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Mrs. Chastain has resided in Cobb County for 44 years and at the same location since 1910. She lives on a farm on Glens Chapel Road within 2 miles of Kennesaw, Ga. Two interviews were conducted. During the first Mrs. Chastain recounted her experiences with Dr. Hook and Dr. Scott. In the second Dr. Scott talked to Mrs. Chastain and her daughter, Katherine, jointly. The two interviews have been combined.

EH = Hook CC = Chastain KB = Baker TS = Scott

EH I have purchased a house in Kennesaw in which you once lived. Do you remember when?

CC It was in 1886, but I don't know what month. Have you read about the earthquake that they had in South Carolina long years ago? It shook in Kennesaw. My father and mother were living in that home, and I was not quite 3 years old. They were living there, and my father's mother was there. He was at work, and my mother was excited during all that rattling or whatever that goes on during an earthquake. She told us, "Just be quiet. It's an earthquake." So that house has been there a long time.

EH You don't know how old roughly it was when you went there I suppose?

CC No.

EH How long did you live there?

CC We didn't live there too long because we moved into another place. I had one sister, and she was born when we moved into this other home. She was born on September 7, 1888.

EH What was your father doing? What did he work at?

CC He was railroading.

EH So he was right close to where he worked then wasn't he?

CC Yes.

EH What did he do on the railroad?

CC He was just an ordinary brakeman. He wasn't a conductor or anything. Just a brakeman on the freight lines.

KB One interesting thing about my grandfather's railroading was that he was on the train that hauled the first load of watermelons from Atlanta to Chattanooga.

Kennesaw College Oral History Project
Interview with Cassie Wingo Chastain
Conducted by Eugene R. Huck and Thomas A. Scott
Friday, April 4, 1980, and Tuesday, July 15, 1980

Mrs. Chastain has resided in Cobb County for 94 years and at the same location since 1910. She lives on a farm on Greers Chapel Road within 2 miles of Kennesaw College. Two interviews were conducted. During the first Mrs. Chastain recounted her experiences with Dr. Huck and Dr. Scott. In the second Dr. Scott talked to Mrs. Chastain and her daughter, Katherine Baird. The two interviews have been combined.

EH = Huck CC = Chastain KB = Baird TS = Scott

EH I have purchased a house in Kennesaw in which you once lived. Do you remember when?

CC It was in 1886, but I don't know what month. Have you read about the earthquake that they had in South Carolina long years ago? It shook in Kennesaw. My father and mother were living in that house, and I was not quite 3 years old. They were living there, and my father's mother was there. He was at work, and my mother was excited during all that rattling or whatever that goes on during an earthquake. She told us, "Just be quiet. It's an earthquake." So that house has been there a long time.

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EH What was your father doing? What did he work at?

CC He was railroading.

EH So he was right close to where he worked then wasn't he?

CC Yes.

EH What did he do on the railroad?

CC He was just an ordinary brakesman. He wasn't a conductor or anything. Just a brakesman on the freight lines.

KB One interesting thing about my grandfather's railroading was that he was on the train that hauled the first load of watermelons from Atlanta to Chattanooga.

- CC In an ice car.
- KB What year would you think that was? Did he quit railroading before Uncle Tom was born?
- CC No, he quit railroading after we moved to Kennesaw. About 1900 or 1902. Somewhere in there.
- TS Did he go all over the country with the railroad?
- KB No, just Atlanta to Chattanooga. He wrote notes and cards that he would leave the family as he would pass through Kennesaw. The "Texas" was one of the trains that he ran on. That was one that was on the road then. They were coming from Chattanooga down through Whitfield County near Tunnel Hill, and he saw these cattle out there. This bull just started for the railroad track. Now I'm giving you his exact words. He said, "It was determined to get over." Well, they swept it up on the cowcatcher. The men looked out. My granddaddy was a big, tall man. He would get up and swing his arm round and round and say, "That bull's tail was just going around and around and around. It was all they could see. So they got the train into a stop, and they got out and got him off. In just a second after they put him out on the ground he ran off. They had some bad wrecks back then. One time Granddaddy was coming up from Atlanta, coming home after a run, and down there just the side of the Chattahoochee River the boiler on the engine exploded. Did the engineer get killed that time?
- CC No, the engineer wasn't hurt; but the fireman was hurt. He finally died.
- KB So Granny got worried about Grandpa being on the railroad--her with 4 children. So she persuaded him just to farm.
- TS Around the turn of the century there were an awful lot of accidents on the railroads. There were really in the hundreds per month who were being killed on the railroads nationwide. Railroading was just about the most dangerous occupation in the country at that time. Causes included explosions, wrecks from going too fast, tracks which maybe didn't have the proper grade in all cases, etc. But there were an awful lot of workers killed on the railroads.
- KB I never knew that. Did you know it, Mother?
- CC Oh, yes. I had a lot of railroading in my life.
- KB You know most of the men in Kennesaw were railroaders.
- TS Without the railroads we wouldn't have gotten anything to market in that period. They were crucial to the development of the country at that time.
- EH Let's go back to the house where you lived in 1886. It was your mother and your father and his mother that lived there?

- CC Yes.
- EH And then you and a younger sister were born?
- CC Yes. I wasn't born there. I was born in a little place over right near the cemetery. The little house is gone now. But my sister was born in a house where the funeral home used to be over there in Kennesaw.
- EH In that white house behind Bobby Grant's?
- CC Yes, but it wasn't in that house. There was another dwelling there. When Mr. Ed Hill bought that place, he moved this little house and built there. My sister was born in the little house that was moved many years later.
- TS How many brothers and sisters did you have?
- CC Two brothers and one sister.
- KB My grandfather Wingo's mother and father lived in a little house at Moon Station, not far from Kennesaw.
- TS Did the train stop there if somebody waived it down?
- KB No, it didn't stop there. That was just a crossing. Why did they call it Moon Station? Did a Moon family live there?
- CC I do not know, but it was a wood station when the trains were burning wood.
- KB My grandfather was born in 1856, and my grandmother was born in 1859. There were 4 children at home: my grandfather, my Uncle Chuck, Aunt Sally, and who else?
- CC Aunt Mary. In the first place Grandma Baldwin lived there. Grandma Wingo and her family came back down there to be with her mother.
- KB Oh, when Great-grandfather had to go to war, she came down and moved in with the Baldwin family--her mother?
- CC Yes.
- KB So it was the Baldwin homestead. When Sherman's army came through and all his various corps of men, they were stationed there on the north side of the railroad. They were all over there, and my brothers have found some bullets over there when they were doing some grading a few years ago. These soldiers were very nice to my grandmother, but she had her cow fenced up outside the corner of the house. There was an L there. They put a fence across there, and she kept her cow in there lest they might take it. There was an old hen setting up high somewhere in the edge of the roof on a nest. So a Yankee soldier came by and just knocked that hen in the head and put her in his knapsack.

