn't

EG: but my family, they owned land and alot of my kindred
stayed around in Jakin but out of most () are in Florida

SG: oh in Florida

EG: oh yeah 'cause I stayed when I was about seventeen eighteen
on up I stayed in Tallahassee Quincy Grid Mount Pleasant
and you name it

SG: why did you go to Florida?

EG: well my mother husband he was a saw mill man and we always
went where we could figure we could get the dollar

SG: were they paying better in Florida?

EG: paying better in Florida, yes ma'am always has been

SG: how much were they paying say like an hour or

EG: well you take, when the time was tight my daddy was making
eight and ten dollar my stepdaddy and you wonder why he was
the top man on that carriage it didn't need but one man on
that carriage, and he sawed blocks and the carriage going
thisaway cut lumber go back thataway cut lumber, he was
equipped for that job, and we were on that job my stepdaddy
was paid more than any other guy on that job

SG: mm

EG: because he was the head guy you had to know how to cut
lumber, and he knowed that, he was trained that

SG: where did he learn his training from?

EG: well I couldn't say because when I seed him he was a grown man

SG: I see

EG: and you know back there, we couldn't ask our parents a whole lot

SG: how's that?

EG: well uh we, grown people tend to their business and children had to tend to theirs

SG: mm-hmm

EG: you didn't never come back children was playing out there and we grown sit up here the children didn't come up here and sit on the porch they stay out there and play or today they take your conversation over like you talkin' to them see sit right here see but them grown people back there didn't have it and they talk to children they use manners you never have anybody say, hey Miss so and so they say good evening, or good morning, you don't go to school and walk in the school room good morning teacher no you just say good morning, you don't pick out names

?: you didn't say it then you didn't say yes and no to grown people

EG: no, yes ma'am

?: yes ma'am

EG: yes sir

?: that's what we was taught

EG: see yes sir and yes ma'am will get you in the door, and you don't ask people who was hiring hands for a job, you don't ask them for a job, you know what you ask them for?

SG: no

EG: work, now the man wouldn't take from his job send it to the desk and give it to you, you got to make your job yourself

SG: how did people do that?

EG: how did people make their job? you get the experience the education run you some colored business you run your store or whatever, run your business downtown selling clothes, business downtown training peoples how to get out and work, 'cause you have been out there and you know the difference is having a job that you open the door in the morning, you, and be there tending to your business writing receipts, on that typewriter, making your money, you don't need nobody to count your money when you get enough money you go to the bank yourself sometime you send it by somebody it may not never get to the bank you understand me don't you? go to the bank here he go up way up yonder, and when you go to

find out you ain't got nothing in the bank because he ain't never gone to the bank

SG: [chuckle] what kinds of jobs what kind of jobs or businesses did blacks have when you were growing up or coming up?

EG: all right most of them had cook jobs they did a cook job men with plow and mules farming, and work a whole month for eight or ten dollars, and a bushel of corn that's for your meal

SG: how much would they get in the saw mill for like a like a week?

EG: well, it depends on what job you did see some of those jobs, were paid twenty cents an hour some of it paid ten cents an hour, and they made ten hours you know what you made with ten cents a dollar, fifteen cents an hour you know what you made a dollar and a half

SG: so that'd be like five dollars in a week

EG: well you could count

SG: whereas if you were farming

EG: you could count six dollars, or seven dollars, now the way I did it when I growing up I have a wonderful stepdad I would uh, sell peanuts I would buy, wieners and fix hot dogs, out in the streets have make my own money

SG: how much would you sell them for?

EG: well I could sell them about a dime and fifteen cents but that was something I was happy if you put the fifteen cents together after awhile you have thirty cents ain't it

SG: that's right that's right

EG: and so

SG: how old were you when you were doing this?

EG: oh I was around twelve, years old

SG: you were selling this in the town of Jakin? is that who you were selling to?

EG: oh this was when I was in Florida

SG: Florida oh okay

EG: see I grewed up amongst peoples rich peoples and I grewed up learning how to cook, see and wait tables

SG: okay

EG: see I never worked as poor as I is I don't want to get no job working with no poor people because when you're working around poor people you think poor and you can't do nothing but act poor because you're poor, now you take me,

?: Lord have mercy ()

EG: you take me a few, [chuckle] you take me I wouldn't mind sitting in that car with you drive with you you don't that side you sit in the back seat you know why?

