

EXHIBIT A

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

American Revolution Bicentennial Project 1776-1976

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Questionnaire for Oral History Project

Senior Citizens' Recollection

of

"Good Old Days"

in

Jackson and Vicinity

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This questionnaire was formulated to provide for the positive participation of Senior Citizens in the celebration and preservation of our heritage by eliciting their responses to questions designed to obtain their recollections of personal experiences in Jackson and vicinity.

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The Interviewer needs information on the interviewee before the interview such as the following:

Interviewee's name, present address, year of birth, marital status, year of marriage, birthplace.

### QUESTIONS

#### Perception of the "Good Old Days"

1. When you hear the phrase "Good Old Days" what does it mean to you?
2. When were the "Good Old Days"? What years before World War I; after World War I; during the 1930's; World War II; after World War II; Korean conflict; around 1954; 1960's; 1970's?  
(Try to get the person to identify a number of years, or a set of specific years.)

#### Person not born in Jackson

1. When did you come to Jackson? Why?
2. What was the city like when you came here?
3. What are your earliest recollections about the City of Jackson?
4. What kind of reputation did the city have when you came, that is, what were the people saying about the city --good place to work, educational opportunities?
5. What were the "Good Old Days" then?

#### Person born in Jackson

1. What are your earliest recollections of the city of Jackson?  
(Probe: How old were you? Is this a good or a bad recollection? How many other people about your age would have a similar recollection? Why do you think this had such an impact on you? Where were you living at the time of this recollection?)

#### Education

1. What are your recollections about your early school days?
2. Do you recall any good things about your early years in grade school?
3. Where did you attend school?

4. How did you describe a "good time" during these years? i.e., At school? At home? At church? At play?
5. How did you have fun as a teenager? As a young adult? A mature adult (30-45)? Middle age (45-50)? As a Senior Citizen (60- )?

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

#### MUSIC

When you think of the "Good Ol Days" what kind of music do you think of?

Do you recall:

1. Hamboning?
  - a. Have you ever heard of hamboning?
  - b. Does the fabric of your clothing have anything to do with the quality of the sound you produce?
  - c. How do you Hambone?
2. Do you recall your most vivid recollection of hamboning? When was it? The date? Time? Place? Who was there?

What was your impression of the Big Bands of the 30's and 40's? Did you attend any of their concerts?

If you went out to enjoy yourself during the "Good Old Days", which would you prefer:

- a. Big Bands?
- b. Ragtime?
- c. Blues?

#### Church Music

1. Describe the songs you sang in your church as far back as you can recall? Have they changed?
2. Do you recall the banjo, guitar and/or bottle players that once congregated on North Farish Street?
3. Can you recall anything about the Opera House that was located on Pearl Street, between Minerva and Rose Streets? Or near Galliton and Capital Streets around 1900?

### WEEKENDS

1. What were somethings you particularly enjoyed doing on the weekend?
2. Do you recall doing or attending the following?
  - a. Going to town?
  - b. Friday or Saturday night socials? Where? How many people were there? How often?
  - c. Dances?
  - d. Tent Revivals?
  - e. Any others?

### RELIGION

1. Describe your recollection of the church in the "Good Old Days" in Jackson and the church goer. Probe: What church?
2. What were the good times at church?
3. Do you remember or recall witnessing or participating in any of the following?
  - a. Dinner on the Ground.
  - b. Tent Meetings or Camp Meetings.

### SECRET AND FRATERNAL ORDERS

1. Were you a member of any of these groups?  
(Identify: Masons, (Prince Hall) Heroins, Eastern Star)
2. Can you recall an occassion when you experienced good times in the group?

### EVENTS

1. Do you recall any of the events which had some great impact on your life?
2. Do you recall the circumstances around any of the following events?
  - a. The Flood of 1927?
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.

## WORK

1. What are some of the jobs you have held to earn a living?
2. Who were some of the other persons who did work similar to yours? What kind of relationship did you have with such persons?
3. Which ones did you enjoy the most? Probe: Why?
4. Which ones did you dislike? Probe: Why?
5. Describe some good times at work?
6. Do you recall any of the following activities in areas that are in the City of Jackson (city limits) now? (Probe after each recollection: What? When? How many? Describe?)
  - a. "Washer Women"
  - b. Quilting Bees
  - c. Community canning
  - d. Butchering hogs, cows
  - e. Sugar cane milling (?)
  - f. Street Peddlers, venders of goods who advertised by singing

## FAMILY

1. What was your family like?
2. What were good times in your family home?

## BUSINESSES

1. In your earliest recollection, what was the business community like?
2. Do you recall any flourishing Black businesses at that time?
3. Do you recall anything of the following?
  - a. Sims Bakery or Risher Bakery
  - b. Banks - "American Trust and Savings Bank" (located on Pearl and Farish, capitalized \$20,000, closed in 1903); "Southern Bank" (capitalized at \$10,000 \_\_\_\_\_ 1904, President L. K. Atwood.) Did you do business with either of these banks? What was the nature of it?
  - c. Night Clubs, Funeral Homes, Cafes, Pool Halls, Grocery Stores, etc.
  - d. Any Black businessmen, i.e., L. K. Atwood, C. C. Sims (contractor), H. K. Risher (baker), Dr. S. D. Redmond, others?