- TS Did they leave the cow alone?
- KB Yes, they didn't bother the cow.
- TS That's amazing.
- KB Isn't it though. My great-grandmother Wingo went over where the horses had been fed corn by the federal soldiers and picked up the grains of corn that were on the ground everywhere and brought them home. She washed them and dried them and walked 10 miles to a gristmill to have them ground, so that she could have some bread for her children. She walked to Cherokee Mills. Cherokee Mills isn't there anymore, but I have seen it. I don't know if she was gone overnight or not. I don't know if she walked up there and back in one day.
- CC I don't imagine she did.
- KB I wouldn't think so. I would think that she would have had to spend the night with someone up there. Back in those days people made their own lye soap. I never did see my grandmother Wingo make any, and I was too young to see my grandmother Chastain make any. But the Chastains had an ash hopper. It was a box.
- CC You had a little trough below the hopper. You poured your ashes in there and poured water on the ashes. It went through the ashes and made lye.
- KB That's what they used to make the soap. They'd take old grease and meat skins or meat rinds (whichever you want to call it), and they'd have a barrel. Everyone butchered their own hogs. Everyone had to live at home back in those days because before the war there were wealthy people, but none of our family was that wealthy. They would save the meat rinds and any trimmings from the pork and put them in the barrel. During the war (Grandfather Wingo told this) they had to get those rinds out of that barrel and eat them because they did not have enough food. I think my grandmother would cook them and make cream gravy, and Grandfather Wingo would never eat cream gravy. Not anymore. He told some of the cutest tales about his experiences.
- TS Mrs. Chastain, did you go to school in Cobb County?
- CC Oh, yes. That's all the schooling I had. There was a man in Marietta that gave the land there for the school. Did you know that?
- TS Which school was that?
- CC The only one there's ever been in Kennesaw.
- EH No, I didn't know that he gave the land. Was it a donation?
- CC A Dr. Root. He had a drugstore in Marietta. There's a little street down there in the corner, and that street is named for him. He gave Kennesaw 10 acres. My grandfather Summers owned that land where the

airport is now. He and his bride moved down here in 1837. They settled over there. He knew that they were going to build that railroad through there, and he thought he'd get a lot of work. He did woodwork, and he built wagon wheels and things. So my grandfather helped build the first building that was there, and my mother went to school there.

KB Were all the Summers men (your grandfather and your uncles) woodworkers, Mother?

CC Yes, I think so.

KB They did beautiful work.

CC My grandfather's name was Thomas Franklin (Frank) Summers. He had read about this railroad going to be built while he was in North Carolina. When he got married, he and his wife came down here and settled over there. He did a lot of work building things.

KB My great-grandfather made all the wheelbarrows that were used in building this road from Atlanta to Chattanooga. He was a wheelwright.

TS Mrs. Chastain, how many grades were there in the Kennesaw School.

CC It wasn't graded here. I guess it went up to 10th grade.

TS Was it a one-room school then?

CC Yes, it was a one-room school with all these different classes.

TS How did the teacher teach students of different grades in the same room?

CC I couldn't tell you. You'd have had to go to school to find out. Everyone knew what class he belonged to. When the teacher called for a certain class, say 1st reader, they all went up there on the stage. What were those old readers called?

TS McGuffey's Readers?

CC Yes, we had all those. When they had the Macy's Parade in New York several months ago, an announcer on that program congratulated a Mr. McGuffey. He said he'd taught our children how to read.

TS About how many students were there in the school when you went there? There must not have been too many if it was a one-room school.

CC There were the children in Kennesaw and in the county outside. There must have been 60. Maybe more. I just don't remember.

EH How long did you go to school there?

CC That was all the schooling I got except 1 year I went to a little country school way out west of Kennesaw. Do you know the Gault boy in Kennesaw?

- EH Yes, I do.
- CC His father was a teacher. He was my first teacher. I always liked him. He moved to Kennesaw then, and I never did see too much of him. He was a mail carrier over there a long time.
- EH Mr. Gault is working in the little museum there in Kennesaw. He works 2 or 3 days a week for tourists who come in to see the "General." He gives the slide show and gives out little programs. He's a nice man.
- TS Have you lived in Cobb County all your life?
- CC Yes, I was born in Kennesaw and have been living here pretty close ever since.
- TS Did you get married after you got out of school?
- CC Oh, yes. I was at the ripe old age of 19.
- TS What did your husband do for a living?
- CC Farmed.
- KB My father also worked on the roads to help make a living when he was first married. Just dirt roads. No paved roads, of course. Even the Dixie Highway back then from Atlanta to Chattanooga wasn't paved. I can remember when it was just a dusty road. It was chert, and that chert came from Whitfield County. It was a special kind of dirt. It wasn't red. It was gray. Anyway, Daddy worked for 50 cents a day. I guess that wasn't bad. He was ambitious to get ahead. That was in the wintertime when he would do that.
- TS Did he own his farm?
- CC We had rented land 5 years. Then he bought this 80 acres here, and we moved over here. We lived at the first place we moved to 3 years. Then we lived 2 years with Little Frank Burt and Miss Helen. She was a member of the Methodist Church. He had a big farm on Big Shanty Road. Then my husband bought this place, and we've been here ever since. We moved here on January 1, 1910.
- EH This is a great location for a house. You've got a nice view all around.
- CC We liked it. We lived down there in a little cabin for 10 or 12 years. Finally we got to where we could build a place that was kind of like home. So we've been here ever since.
- TS Did you build this house yourself?
- CC Yes, sir. We ran a dairy for a good many years during the time of it. That's just about like being in a chain gang. You've got to work it Sunday just the same as any other day. If you're in a chain gang, you've got a day off. That's what I used to laugh and tell them.

- TS You can't take a vacation from the cows can you?
- CC Oh, no.
- KB Mother's father and mother and brother went to Florida 2 winters in a covered wagon. That was before 1920. They went to Live Oak. Then my uncle and my grandfather walked from Live Oak over to the coast. They walked to the ocean, and they brought back some seashells. My grandmother had bronchitis. She wasn't too well, and Granddaddy thought it would help her if they went to Florida. They had this one-horse spring wagon. It had a big spring on each axle, back and front. He covered it. They had a folding cot that Uncle Tom slept on. Granddaddy was a good carpenter, and he fixed the wagon bed so that they could put their springs and mattress in there and then put underneath this cot for my uncle, their charcoal bucket, and all their things that they carried. Two winters they travelled from Tunnel Hill to go down there.
- TS Did they go down the Dixie Highway all the way?
- KB Yes.
- TS And it was a dirt road all the way?
- KB Yes, it was a dirt road. Now that's when we lived in a cabin. That was prior to 1920-1921 when this house was built. We moved in here in February, 1921. My oldest brother and I were already born before we moved to this property. I can remember Daddy had in our two-horse wagon a great, big wooden box half as big as that organ over there. Mother was sitting in there holding my brother, and I was sitting beside her. This was 1910.
- CC It was cold weather.
- KB It was the first day of January, and I was 5 years old. I remember crossing Noonday Creek down there. We were sitting in this huge, big box to keep the cold wind off us. We were just sitting in the edge of it.
- CC We had lived on rented land for 5 years.
- KB This is the first farm Daddy bought, this Roberts farm. Then he had a tenant house right where our present driveway turns in around here coming in from Kennesaw. It was a little two-room house, and we cuddled up in that. I don't know how we managed. I don't know what Mother and Daddy did with much of the furniture.
- CC We didn't have much. We hadn't needed it.
- KB That's where we lived all the winter, fall and winter, till we moved up here.
- EH How many cows did you have at your biggest time?