SG: why is that?

EG: I'm chauffeuring your car, with my chauffeur suit on, then when I park your car then you will give me a piece of money for chauffeuring you around the town, you couldn't tell me thank you and get on with it you got to give me a piece of money thank you ain't enough you got to give me a piece of money buy me some grocery

?: ()

EG: well

SG: did you have family members that were chauffeurs?

EG: ma'am?

SG: or did you were family members of yours ever chauffeuring people or

EG: well see I got uh

SG: what did they do?

EG: well now I got alot peoples farm and I got peoples that's up North and I got cousins work on the Amway railroad in New York City and some of my peoples did wonderful, but uh, personally about me, I got along all right because I never worked too much with poor peoples, see my mother, brought me up with rich peoples that's where she was working

SG: was she working like ironing and and cooking and

EG: taking care of the whole house

SG: okay

EG: whole house, she was the house lady and now when we got ready for something, like I'm going to be in a wedding here this month and uh you know what I would say? I would say Miss Florence my daughter is fixing to get married and I need me a white tuck [tux?] to wear and you know what she would say to me?

SG: what's that?

EG: Edward she said uh you want to buy it or you want to rent it? I say I want to buy it she say what it going to cost and I tell her and I would get it, now I'm about to get a tux and you know what I'm going to do? I'm going to go right out there on South Main eleven-fifty-six South Main and get and tell that man I worked eighteen years I tell him that my daughter is fixing to get married and I need me a tuck, and I'm going to get it

SG: so the the woman would pay for it? the lady would pay for it?

EG: the man not going to let me have the money

SG: oh okay

EG: 'cause he run the mill down there and I worked for him about eighteen twenty years down there

SG: what kind of mill was it?

EG: the [ream?] the manufacturing down there I told you when I started I didn't work for no poor folk

SG: and what were you doing at the mill?

EG: I wasn't working at the mill I went to his house

SG: oh you were oh

EG: everything everything chauffeuring the car, ironing, cleaning the floor, hanging curtains at his says so, chauffeuring the car, mowing the grass, setting out flowers, you name it I did it

SG: and who was that?

EG: Mr. W. C. Marine jr, Eleven Eleven-fifty-six South Main the one owned the cotton mill

SG: I see

EG: I be out to his house this week sometime, let him know I need his suit

SG: so your daughter is getting married

EG: my daughter is getting married

SG: oh okay

EG: my bigger daughter and she done told me to come I got the shoes but the shoes got to have on a white tuck, I got to be sharp as a rat [whop!] Sandra, she lost a friendship there she go but I got to be sharp

SG: how many children do you have Mr. Gamble?

EG: me? well by, you asked me you asked me the truth that's
what you asked of me all right the wife we had seven

SG: okay

EG: and then I end up with 'bout four more I ain't got no wife
now

SG: okay

EG: I'm the [bull sit?] man and I sing the song an apple a day
keep the pretty womens coming this way if they ain't got no
money let them go the other way

SG: [chuckle] so, can can you call your children from the
oldest to the youngest?

EG: can I call their name?

SG: mm-hmm

EG: yes ma'am

SG: let's have them

EG: Edward Gamble Jr

SG: okay

EG: Henry Gamble, Virginia Louise Gamble, Mary Louise Gambles,
Brenda Louise Gambles, Sandra Louise Gambles

SG: you like that Louise

EG: well I the one named them and I the one paid for them

SG: [chuckle]

EG: but I gave them the name all right now how many girls you got there?

SG: oh let's see you got Mary Louise Brenda Louise Sandra Louise, is there another Louise?

EG: wait a minute I, you ain't got five girls there?

SG: let's see oh I'm sorry Virginia Louise Mary Louise Brenda Louise Sandra Louise and Henry Gamble and Edward Gamble

EG: all right how many children you have?

SG: ohh, six

EG: six? oh there's about one Gloria Louise

SG: where does she go?

EG: where does she go?

SG: Mary Brenda Sandra does she come after?

EG: yeah she she's in there too she's a knee baby, she's a knee baby right there along with Sandra, five girls and two boys, ain't that what you got? hey ()

SG: and what was her name again? Brenda

EG: Gloria Louise Gambles

SG: were they all born in?

