

Life on the land: Voices

COMMENTARY AND SIDEBAR NOTES BY L. MAREN WOOD

Interviews from *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World* (see <http://www.ibiblio.org/sohp/laf/index.html>).

As you read...

These interviews were part of a larger collection of oral histories collected in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The interviewers were interested in capturing the experiences of the men and women who were part of the early textile industries in North Carolina at the turn of the twentieth century.

The interviews were the bases of a book entitled *Like A Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World*, published by University of North Carolina Press in 1987. You can learn more about this project and listen to more interviews at the Like A Family (see <http://www.ibiblio.org/sohp/laf/overview.html>) website.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What type of farm did these people live on – did they own or rent?
2. What type of work was done by different members of the family? The father? Mother? Children?
3. What types of crops did each family grow? Which crops did they sell? What crops were grown to be used by the family?
4. How many children were in each family?
5. Some of these people's families left their farm. Why? What motivated these families to give up farming?
6. How did these families obtain clothing or goods not grown on their farm?
7. Flossie Durham described the types of shops and factories in Bynum. What shops or factories were in Bynum when she was a young girl that were no longer part of that town when she gave this interview?
8. How was George Dyer's father paid by the lumber company?
9. Eunice Austin and Gladys Hollar both lost their fathers as young children. How did the loss of their father affect their families?

Eunice Austin

Eunice Austin talks about growing up on a farm in Catawba County. (1:11)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Eunice Austin talks about the work she and her sisters did on the farm, often work that would ordinarily be done by boys. (1:00)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Eunice Austin talks about her mother's work on their family farm. (0:15)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Eunice Austin interviewed by Jacquelyn Hall, Newton, North Carolina, July 2, 1980. Interview #H-107 in the Southern Oral History Program Collection (#4007), Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Flossie Durham

Flossie Durham, born in 1883, describes her family's move from the farm to Bynum, NC. (1:23)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Flossie Durham talks about the crops her family planted on the farm. (1:28)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Flossie Durham explains how family friends helped her mother make the decision to move to Bynum after her father's death. (:49)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Flossie Durham describes moving into the mill house in Bynum. (1:10)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Flossie Durham talks about her work on the farm as a child and about her brothers' work. (1:51)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Flossie Durham talks about the cotton gin her family where her family took their cotton. (1:10)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Flossie Durham describes helping her mother at home on the farm and describes her mother's work. (1:00)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Flossie Moore Durham interviewed by Mary Frederickson and Brent Glass, Bynum, North Carolina, September 2, 1976. Interview # H-66 in the Southern Oral History Program Collection (#4007), Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

George Dyer

George Dyer describes his parents' financial situation when they got married and started farming. (1:15)

This media is available in the web edition only.

George Dyer talks about his parents' decision to leave their farm. (1:23)

This media is available in the web edition only.

George Dyer talks about the farm where he grew up. (1:26)

This media is available in the web edition only.

George and Tessie Dyer interviewed by LuAnn Jones, Charlotte, North Carolina, March 5, 1980. Interview # H-161 in the Southern Oral History Program Collection (#4007), Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Gladys Hollar

Gladys Hollar discusses her grandparents and farm life. (1:35)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Gladys Hollar discusses the work that her mother and the children did on the family farm. (1:08)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Gladys Hollar talks about the impact of her father's death on the family and their farm. (0:59)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Gladys Hollar describes her mothers worries about the family's survival. (0:19)

This media is available in the web edition only.

Glenn E. and Gladys Hollar interviewed by Jacquelyn Hall, Conover, North Carolina, February 26 and 28, 1980. Interview # H-124 in the Southern Oral History Program Collection (#4007), Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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