- CC I believe the most we were milking at one time was about 36.
- TS That's a lot.
- CC It sure is.
- KB Daddy had 75 to 80 head of cattle when he was doing his biggest dairying. You always have some cows that are dry, and you have to wait until after calving time before milking them again. We were milking at least 36 and maybe more because my brother and I milked 12 to 15 apiece, and we had one hired hand. My brother and I milked along with the hired hand after we were up in this house.
- TS And you didn't have machinery then did you?
- CC Oh, no. They had just started with it, and my husband didn't try to use it. I've milked many a cow. I've milked 15 cows many a night during the summer while my husband was out working in the crop. I milked as many as the hired hand did. I had to do it just at night.
- TS About how long did it take to milk 15 cows?
- KB About 2 hours. We'd start at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Weren't we usually finished about 6:00, Mother?
- CC I guess so. About 6:00 or 6:30.
- KB We used to be out working in the field and see this little line up here--they called that the hook and eye. We'd hear that train go up at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It was time to go into the house to milk the cows, or else we would think, "Oh, it won't be long till time to go in. We won't have to work very much longer." That's what we would think. Then there was the Atlanta to Chattanooga line. They were all steam engines back then.
- TS So you heard that go by too?
- KB Yes, we'd hear those. They'd really make a lot of noise going around the mountain because that was a very steep grade. But the steepest grade on the Atlanta to Chattanooga railroad is right in Kennesaw. There was a little rhyme that we would say when we would hear it. "Going to Atlanta, black and dirty; going to Atlanta, black and dirty." It's strange how children grow up learning all these little things. Then there were 2 big marble mills in Marietta. They had a big whistle, and they'd blow that at the noon hour. We always knew when it was time to come in to eat, and we looked forward to hearing that. One great uncle who lived with us for a while taught us to watch our shadow. He was a dear; he was so much fun. When your shadow gets due north and south, I believe, that's when its noontime. We had to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning to go to the cow barn and milk, rain or shine, sleet or snow. We had to get up and go.
- TS So you milked at 4:00 and 4:00?

- KB Yes, 4:00 in the morning and 4:00 in the afternoon. Two wooden boxes are still in the family that my grandfather made. He bored holes in them. You could stick your finger in them. They were good sized holes. The boxes were painted black, and they had "John G. Rogers" painted on the side in gold letters. What else did they have painted on the side?
- CC To Atlanta and Tunnel Hill. My father and mother moved to Tunnel Hill when I got married.
- KB Granddaddy and Grandmother would send milk and butter to Atlanta to Uncle John and Aunt Allene. They were Mother's sister and her husband. They put the boxes in the baggage car. They had locks on them. They were hinged tops. Uncle John Rogers made wine. He'd make dandelion wine, grape wine, and blackberry wine. We still have a little box that Uncle John made his wine in. We use it now for a footstool.
- TS It makes a nice stool now doesn't it?
- KB Yes, it does. Mother always has it up here between the chairs in wintertime for people to put their ashtrays or magazines or something on.
- TS Where did you sell the milk?
- CC We carried it to Kennesaw, put it on a train, and sent it to Atlanta. We sold it to a dairy down there. There was a lot of work to it.
- EH No eight-hour days. You must have been working about 16 hours a day.
- CC Yes, that's about right.
- TS Were you carrying it in a wagon?
- CC Yes, we had a spring wagon that had a little, old pony. That was before we got a car. We hitched this little, old pony to the wagon. The milk cans held 10 gallons of milk and then a cooler that set down in them full of ice that held 2 gallons.
- TS That was the way you kept it from spoiling then?
- CC Yes, I always had a good report on the milk.
- KB Daddy kept everything so clean. You just wouldn't believe it.
- EH Where did you get the ice?
- CC Hauled it from Marietta.
- EH You had a little icehouse did you?
- CC Yes, they built a little icehouse onto what we called the dairy house where we carried the milk in. We had these cans setting in these barrels of ice water, and as we milked the man who ran the dairy

carried the milk in and put it in those cans so it could be cooling. I never did have to carry any of the milk. He did all of that. We've done a lot of hard work getting this old place paid for.

EH I'll bet you have.

KB Daddy could have sold 1000 gallons if he had had it, it was so rich. There was so much cream that would rise up. He fixed up a dairy house with concrete. He had 3 or 4 big barrels sitting around. He had an icehouse to which he would haul several hundred pounds--whatever he could haul on a two-ton truck out from Marietta about every other day. You cooled that milk in these cans. You put ice around them. And we strained it. You kept a cloth over the strainer, and you strained it in the can just as soon as you milked it. That kept the flies and anything out of it. We had something to cover it with. Beside the dairy house, we had a big steam boiler and had a gauge on it to tell when it got up to a certain place. They had a big vat, and they put these cans and all these things in to wash. The dairy room was screened. The little boiler room was not screened, but it had a big table on one side and pipes from this boiler. It was a wood-burning boiler.

CC We fired the boiler, and everything was steamed.

KB All these cans were put up on this wooden table where the pipes extended and steamed. It was like turning on a faucet, and that steamed those things. Then Daddy set them out on a shelf outside in the sun upside down. Of course, there was no traffic and no dust. Everyone was busy working in the crops. They didn't have time to be running up and down the road. Everything of Daddy's was as clean as it could be.

CC Everyday there was something to do, but we made a good bit of money.

KB We sure did, and we got beat out of some. One man failed to pay Daddy about \$1500. That was hard to take.

CC We had 80 acres here at first. Then after we got a good many cows, my husband got 100 acres down below here to have good pasture for the cows. We're right in the edge of the 80 acres. That new highway goes through the 100 acres down yonder. There was about 8 acres, I believe, out of the 80 here that our house and Harold's office is in.

TS Did you borrow the money from a bank to buy the land?

CC I couldn't tell you. My husband was a good farmer, and I reckon we had a little money to make a payment. We paid \$1875 for 80 acres, but I don't know what the payment was. He was a good farmer, and we always managed to have the payments ready.

TS What crops did you grow?