EG: right here Colquit County

SG: here in Colquit County

EG: () right up there on Sixth Avenue right back up that street back up thataway I'm living now but I'm living way across town now apple a day pretty girls come this way

SG: so they were all born in Moultrie?

EG: in Moultrie now wait a minute she was born there but I got another children now

SG: okay we're not finished

EG: oh yeah

SG: and who are the other ones

EG: all right, then Janice Louise Gambles, Janice

SG: okay

EG: and, uh, this well this boy didn't go in the Gambles but he's still my young 'un well I wouldn't want well I'll let him slide

SG: well you don't have to let anybody out

EG: uh, he uh, he went in his mother's name

SG: mm-hmm

EG: and he lives in Tallahassee, uh, uh, let me see now, I have to do a little thinking I went around () I was () better living [chuckle] [scream] Glory hallelujah () [chuckle]

SG: [chuckle]

EG: uh, uh, I guess I'll stop right there I better not dig out I started to dig pretty deep but I better hold my peace, if

you want God to fight you back you better be still

[chuckle]

SG: I see well

EG: [laugh]

SG: how many grandchildren do you have Mr. Gamble?

EG: well ma'am I figured you were going to ask me that but I tell you that ma'am I wouldn't be able to tell you but I got a team of 'em

SG: a team I'll just write a team

EG: a team I got a team of grandchildren ()

SG: about forty fifty?

EG: oh I don't know that is's that many uh, uh but I know that uh I got a heap of grandchildren I got a daughter that lives in the big city Atlanta

SG: mm-hmm

EG: and uh, she's got two boys and uh, she my daughter Janice, Janice she lives in Miami and I imagine she's got about five or six children or seven she is up here for the Fourth

SG: mm-hmm

EG: and I just fixed some ribs and canned ribs and biscuits and rice and hauled all that to the other daughter's house to kind of help out

SG: sounds great

EG: and I fixed uh 'cause you see those children don't get a chance to cook biscuits some of them don't know how, see now when you you having company you tell me that you have a distinguished guest that's the word those rich peoples tell me and when you tell me that, that means I'm going into the dining room and get the best of linens they got, and set up the table professional

SG: mm

EG: and, you start your silver, if this the end of your table where your table cloth drops down you start one inch up here start your silver going up from and ()

SG: how'd you learn that?

EG: I wanted to, to be, a cook and I was a girl and boy both at home, and I wanted to do things so when my mother didn't feel like going to the cook pot I could help and I wanted to learn it and I got a chance to look at her and work round in alot of different homes and fixing biscuits pies cakes, roasts, rice, () I don't have to look up on the shelf and get nothing you got it up there, I got a mixer like this, one of those mixers that they use in the schoolhouse? I wouldn't have paid eight hundred dollars for it if i didn't know how to use it would I?

SG: that's that's right

EG: and I got different kinds of pans I got about fifteen cake pans that I can go ahead and I tell you something that I learned last year whenever you cooking cake, always beat up your cake and put it in your pan and put it in the stove with a cold oven

SG: really? a cold oven

EG: a cold oven all right, when that heat begin to rise in that stove then it start your cake 'cause your cake you put in there with a cold oven and see it goes right along, cook even

SG: ohh

EG: and the way you tell your cake is about half done, when you begin to smell the odor of what kind of flavor that you put in your cake the odor will come out of that stove in that kitchen

SG: what's your favorite meal to cook?

EG: well, most anything cause when you bring it up for dinner you always bring up some kind of vegetable with this dinner whether turnips or mustard green, or, you could have very fine, cabbage and let the cabbage be a green cabbage, look good on the dish with rice, beef or ham, creamed potatoes garden peas

SG: okay

EG: butter beans rolls

SG: how did cooking for a white family differ or did it differ from cooking for your family?

