

Interviewee: Mr. Ed McElroy  
Interviewer: Tom Hardy  
Date: May 30, 1977  
Place: Mr. McElroy's home in Clinton, Mississippi

Index:

00-01 Introduction and Birth date.

02-07 Family Background

Father as a slave: who owned him and his mother sold  
when he was 9 years old.

Father being chased by dogs.

Jumping the stick (Plantation marriage for slaves)

How his father was brought up after his mother was sold.

08-13 Clinton Riot and Charles Cladwell.

Bill Turner(Black) bring guns to Moss Hill.

Blacks invited by whites to Picnic.

Riot begins by throing eggs.

Riders kill Blacks following the riot.

Charles Caldwell, discription of his attitude.

Clinton afraid of Cladwell.

Death of

Killed in Hole in the Wall and location of.

Caldwell set up by John Smith.

Hole in the Wall,discription of.

Caldwell is shot.

Caldwell's brother arrives on the scene and is killed.

14-15 Riders after Blacks

Brief discussion White Terrorism of Blacks.

16-17 The Merchant

Supplies family with necessary supplies.

Picking cotton and not being able to go to school.

18-21 Being brought up as a child.

Taught to fear Whites.

Blacks had no defense against Whites.

Riders hang Blacks for little or no cause.

Taught to obey the White man.

Had to be careful of what you said to Whites.

22-24 Religion

Sunday School.

Easter Play.

Field work prevents regular Church attendance.

Churches are far apart



25-27 Farming.

Foods raised.

Land rented by Father.

Other Blacks as Share Croppers.

Landlord gets  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all that is produced.

Sent to field at age of 9.

Children too young to go to the field are left at home.

Lawns do not have any grass on them.

28-30 Education.

Children divided into four groups.

Games played: Mostly baseball.

Description of making of baseballs.

Description of the school

Subjects taught.

Taken out of School in March.

Number of children in Family.

The remainder of this interview was lost due to human error.



Interviewee: Ed McElroy  
Interviewer: Tom Hardy  
Date: May 30, 1977  
Palce: Mr. McElroy's Home in Clinton, Mississippi

Mr. McElroy is a life long resident of Clinton, having been born there in 1891. He is the son of a former slave, and a widower.

In this interview there are a number of topics and issues which must at some point in time be addressed. There is the description of the time of slavery, in which Mr. McElroy's Grandmother is sold away from her son when he is but 9 years old. There are oral traditions on the Clinton Riot of 1875 and the murder of Charles Caldwell. Also discussed is education: the type of school building, teachers, and games played by the children. His is a rich story of what it was like to be Black and to grow up in the time of the KKK.



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWER AGREEMENT

I, John Y. Hardy, in view of the historical and scholarly value of the information contained in the interview with Mr. Ed McElroy knowingly and voluntarily permit Jackson State University, Jackson the full use of this information, and hereby grant and assign to Jackson State University, Jackson all rights of every kind whatever pertaining to this information, whether or not such rights are now known, recognized or contemplated.

John Y. Hardy  
Interviewer (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Interview Number

7-18-77  
Date