- CC Everything. Cotton, corn, wheat, oats. But the main crop was cotton. After we got the cows, he put up a silo. You had to grow corn to put that in. Then that didn't make enough feed for the cows, and he bought another silo. So we had 2 silos.
- KB Daddy just loved to sit on the porch and look out at the most beautiful corn. It was as tall as that corn in Oklahoma. He just sowed it. It just grew like that. Big, tall corn! He had a special machine to cut that with too. It was triangular in shape, and it was pulled by 1 mule and 3 men who rode this flat machine. Sharp knives on each edge cut the corn. One man in the center drove the mules, and 1 on either side gathered in the corn. A lot of water was placed with the corn in the silo. They pickled it. The cows loved it. One man was up in the silo all the time, and the silage was blown up. There was a pipe up from the outside. It was cut first by a machine that was operated by a gasoline powered motor. Mr. Lynn Knight came over with his machine. It gave a popping sound.
- CC That was the first. The last silage was put up by a tractor.
- KB Daddy put it up with a tractor after he got the tractor, but Mr. Knight came over. He lived over in the Sandy Plains area, and he came with this big machine. They ran day and night. It took an army of people to do the silage. It was so exciting to a little girl and a bunch of little boys. One time Mr. Knight was smoking a cigaret and putting gas in; and the can got on fire; and he got on fire. They grabbed him and rolled him, and they got it all out. Nobody got real hurt, but it was sure a scary time there. A man had to watch the machine all the time. It was on big wheels; and it was a big, long motor. It slanted up and had to be cooled by water, but it was gasoline operated. That's what powered it. Then there was a man there feeding this silage machine. It was a big cutter. Daddy finally bought a corn cutter. It had a table that moved into that cutter. You laid the corn on here and fed it in this machine. It took a man to do that, and it took 3 or 4 wagons hauling--as many as Daddy had and maybe 1 hired extra. And he had a wagon hauling water or the truck may have been hauling water from the creek. Then these teams would haul the corn up. They'd have a big, flat bed that would hold the corn. They couldn't just lay it on the regular wagon bed. They had to have it like you were going to haul a load of hay, you know. It extended out. It was a frame that they laid on top of it, and here these men were hauling that. We had a whole army of people working to get this done. When the corn would get ready and ripe, why it was time to do it.
- TS Did you eat any of the corn yourself?
- KB Yes. We didn't set any aside. Maybe we'd have some coming in later at another time. We had acres of corn. Then we had cotton so high that you could hardly see someone out there. He grew beautiful crops. He saved all the compost from the barnyard and scattered that out on the field. He had what you call a manure spreader. The machine was

a big, wagon-like thing. It had a slatted floor that moved. It had cogs that turned it. The boys would load that up. It took 2 mules to pull it. Then you'd go out over the field, and it had a spike-like thing in the back. It would turn and turn that floor.

CC Just shook that out all over the fields.

KB Just sifted it out across the fields. Daddy bought lots of fertilizer. He had a brother that owned Atlanta Chemical Company in Atlanta. He got the fertilizer from Uncle Troy, and he really grew the crops. He didn't quit working the crops the 4th of July. Everybody tried to be through everything by July 4, and not work anymore in the fields; but Daddy had an understanding with the people working on the farm that they were to work until that crop couldn't be plowed anymore. The more you cultivate the ground, the better the moisture comes up in it. It keeps the crop growing well.

TS So everybody else stopped the 4th of July and then just waited until harvest time?

KB Yes, but not Daddy as long as that corn wasn't too big. You know, back in those days we didn't have any insects to eat up the gardens.

TS Were there a lot of birds around to take care of them?

KB Yes, I guess so. We just didn't have them. You didn't see the things that we have now. I've seen insects in recent years that I never saw before. The potato bugs were the only things. Sometimes Daddy would have some of the little brothers go out with a bucket and pick them off. And he would make up a bucket of Paris green and put a sack or a cloth or something in it and just shake it over the plants. That would get rid of those bugs. We never had bean beetles and squash bugs and all these things that we have nowadays.

TS I'd heard that before that there weren't as many bugs.

KB Oh, no. I married in 1930, and we weren't having bugs then. We had boll weevils, but we didn't have bean beetles and all that stuff. I guess it was the 1940's or later before we did. We just had beautiful woods all up and down Noonday Creek. And now there aren't any. They've all been cut away. They sold pulpwood. Of course, we sold some off this farm too. After my father was sick such a long time, my brothers had some timber sawed. Daddy had timber here. They just sawmilled some. That's the way Harold and Billy got started in this business over here. They started out with a sawmill. Billy was with the engineers in the army. He trained at Savannah Beach.

TS How long did you continue dairying here?

KB We sold the dairy on February 19, 1928.

TS Did you take the cotton into where the museum is now to have it ginned?

CC Not at first because that gin wasn't over there.

TS Where was it at first?

CC There was a gin in Kennesaw one time, but it was over on this side of the railroad and down. There was a gin somewhere over on the Bells Ferry Road he hauled it to. But after Mr. Lewis put up over there, he hauled it there. But it was a long time before that one was there.

EH When did Mr. Lewis put up his gin roughly? Do you have any idea?

CC No, I don't remember. If you'd talk to one of his daughter's husbands, you might find out.

EH I know him. Mark Smith.

CC Yes, Mark Smith. Mr. Lewis married Miss Simmie Gibson, and they raised 5 girls. Way years later, Mr. Smith married one of them. You might get some information from them as to when that gin was there.

EH Mr. Smith writes for the little Kennesaw Gazette. Do you see that?

CC Yes, he brought me some copies; but I haven't been able to read a line in 10 years. I know what print is. I can tell what some letters are. But I can't read a line, and you don't know how much I miss it. Take care of your eyes. I did too, but I had a cataract and finally just went blind. Then I had the cataract removed, and one came on the other eye. I have an implant on this eye that I had put in about a year ago.

EH Does that work pretty good?

CC Yes, it's pretty good. I can see better out of it than I can with my real eye. But I can't read.

EH What did you like to read? Daily newspapers?

CC Yes, I read the newspaper, and I took some magazines and read my Bible some. Not as much as maybe I ought to.

EH I think that's true of all of us. Do you remember the names of any of those old magazines?

CC Just 2 right now. They weren't expensive. Hearth and Home and Home Comfort.

KB And she took Youth's Companion for the children to read.

TS Which newspaper did you buy?

CC The Marietta paper.

TS Did they deliver it the same day? It came out once a week didn't it?

- CC They didn't deliver it then. I got it through the mail.
- TS Did you get the mail the next day?
- CC Yes, we got the mail every day, but the paper came out when it was published. I don't think it was a daily paper then. We've been taking it a long time.
- KB The Atlanta paper that Grandpa took was triweekly. Both the Cobb County Times and the Marietta Journal came once a week. The Brumbys sold the Cobb County Times, and the Marietta Journal took over.
- TS Before you bought this place here, when you were renting the land, were you doing what is called sharecropping?
- CC Yes.
- TS Could you say a little bit about how it worked? Did you get half the crop?
- CC No, it was third and fourth.
- TS A third of the cereal and a fourth of the cotton?
- CC Yes, I think that's the way it was.
- TS Did you have your own farm animals then?
- CC Oh, yes. When we moved over here we had a good pair of mules, a two-horse wagon, a few house things, and 2 children.
- TS What kind of chores did you have the children do around the farm?
- CC When it was cotton-picking time, they could pick cotton. And they could chop cotton. There were a good many things they could do.
- TS Did you have to help with picking the cotton?
- CC Yes, unless you got to raising so much you hired a lot of it picked. The children helped cleaning the dairy barns and putting in feed for the cows. There was a lot of work to dairying.
- EH Did you have chickens?
- CC Oh, yes. We always had chickens and raised our own meat. I was right amused here some time ago. My daughter was here, and she was talking about her daughter and what all she had to do and about going to the store and having to get something for supper maybe. She said, "Mother, you were shielded from all that." I said, "Why, yes. We raised our own meat. We had our own meal and flour and our lard. We didn't have to go to the store every day for everything."