EG: what difference it is? all right, when you cookin' when you cookin' for rich peoples that's the time you learn, you learn how to cook and any rich family that you cooks for you learn how to set up a table you learn where you're supposed to be to pass this food now you know the first thing that you serve in the dining room? you know the first thing? when the blessing has been given in the dining room, the first thing that you serve is your bread, and you have your meats right close by so when you serve the bread, then you ready to serve your meats, uh rice, and butter beans and with gravy see that's your meal when you're setting up your water at the point of your knife your glass supposed to be right there tea or coffee supposed to be back, break and butter plate supposed to be [car honk] oh () over here where your fork, when you take off you goes to right, goes to the left to take off see

SG: did your mother help you to learn that?

EG: I wanted to learn that and I got a chance to work for nice places and see how the set up was and then you got on your,

nice trousers, nice shirt, bowtie and white serving coat
which I got at home

SG: and do you still do you still

EG: when I goes out when I goes out to bring up a meal I goes
out right and I goes out there to make a good piece of
money because if you don't want to pay me a good price I
don't got no business with that

SG: do you still work today

EG: occasionally I goes and bring a meal see I can bring up a
biscuit or bring that biscuit so sharp and I make that
biscuit like a pocket cut it out and open up and put that
butter

SG: [chuckle]

EG: see I got a chance to do that round with peoples you makes
you learn how amongst rich peoples

SG: I see

EG: now good soul food now we have good soul food you can't
beat us cooking good soul food with good corn bread, good
peas good greens that's what you call soul food, some good
() but when you want to be in class when you want to be in
class, you got to be up there with them peoples up there

SG: I see

EG: now I wouldn't dare be working for peoples poor like me not to serve a meal because it take my smart when I go to the house and put on a pair of nice slippers my nice trousers white shirt bowtie and my white coat, now I'm about to dress up for your party and you got to make me look good when I ready to leave there, if you don't leave something in my pocket I won't be there the next time you have something [chuckle]

SG: [chuckle] oh

EG: now you see when you get through then we going to pass we going to come back and take all those plates off this table and going to serve you with your dessert

SG: mm

EG: now poor people now poor people whether white, whether white or whether colored if you're poor you know what they do?

SG: what's that?

EG: you put that something on the table

SG: okay

EG: have you seen that?

SG: I've seen that, in my house that's what we do [chuckle]

EG: [chuckle] well when you, when you get a chance to use, this upper class silver and them glasses that you can hit 'em

like that and they ring, now you can't, look here you can't be having all that food on the table, that food got to be round where it's keep hot you know and () but when you're poor everything be put on the table

SG: [chuckle] so what you call soul food would white people eat

EG: no white people eat soul food because white people crazy about peas now I don't cook peas in my house, I don't cook peas now I cook them in ()'s house but I don't cook them in my house I cook collard greens and turnips but I don't buy 'em, 'cause I had enough peas in the Hoover Days I don't go for them

SG: ohh

EG: now you don't know about Hoover do you?

SG: tell me about those Hoover Days

EG: now when Hoover took a seat he didn't give everybody else a seat I was glad when Hoover got out of that seat [laugh] well I'm going to let the lady () she wanted to know my life story

SG: that's right that's right

EG: and I'm going to tell her

SG: so what was the first job that you had?

EG: first job my first one I worked for that saw mill

SG: okay

EG: that's the first job that I had working saw mill working we used a lead mill machine where they made lead for [baka?] shades

SG: a lead?

EG: lead all right it's something about this long about this wide and build the shades in the field, they have all this here have it all wrapped up called it shade tobacco that's in Florida now you see it in Georgia now but that's where it started at in Florida

SG: and how old were you when you started working?

EG: oh I must have been somewhere about twelve or thirteen years old

SG: okay

EG: working there the machines, and I got grown working on saw mill job I got grown

SG: so how long were you working at a saw mill

EG: at a saw mill

SG: from the age of fifteen to what?

EG: oh I must have worked more than that well I tell you what I quit saw milling at nineteen nineteen-thirty-six

SG: okay

EG: nineteen-thirty-six

SG: and what'd you start doing in 1936?

EG: well after then, well first one thing and another working two different jobs in the field I worked in the fields working at peoples house and working in the yard

SG: so did you come back did you leave Florida and come back to Georgia

EG: well see my mother lived in Florida when I got ready to leave all I got to do is go on up and spend some time with my granddaddy when I get tired of my granddaddy go on back down with my mother, one child pretty well do things kind of like they wanta

SG: right

EG: that's the way I was brought up, and when it was something a big day was coming up and I got ready for something all I had to do was go to Miss Florence and Miss Florence they're having a big day at such and such a place, can I go down and get me a suit of clothes () she'd say go on down, she'd say Duckie, Edward want a suit of clothes for tomorrow, now you hear what I'm saying about now you know who else could have because everybody she walked right by there Louise Carve we used to go to school together

SG: what about the the treatment of blacks when you were coming up as a child?