4. How has the business community changed since then?
5. How are Black businesses today different from what you recall about the past?
6. What was the state of Black businesses in the Jackson area in the 20's? 30's? 40's? 50's? 60's?
7. Who were some of the Black businessmen of the above periods?

SERVICES: (Utility and Health)

1. Telephones

- a. Can you recall the first experience you had with telephones?
- b. What is your earliest recollection of telephones in Jackson (La. Co. put telephones in mayors office in 1882 and February 5, 1907; N. D. Smith supplied city 20 phones for communication and intelligence.)

2. Water and Sewer

- a. What was your family's source of water as early as you can remember?
- b. Do you recall the introduction of a public water system to your neighborhood? Public sewage system?

3. Electricity

- a. When did your family first get electricity?
- b. When did most others in your neighborhood get electricity?
- c. What were the prices?
- d. Do you recall any of the first people in your neighborhood to get electricity? What were their names?

4. Welfare

5. Health

- a. What are your recollections of health services offered in Jackson when you were a child?
  1. Were there Black doctors? Who were they?
  2. Were there Black nurses? Public nurses? Who were they?
  3. Were there Midwives? Do you remember any of them?
- b. Do you recall the opening (1940) of the "Sallie Harris Clinic" in the St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Pearl Street?

1. Did you ever go there for services?
  2. Do you recall any of the services offered?
  3. Do you remember any of the staff members? i.e., Doctors, Nurses?
- c. What were some of the leading health hazards of the 20's? 30's? 40's? 50's? 60's?

### RECREATION

1. What did you do for recreation in the "Good Old Days"?
2. Do you recall any of the following? (Probe after each recollection, i.e., Who? When? Did you enjoy it? How often?)
  - a. Rabbit Foot Shows or Silas Green Shows?
  - b. Fairs (?)
    1. Do you remember the State Fair prior to 1915?
    2. If so, what was it like?
    3. Do you remember what the fair was like between 1915 and 1917?
    4. The city took over the fair in 1917. What differences have you noticed since that time?
  - c. Socials or Dances?
    1. Where did you attend dances?
3. Did you ever go to the "Crystal Palace"? "The Four O'clock Tea Room"? Any night clubs (what were the names? Who owned them?)
  - d. Sports?
    1. What sports did you have knowledge of as a child?
    2. Did Jackson communities have baseball teams? Football teams? Others?
    3. What sports were played in your school?
    4. What was the most popular sport in Jackson in the 20's? 30's? 40's? 50's? 60's?
  - e. Hay Rides?
  - f. Tent Shows?
  - g. Games?
    1. What games did you play as a child? As a young adult? As a mature adult?
    2. Do you recall any of the following?
4. What is your earliest recollection of a public park?
  - a. Were you allowed to go there?
  - b. Were there any restrictions?
  - c. What kind of recreational facilities were available in the park area?

- d. Do you recall the opening of the Jackson Zoo in 1919?
- e. Were there parks in your neighborhood?

### SOCIAL TRADITIONS

1. What were some of the social traditions which you enjoyed most?
2. What do you recall of the following? (Probe after each recollection.)
  - a. Wakes
  - b. Pre & Post burial rites
  - c. Courtships
  - d. Concept of family life
3. Do you recall anyone actually jumping over a broom to get married?

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Of the six kinds of environments I will list, in which two did you have the best times?
  1. Musical Environment
  2. Religious "
  3. Work "
  4. Home "
  5. During some social tradition or custom, i.e., a wedding, etc.
  6. Recreation (sports, card games)
2. Which two did you not care for at all? Which two do you still enjoy?

### ON RECENT SOCIAL CHANGES

1. What recollections do you have of Black/White relationships when you were a child? A young adult? A mature adult?
2. What do you recall of the Jim Crow Era?
3. What are your recollections about lynchings? Did you witness the lynching of any person? Did you know anyone who was lynched. Do you recall any of the following lynchings?
  - a. Five (5) Black people (1893) for well poisoning
  - b. Sam Sims (1906) for killing a horse
  - c. Louis Wimberly (1921), Rankin County for rape
  - d. James Martin (1921), Bolton, Mississippi for rape
  - e. Frank West (1928), Bolton, Mississippi for rape
4. Do you recall the "Albert Lee Rape Case" of the 1940's? (Probe: What was the general feeling about it? Did you know Albert Lee? What did you, personally, think of the case?)

5. In recalling the 1950's, what is the most significant national or local event you can remember?

EXPLORE: Do you recall the Brown vs. Topeka Court Decision? What was your reaction to it? What was the general attitude of the Jackson community?

6. Do you recall the murder of Emmet Till? (Probe same as above)
7. Do you recall the NAACP's test case concerning equal pay for teachers in Mississippi brought in the late 50's? (Probe)
8. When did you first hear of Martin Luther King? Under what circumstances? (Probe)
9. When did you first hear of Malcolm X? (Probe)
10. Do you recall the death of 'Mr. Conic' who was connected with the NAACP? (Probe)
11. What remembrances do you have about the death of Medgar Evers? (Probe)
12. Do you recall the National NAACP convention which was held here in 1969?
13. What are some of the good things you can recall about the White/Black relationships during the following periods: 1900-10; 1910-20; 1920's; 1930's; 1940's; 1950's; 1960's; 1970's?