- TS Did you eat pretty well?
- CC Oh, yes. We lived pretty good. We always had a garden.
- TS Did you can vegetables?
- CC Yes, I've done a world of canning.
- TS Did you grow enough so that the vegetables would last all the year around?
- CC Yes, we always had some. When spring came we would have a spring garden. A lot of turnip greens. Then in the fall we would plant for the winter in turnips, cabbage, and collards. We lived pretty good for just old farmers.
- KB Daddy was a good provider. Everything was grown at home except sugar, matches, and coffee. Daddy killed 8 hogs every year. We had a smokehouse full of meat, and we ate ham all summer.
- CC We had some good fat meat to season the vegetables with that you can't buy at the store.
- KB We ate the shoulders first, and then we'd eat the hams next because the shoulders don't keep as well as the hams do.
- TS Were hams easier to preserve than beef?
- KB Yes, I think so. We had beef only when some local farmer would kill a beef in the summer and just peddle it around.
- CC We never had much trouble keeping hams.
- KB Daddy didn't normally butcher any beef, but his twin brother would. So he would always come by, and Daddy would buy up a bunch. We'd have all we could eat for 2 or 3 days. Then maybe some other farmer somewhere would have calves he was fattening. They'd put them up and fatten them a little while. Mother always put her chickens in a pen. They run around, you know. But before she ever killed one, she'd put it up in a pen; and it'd stay 2 weeks. It was just fed corn and whatever was good. So we didn't eat anything that hadn't been eating properly itself. She was very particular about that. Oh, were they good ones! You can't get a chicken that tastes now like those did back then. And Mother had turkeys at one time and a few guineas on the farm.
- CC I had a bunch of guineas quite a while, but the foxes caught about all of them.
- KB Yes, the foxes got them. I don't know how they got started, but foxes started coming in here. One day I looked out, and a fox was chasing a guinea that went up a tree. The fox went higher than my head up the side of that tree. It just ran up the side of the tree after it.

- TS That must have been a little bit scary to have foxes so close to the house.
- KB Oh, it was. You could hear them at night. Mother had to quit having chickens because you just couldn't keep the foxes from catching them. Mother canned and preserved. We just lived at home. We didn't have to run to the store for things. We had plenty of milk. All my brothers ate bread and milk for supper. That's all they wanted. Mother cooked a big meal in the middle of the day. Then for supper every little boy had his own bowl and his own spoon. There were vegetables left from noontime; but Daddy ate those; and Mother ate some. The rest of us just wanted to have cornbread and sweet milk. That's all we wanted. We'd eat onions with it or hot pepper or pickled pepper in the wintertime.
- TS I've heard my mother tell about how they would take chicken to school to eat for lunch. They had chickens all the time, and chicken meant nothing to them. So they'd trade it for peanut butter and crackers with the city kids.
- KB Mother can tell you some tales about that. My brothers would trade their ham and biscuit sandwiches and their tomatoes for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches over at Kennesaw when they went to school over there. That was a treat to have that. Mother learned something about cooking an egg. She would just fry an egg, not maybe real hard, but just turning it over. And she would break it into a jar ring, and it would be perfectly round. That was her own invention.
- TS Did you have any help around the house or did you do all the cooking and cleaning yourself, Mrs. Chastain?
- CC I did most of it myself. My oldest child was a girl. She was good until she got grown up and married.
- KB Edwin stayed and helped her in the house after I married and went away. She just had to have some help with all that many brothers. There were 8 of them. Two had married, but there were still 6 at home. His name was Edward Winn, but we just called him Edwin. Now people just call him Ed. We still call him Edwin.
- CC Winn is a family name. That's who my mother-in-law was.
- KB She was Katie Winn. The other brothers were quite envious of Edwin because he got to stay in the house. He had to wash dishes and do all those things. Of course, all of them could cook and wash dishes. They knew what to do because they always went camping every summer. They went on a big fishing trip up to the Etowah River or Little River or various other places. They all learned to cook; but my father never could, bless his heart. He could boil water, and that was about all he could do. He didn't have time.

- CC Edwin had to stay and help me every morning, but he went to the field in the afternoon. He didn't get out of going to the field because he stayed in the house every morning. Then part of the time I had a good colored woman that would come up and help me some.
- TS She would just come part time?
- CC Yes, just a while every morning.
- KB After I was gone--I was going to business school in Atlanta--she had a Negro woman who lived in the little house across the road where we had lived before we moved in here. Lillie came up every morning and washed the dishes and cleaned up the kitchen for Mother. That was a great help. For a good, long while, when the children were small, we had a washwoman. She lived between here and Kennesaw. They would take the washing to Aunt Lou Jackson. We always called all the older colored people "aunt" and "uncle." We were taught to do that. They were all nice, clean people. You wouldn't mind sitting down and eating a meal in their house. Uncle Hilliard and Aunt Lou Holmes lived back of the Chastains over on Chastain Road. They were Negro friends and neighbors. And then Uncle Hamp and Aunt Lou Jackson.
- CC And Uncle Walt Jackson and his wife, Mae.
- TS What was the name of the woman who washed the dishes?
- CC Lillie Heard. The good Lord has certainly blessed me with such wonderful health. I've been sick such a little. I've been able to do the work. I've done a lot of washing. You don't know anything about that.
- TS With an old washboard?
- CC Oh, yes.
- TS My wife tried to find a washboard several years ago, and it was the hardest thing to find one. You can't find them anymore.
- CC Well, that's what they tell me. My first one was a wooden one, and I just wore it out. I got a metal one then. My son who collected old things took the old worn-out washboard. I don't know what he did with it.
- EH What are some of the furniture treasures that you have accumulated over the years? Did you have any from your parents left over?
- CC My safe in yonder. You know what a kitchen safe is?
- EH Yes.
- CC I started out keeping house with that, and my table over there we use every day is the one we started out with.

TS Do I see an organ?

CC Yes, my father bought that for my sister and me when I was about 14 years old. It still works and was pretty good. It's a Kimball, and he paid \$95 for it from the Kimball Company in Atlanta.

TS Ninety-five dollars was a lot of money then.

CC Oh, yes. Sure was. I had a suite of furniture that my father and mother gave me that was theirs. They gave it to me when I married. A year or two ago I gave it to my youngest son. We had to get somebody to live in with me. I have been unable to do the cooking and everything for a long time. So I gave that dresser, bedstead, and washstand to him.

EH Now is this what they call the Brumby rocker that I'm sitting in?

CC Yes, it is. My husband bought that special for me. I have 2 more Brumby chairs.

EH It's a very comfortable chair. You've enjoyed this over the years. I'll bet you've rocked a lot of babies on this.

CC Oh, yes. He got that for me right after we moved up here. I think we moved into this house in 1921. I got married in 1904. We moved into a little cabin on this property in 1910. We married on Christmas day, 1904. One of my granddaughters a few years ago said, "Well, what did you get married on Christmas for?" I said, "Well, we decided we wanted to. My husband was going to farm, and we had to get started out and know what we were going to do."

TS Sounds like a good day to get married on to me. do you have?

CC Oh, yes.

KB That oak table was part of Mother's dowry. And didn't they give you all a cow, Mother, or was it chickens or both?

CC A cow.

KB Well, that was a great asset. so many years and finally took her away.

CC Sure was when you're starting out with nothing.

KB And young folks still get married and start out with nothing even today.

TS Did Mr. Chastain grow up in Cobb County?