EG: see now I had it nice I did reason when I come from school
I played right in Miss Florence yard amongst the little
white children

SG: I see

EG: and () when they getting ready in the evening time, we was
taught when the sun begin to peak down everybody better be
to their place, so these children would say this would say
Edward you better it's getting dark you better go on Barber
Town I said I ain't got to go to Barber Town you see that I
said you don't even live on the corner you see that big
white house on the corner? I said that's where I live, so
they didn't believe it, so the next evening some of the
boys went there to the house and they said to Miss Florence
they said Mammie that little colored boy right there, where
do he stay? she said he stay right here, say he sleep in
there at night time? she say him and Billy share the room
together say Edward's bed and Billy's bed and there a
bathroom in there

SG: was Billy a little white boy?

EG: little white boy he was older than me, the first time I got
a chance to put on a pair of Florsheim shoe know how I got
'em on? he said Edward how you like these shoes I got on I
said that's a pretty shoe, he said uh come on go with me,

he said I'm going to tell Rosie to get you a pair I said my mother not able to get me a pair of shiny shoe like them, so we went on down there got to the store he was walking along one side of me he's doing like this we got down there he said, Dr. Smith Duckie say what's the matter Bill? he said Duckie these old slippers hurt my feet he say see can Edward wear them and go and get you another pair, now, Miss Joe can tell you she living in () right now that's () he thought I was supposed to get the same thing because my mother raised those children, and I tell you what, I got a girl, I tell you when I go to the Donaldsonville there they say Edward go in there and wash your nose and get ready for lunch, I go in the bathroom () now when i go round I was a clean boy you know what they do? she sitting here he sit there and I'm sitting right there

SG: and they're a white family

EG: white family, if I if I got a picture of their home right here in Moultrie

SG: you do?

EG: I got the picture yeah

SG: that home was here in Moultrie?

EG: their home is in Donaldsonville but when I leave from here that's the way I go Donaldsonville Jakin

SG: so when did your mother work did your mother work for the family in Donaldsonville?

EG: we worked for the family for year for years, she raised up but she died here, when she decided that she wanted to come here and we had kindreds here and she came here and this is where she wanted to be buried here and this is where I want to be buried here

SG: when was your mother born?

EG: where was she born at? in Jakin Georgia that was her home

SG: and what year?

EG: well I tell you what you can figure it out yourself because she was sixteen years older than me when I was born I was born on her birthday

SG: okay

EG: [chuckle] and I didn't never call her mama I called my grandmother mama I called my mother sister

SG: ohh

EG: [chuckle] that's right

SG: okay

EG: well when you want to bring up something that I know I ()

SG: that's right

EG: I tell you all I used to be I used to be in our school on Friday you know they have spelling meets on Friday evenings

and I could spell pretty good and I was the only one at
that school could say the alphabets backwards without
looking at

SG: backwards!

EG: without looking at it

SG: can you do it now?

EG: I can do it now

SG: let's hear it

EG: all right M L K J I H G F E D C B A, Z Y X W V U S R T Q P
O N ()

SG: that's it

EG: ain't but twenty-six letters but when I learned I learned
that, and you know what I do when I walks in the kitchen
and when something the lady want me to fix and I hadn't
fixed it () and I walk in the kitchen this is the word
that I said, Lord this is a test except you be with me I
won't be able to make it, but if you be with me I'll fall
in line, and I walk in there, I can wash iron house clean
and chauffeur your car and if you tell me to take your car
and come downtown you didn't say all over town so if
anything happen I can call you back, I'm downtown such a
such thing happen I don't take people's things and go where
I want to go I take mine and go where I want to go but I

take you where you want to go when you tell me and when I start off, if I don't understand you, I'm coming back 'cause the best part is to understand, before you go, because if you don't understand you're kind of wishy washy but when you understand what the person said and I ain't said it you got a good way, but that's me

SG: how did your folks buy land?

EG: well uh back then land was cheap something like about, four or three dollars or five dollars an acre, back there, and they bought up land

SG: how many acres would you say they

EG: well in this place I think it's about thirty or forty of land in one place and on my granddaddy side of his mother they owned about seventy or eighty acres on eighty-four eighty-four I tell you that land has first crossed by the railroad and the highway twice to go to that property, and that property the seat of Blakely Georgia and I can tell you what number book to call for and what page you will find it on in the county seat in Blakely Georgia

SG: really what would that be?

EG: page four hundred and book thirty-two, and you be looking at, Margaret Middleton property

SG: who?

EG: Margaret Middleton, that was my great grandmother, on my granddad's side, see I lived to see my grandmother on my mother's side my grandmother on my granddad's side and, also, my mama's mama Rose Scott which is my mother's grandmama lived to see her

SG: so that would have been your great grandmother

EG: and she died when she was about a hundred and five or six years old Bainbridge Georgia we used to live in Bainbridge that's [Cady?] County

SG: so what'd you remember about those folks your grandparents and how how did they teach you?

EG: well I tell you most of my teaching that I got working 'mongst rich peoples and they's talking things 'mongst their children now rich peoples talk their business amongst their children, uh any child twelve eight or ten years old pretty well know his dad what his daddy work because they teach them that, but most uh, colored peoples, they most afraid their child get up in age and sometimes he will be lost from the teaching of that child and he don't know what's paid for what you owe for what just what to take what but white peoples always has, let their children to know what they work and all of that coming up any little boy you work for say my daddy got so and so, my daddy work

so and so but you take the little colored boy he can't say that

SG: why do you think that is?

EG: well most alot of peoples try to keep things back they say you get too grown, from knowing alot of things, and uh I was told amongst my folks about Santa Claus but uh, them white peoples I was around never told me about no Santa Claus Edward say hang up your stocking and somebody going to come and see you tonight, with oranges and apples and a piece of money or a suit of clothes a pair of trousers shirt pair of slippers they got what I needed, and I was always treated, see not one child and my mother always kept I always played mostly with white children, I'm not used to fighting but I can scrap, uh wasn't used to going to school and then you tear my clothes off me, at school, wipe your hands on me I wasn't used to that and I didn't go for it now, and alot of time like () we now shake hands lots of time shaking a person hand, and () you think that you putting a future by shaking his hand sometimes you put hard luck in his sometime he can't catch nobody looking at him and he don't own nothing so you don't pull up beside people that got nothing you pull up...[end of side A]

tape 1: side B

EG: ...somebody house it belongs to you and your wife and the wife got a part of that bossing and if you do too much bossing in there and she fall out with it she'll send you from there, so you don't be boss in the house you got to do the best you can in that house, all men do the best they can in that house, don't nobody boss of your house but the wife and the children, that who boss of your house you just work and bring some grocery there 'cause if you get to messing around they'll send you from there they have the law to take you back up there to the pen

SG: mmm

EG: () now they don't allow you to spank your children do they?

SG: that's what they say

EG: all right that's when you get out whatever your child done you have to let him do it, if he tearing up your thing you going to let him tear it up?

SG: no

EG: what you going to do?

SG: why you probably should you know discipline him

EG: I tell you what I'm going to do I tell you what I'm going to do

SG: what's that?

EG: if I feed him and I tell him to stop I got something to stop him because I got me a good paddle and if they carry me down there then I turn around and I say now if he go around tearing up your stuff don't put him in jail, let him () tearing these stores and all don't put him in jail because you stopped me from [laugh] get him some manners how to behave you told me the police going to catch him that why children doing what they doing, like they want to, talking back to the parents, you you you couldn't talk back at your parents if whatever they said you had to put up with that

?: () you know take 'em in a room and cell and talk to them () him for so many days

SG: right, what was the name of the church here in Moultrie that

EG: Friendship Missionary Baptist right there I ain't got to do just a few minutes jump the fence right to the church, [chuckle]

SG: Missionary Baptist

EG: you got to hurry to go up to that undertaker you ain't particular about going over there are you

SG: [laugh]

EG: I know you ain't [chuckle]

[end of interview]