KB Oh, yes, over here on Chastain Road. That's named for his grandfather. I wish I had thought to get a picture of the big two-story house; but I never did; and it burned down like many others. My grandmother had so many beautiful roses. She died when I was 5, but I grew up seeing a lot of them still there. The front yard was fenced in to be sure no animal got in there. Her father was kind of a rose fancier.

- CC He lived on White Circle.
- TS What was your father's full name, Mrs. Baird?
- KB William Dean Chastain.
- TS And your grandfather?
- KB Whitten T. Chastain, but they called him Whit. Whit's father's name was Green Berry Chastain. He moved to Alabama.
- CC He is buried near Oxford.
- KB One of my father's brothers is named Troy Green Chastain. All of our family is buried up at Gresham Cemetery on Shallowford Road. My other grandparents, the Wingos, are buried at the Shiloh Cemetery. One of Granddaddy Wingo's sisters is buried at Shiloh, but there's no marker.
- CC No, she was buried back at the time of the war or just after. People were having a hard time to live. My father's father is buried somewhere in Mississippi. He was killed in the Battle of Vicksburg.
- KB Granddaddy Wingo gave to me the grapeshot that caused the death of my great-grandfather Wingo. Granddaddy Wingo bought 40 acres of land over there near the Butler building--the two-story Butler home.
- CC The other side of Kennesaw.
- KB That's where he had the log cabin built.
- EH Tell me again, Mrs. Chastain, how many children do you have?
- CC Twelve.
- EH And how many of those are living now?
- CC Seven. I have 6 sons and a daughter still living. One daughter lived to be about 24, I believe. She had started when she was about 3 or 4 years old having asthma, and there never was any cure found for that. That affects your heart after so many years and finally took her away. But she was a sweet, Christian girl, we thought.
- EH How many grandchildren do you have?
- CC I have 17 grandchildren, I believe; and I believe there's 17 great-grandchildren. I have to count them up.
- EH Did the Chastain family own any land around the present location of Kennesaw College?
- CC That was in Mr. Frey's property.
- EH Much of it was Frey property. Someone mentioned that a Chastain owned part of it, but maybe it was all Frey.

- CC I think it was. One Miss Frey married a Chastain.
- EH That may be the connection. Are you related by any chance to John Chastain, our tax collector?
- CC Oh, yes. He's my nephew. Several Chastains--Mrs. Donna Chastain and Mrs. Rachel Chastain--live in the Pinetree area.
- EH That used to be a county park didn't it? What did that use to be before it was a country club?
- CC It belonged to one family of Chalkers way back. Then they died and sold out, and another party or two owned it. The last one, I believe, was Mr. King. He was the Holiness man. That's who that belonged to. They got it from him.
- TS How many churches did you have around here?
- CC Way back yonder when Grandfather Summers came here from North Carolina in 1837, he settled over there and bought that land where McCollum Airport is. His family was raised there. His wife, Grandma Summers, was a Presbyterian. There wasn't any church close. There wasn't a church in Kennesaw. Shiloh was the nearest church. When they were farming, he'd tell the boys if they were plowing, "Mother's horse, be sure and bring Mother's horse up. She's going to church today." She'd ride horseback up to Shiloh to church, and my mother rode with her behind her a good many times up there. But Grandpa Summers was a Unitarian, I believe. Do you know anything about that?
- EH Yes, that's a surprise. That wasn't very popular here in the South.
- CC No, I never knew of any others. But in 1878, I reckon, they organized the First Baptist Church in Kennesaw. I reckon the Methodists started about that time too. I don't know whether the Baptist Church was first or the Methodist. I kind of thought the Baptist was first, but they are about the same. Ours was organized in 1878. It was a two-story building where the drugstore is. The Grangers had the upstairs, and these people that wanted to organize a church rented that and organized a Baptist church up there. Then they followed with a revival, and I think they got 20 members at that revival. Then I don't know just how they got the land. The church was built right up, though, where the museum is. It was just a plain, weatherboarded church. It had a steeple. The bell that is out in the yard of that church up there now was the bell that was in the steeple there.
- KB There weren't any churches around here except that little Methodist church that was on Shiloh Road and the churches at Kennesaw and then New Salem back over there.
- CC That's a real old church.
- KB Yes, it is. And then Marietta.

TS I think there's a Presbyterian church on Mars Hill Road that's been there a long time.

KB It's been there a long time. There's a big cemetery there. Then there's Hickory Grove and some others on Highway 92 out of Acworth. I don't know how old they are. You know, we didn't get around very much. We were too busy dairying and farming. We had a little church and a little schoolhouse right over the road here.

TS You're talking about right down the dirt road?

KB Right down this hill, and right down the dirt road before you get to the creek. Do you know where the house sits over there? I went to school over there. It was a one-room schoolhouse called Pine Grove. We just had preaching--church--once a month. An old man--a missionary--came out here to us and preached Saturday and Sunday. He was a Congregationalist. He was German, and he was the sweetest old man. Brother Lowe Rolader. He farmed. He owned quite a bit of property out where he lived on Powers Ferry Road--somewhere out in there. They had 2 beautiful daughters. Maybelle was a schoolteacher in Atlanta and is still living. Nora died at 30 years old of cancer. It's just unreal.

EH Mrs. Chastain, when your father bought land near the Butler home, was he moving close to the cemetery? There is a Butler up there.

CC No, that's one of them named Butler. But Mr. Hiram Butler built a two-story home about 2 miles out of Kennesaw on the Butler Road. They may call it the Pine Mountain Road now. My father bought 40 acres of land just the other side of that, and we lived over there a long time. We built a little log house and lived there. In 1896 my father bought this home where the Gault boys now live. One Mr. Gramling owned it then. He bought it from them, and we lived there a good many years. Then he sold it. I married and came over in the country, and my folks moved to Tunnel Hill.

EH I guess this really was the country over here from Kennesaw.

CC Oh, yes. There were no houses over in here.

EH This is maybe 2 miles from the center of town or 3 maybe.

CC On the road running beside the house Mr. Charlie and Mrs. Roberts had a nice, two-story building where the Lewises live now. That was the only house on that road then.

EH I don't know exactly where that is. You mean over here the other side of the quarry?

CC Yes, there was 1 house between there and the Roberts place. That old house burned many years ago.

EH That's Lenora Lewis' daddy's place. She is a student at Kennesaw College.

- CC There is a Masonic--
- EH Across the street is the Masonic Lodge.
- CC I'll have to tell you that I was at the laying of that cornerstone when it was up in Kennesaw in that big building.
- EH Meyerhardt Lodge when it was in downtown Kennesaw.
- CC Oh, yes. In that big, two-story building there or three-story. It belonged to Mr. Glen Lewis. I was there when they laid that cornerstone. Just a young somebody. I went down there to see them do it. Mr. Charlie Morgan's family were members of our church, and that's one reason I knew him. I saw him at church, and he was the one that laid the stone.
- EH I guess they met there for 60, 70, 80 years maybe.
- CC Yes. They moved the stone and put it out there.
- EH Was your husband a mason?
- CC No, he wasn't.
- TS Was it lonely living out here by yourself when you were a newlywed and beginning your family?
- CC I didn't have time to get lonesome.
- EH How long has the quarry been over here, Mrs. Chastain?
- CC Oh, good gracious. I don't know. Quite a few years.
- EH Was that on your property when your husband bought this?
- CC No, it belonged to Mr. Duncan, I believe, or Mrs. Ellison. I believe it was Mr. Duncan.
- EH What are some of the things that you remember about school days other than the fact that you were working in the school? Did you have some special tricks that you played?
- CC Oh, yes. One time when us girls got pretty good size, we got a ball team. We jumped rope. I could just about beat any of them jumping rope, so I thought. There's one thing I want to tell you that's kind of comical. Right where Dr. May's office is there is an old shop building in there. Do you know where Dr. Ellis' home is? Right next to the drugstore. That nice little house in there. There's a big, old, two-story house in there; and one Mr. Hughes lived in it. Mr. Hughes and another man had a workshop down there where they did ironwork.
- EH A blacksmith shop?

CC Yes, a blacksmith shop. The other man was a preacher. He was tall and slim. I remember he lived over there a long time. This is what they said he said. I don't know when he told it. He said there were 3 things that he wasn't going to do: dig wells, top trees, and shear mules' tails. His name was Reynolds. There were 2 huge water tanks over there a long time. Mr. Gibson (the Lewis girls are his grand-daughters; his daughter Simmie married Glen Lewis) ran the station down there that kept those tanks full of water for the trains. They first had just 1 tank. Then they put on more engines and bigger ones, and they had 2 huge water tanks. Talk to Hoss Bozeman. He could tell you something about the size of them. It's just good to visit with him. He was over here. I'm a lot older than he is, but it was just good talking to him because he knew so many people back yonder that I knew.

EH Does he live in Kennesaw now?

CC Oh, yes. He lives in Kennesaw right across from the library.

KB I graduated from Marietta High School in 1927, and then I went to business college in Atlanta. The last year I went to Marietta High School they installed a business course, and they wouldn't let us seniors take it because we wouldn't have time to get 2 years. I was late graduating from high school, but I was determined to get through.

TS I did an interview with Shuler Antley who came to Marietta in 1928.

KB Yes, he became principal of Marietta High School after we were there. A wonderful man named J. L. Fleming was the principal. He was going to Emory and studying law. He had an apartment out there somewhere, and his apartment caught on fire. He went back in to get something and burned up. It was so sad, but that was after I was graduated from high school. He was so nice, and just everybody admired him greatly. There were some beautiful teachers there. They were marvelous. I had a difficult time getting through because I didn't have the foundations. We just had a 7 month school out here. We went about 3 months in the summer over here at "Chigger Hill," and then it would be time to pick cotton. We picked cotton and went back to school later. When I went to Kennesaw, that wasn't a graded school. So I didn't get the foundation there that I needed. Mother walked 3 miles to school with her brothers and sisters.

TS Was there any public transportation in Marietta then?

KB The streetcar came from Atlanta to Marietta in an hour. The last one left Atlanta at 11 o'clock and got to Marietta about 12:00. I don't think it stayed in Marietta.

CC No, it went back.

KB As the old saying used to be, it was balling the jack. It really was because it was a pretty good space. They would have to stop to let people off all along, but it was just great. Coming home from business college for the weekend, I'd meet my family in Marietta. They'd come

down and meet me. Greers Chapel was just a muddy road, and usually we got stuck on a hill. Sometimes it was up to the hubcaps in mud. But it was so good to get home after being down there. It is a great pity that they ever did away with the streetcar. Taxis in Marietta were first called jitneys. That was what we first knew. We didn't know the word taxi. Mother has 2 beautiful certificates from Kennesaw with beautiful scrollwork--with a bird drawn and so on. What was the name of that principal, Mother?

CC J. D. Carpenter.

KB She has a little red ribbon with a little pin in it that she won for being the best speller in the class.

CC It went all around. If I lost, somebody else got it.

TS Do you think people have changed any since you were growing up, Mrs. Chastain? How would you compare people today and people then?

CC I couldn't tell you, but there sure is a difference in the young folks now and then.

TS What would you see as the difference between the way you grew up?

CC Well, they just don't see and realize things like we did. They do things so differently. I was talking with a granddaughter, and I guess that was right. She works, her husband works, and they've got 3 children. They've got to pay every one of them to do something. Well, good lands, we never had the money to pay our children for the little things they did around. I can't see what good that does them, but I guess that's the right thing to do.

TS What kind of values did they teach you in school or at home when you were growing up? Did they tell you to work hard or--

CC No, but they just expected us to get up our lessons.

EH Did you have Bible study in school?

CC There was one teacher I remember who always had a prayer.

EH Did you have slate boards when you were in school?

CC Yes, we had slates; and we had the whole side of the schoolhouse painted black. We could go to the blackboard and do work--work an example or do whatever they required you to do.

EH What subjects did you like in school--mathematics, English, or--

CC Oh, I got along pretty good with everything.

EH You mentioned history. Do you like history?

- CC Yes, I had history.
- EH Did you study the Civil War? What period do you like?
- CC Oh, yes. Sure did study about the Civil War. I mentioned that my grandfather Wingo was wounded and died in the Battle of Vicksburg. My mother had a brother who I believe had measles and died from exposure. I believe he's buried in Virginia.
- EH I see a sewing machine base over there. I bet you've done some sewing in your time.
- CC Oh, yes, and I've still got my old machine. That's just something I got to make a table. Yes, I have done quite a bit of sewing.
- TS Was this one you operated by foot to make it run?
- CC Oh, yes.
- EH That was the only kind.
- CC We had electric lights called lalley lights for a few years.
- TS When you first moved here?
- CC Yes, but it didn't last long because water ran the plant somehow. We had a well off the road, and 16 batteries were downstairs. Whenever you would draw off so much water, the plant would run. That would heat them. But that didn't last long. Then we dug a deep pit 20 feet deep and put this stuff in there. They were carbide lights.
- EH I don't know about that.
- CC You don't?
- EH It generated electricity?
- CC Yes, it generated electricity. Then that gave out, and we had electricity put in. But everything was handwork back yonder.
- KB Daddy had a well up yonder by the side of the road. It's still there up toward Harold's office. There used to be a little house there. Daddy had a lalley light plant in the basement. We had lights all over the house. It sat on a concrete block in the basement, and it had a big set of batteries.
- CC Sixteen.
- KB Sixteen, yes, that's right. I'd forgotten. Sixteen batteries. They pumped water from that well out there up here, and we had lights in the house and lights in the barn.

- CC But it didn't last. The well was too far from the house. It took too much power.
- KB And you couldn't get one on this hill. All this is granite rock from here all the way back to Noonday Creek.
- TS That's interesting about the lights. I don't think very many people realize that there was lighting even before electricity really got into the country.
- KB That's right. Then after that Daddy had a ram. We played down there as children, and we even had a pretty waterfall. But Daddy put in a ram. Isn't that what it's called?
- CC Yes. We also had a water wheel. There was enough waterfall there till he thought that that would run the wheel and make electricity.
- KB Well, it didn't work. I don't remember the wheel now. I remember that concrete wall across there that destroyed the waterfall that I used to stick my feet in as a child. Then he put in this ram. The ram worked by the water coming through a pipe down and hitting this instrument or piece of machinery, and the force of it would force that water up here. But it wasn't successful. Some time after then, about 1925, we got gas lights--carbide lights. The tank is still out here in the back. It's like a well.
- CC It is 20 feet deep.
- KB It worked fine for a good many years. I don't remember how many.
- CC We had it for a pretty good while.
- KB Then when the county got electric lights, we took all that down and then put electric lights in.
- EH Mrs. Chastain, did you churn your own butter?
- CC Oh, yes. That's right.
- EH What did you like to cook best? Did you like to bake?
- CC I never did do much baking--bread and things. I had a big family, and my husband was pretty bad to hire hands along. I had to feed them. So about all I could do was cook 3 meals a day.
- TS What kind of stove did you cook on?
- CC Just a wood stove. My granddaughter calls it Ironsides. I've got a Home Comfort range. I got one before we moved up here and then sold it and bought another one. I had just a common No. 8 size cook stove.
- TS Did you put the wood in down below?

- CC No, the wood's on the side. There's an oven down there. I've been using it nearly 50 years, I reckon. It still cooks good. It's a Home Comfort, and they built the best wood stoves of any company.
- TS So that's still your main stove?
- CC No, we have an electric stove; but I haven't been able to do any cooking for 10 years. My son and his wife were here for a long time. She has got sick, and it is just him now. My daughter comes in now and then.
- EH What were some of the special things you cooked that your husband liked? What were some of his favorite foods that you made?
- CC My family was pretty good just eating anything you cooked. Green beans, turnip greens, cabbage, baked sweet potatoes, just different things.
- EH What kind of desserts did you make?
- CC Cobbler, apple pie. Have you ever heard of a sliced sweet potato pie?
- EH No.
- CC You slice them and put them in this big pan. You put your dough around first. Put in potatoes and sugar and water and then some more potatoes, and put a crust on top covered with plenty of butter and sugar. And you make apple pie about the same way. Put the crust around the edge of the pan and apples in and a crust on it and sugar and butter and water, and put that in and let it cook down. I made potato custards too. I bet you don't know what that is.
- EH No, I don't know what that is.
- CC You cook sweet potatoes till they're real good and done, mash them all up good and fine, and, if you're going to make about 2 custards, put in about 2 eggs and sugar enough to sweeten it and some sweet milk until it gets pretty soupy.
- EH Yes, soupy. That's a good word.
- CC And you roll out your crust real thin and put it in a little, thin pie pan. Put your potatoes in there and put it in the stove and bake it. You don't put a crust on top. I don't know when I've ever seen or heard tell of any of that, and they're good if you like potatoes.
- EH Was it kind of like sweet potato pie or pumpkin pie?
- CC Yes.
- EH How thick was it?
- CC Oh, just maybe an inch. Not thicker.

- KB I'd like to tell you about a dessert Mother made. It's most delicious. She takes evaporated fruit and stews it up until it is soft and puts in sugar. What did you call those fruit pies?
- CC There were different kinds.
- KB This was a peach pie as I remember.
- CC Yes.
- KB You took that fruit then after it was cooled, and you mashed it up real good using a potato masher or whatever until it was all mixed up with the sugar. Then you made your dough and spread that fruit out all over that pie dough. Then she would carefully roll that up.
- CC In a roll.
- KB Then she put it in a pan, put a lot of butter over the top, and put a little water in the pan.
- CC And some sugar.
- KB After she sprinkled some sugar on, she just baked that until it was nice and brown.
- TS Sounds good.
- KB Then her sister would make about a four-story pie. She'd put egg custard as the bottom. On top of that she'd put evaporated peaches or evaporated apples. Usually they were home dried. Then she would put a meringue on top of that. So when you got a piece of pie, it was very high.
- TS Did you have running water when you moved in here?
- CC We had a well for a while, and then it gave out. This is the driest hill in Cobb County.
- EH You've got a lot of stone underneath I bet.
- CC Oh, yes. We're on a rock.
- EH The outcropping from the quarry. Stone Mountain granite goes through here.
- CC Yes, but we finally got water in the county and got water at the house. We've had water in the house for quite a long time.
- KB What was the name of the company we got this house plan from? Was it Aladdin?
- CC Yes, Aladdin House Company. We saw this thing advertised and sent off and got it for the house plans.

- KB My father was a great hunter and fisherman. I have eaten more rabbits than any woman you'll ever see growing up as a child. Mother told me just recently that when they were living in the house where I was born, Daddy bought a shotgun.
- CC Why, we hadn't been married more than a month or two.
- KB He bought this shotgun and paid \$80 for it. That was all the money in the world back in those days you know.
- CC He had a gun, but it wasn't a good one. He had a chance to buy this real good gun. So he took it.
- TS Where did he go hunting? I guess just about anywhere back then.
- CC Oh, yes.
- KB And Noonday Creek! Oh, it was a big creek. It was 3 times the size it is now. Why, I've eaten more fish out of that creek. On Saturday morning Daddy would say, "All right boys, let's get everything done. We'll go seining this afternoon." He kept a seine all the time. And I went too. He let me go. We'd seine and come up home with a washtub half full of fish. I've seen catfish and scalefish as long as your forearm out of that creek. Now that's tails and the head and all, but big ones. Just nice ones. And my daddy would catch turtles. All the family is crazy about turtles. Not all of the in-laws though.
- EH We're enjoying chatting with you, but we don't want to tire you out, Mrs. Chastain. Maybe we could come back another time.
- CC My daughter wrote to a niece of mine and told her about me having an eye implant. She wrote back that she had a very serious cancer operation. She says, "Well, Aunt Cassie's like the doctor told me. She's a toughie." I think so. I went through quite a bit, and I'm so thankful I'm still coming along.
- EH Do you mind telling us how old you are?
- CC Oh, not at all. I'm over 94. I was 94 the 4th day of November, and I can eat anything that they set before me. There's no trouble about having to cook special things. That means a lot to the cook, I think, because so many people can't eat just anything.
- EH Are there certain things that you really like? Do you like desserts or cookies or--
- CC Yes, I like desserts pretty well. I like some things better than I do others. I like fish. Oh, just different things. Once in a while we send over here to this eating place and get a helping of fish and enjoy that.
- EH Do you get out? Can you ever go over to the restaurant at all? Do you ever go out and eat?

CC Hardly ever.

EH Is it because you don't want to or you don't feel like it?

CC I feel like it; but it's just inconvenient; and there's not always a way for me to go.

TS Well, I've enjoyed this. You've told us a lot of interesting information.

CC Well, I hope I did tell you something that would be worthwhile keeping. Come back if you want to.

EH We certainly do appreciate your spending a few minutes with us. That's very kind of you.

APPENDIX

Here's a Farm Home That ^{year} 1924 Rivals Any Country Estate

Seventeen years ago William (Bill) Chastain was a tenant farmer in the upper end of Cobb county. For five years after his marriage he cultivated rented land. Twelve years ago, seeing the possibilities of dairy-farming, and having a chance to get 80 acres of fair land cheap, he bought 80 acres and moved into a boxed-up house of three rooms. There he lived for several years.

When he had procured the land, he at once got a few dairy cattle and began to sell milk, for awhile in Marietta, but soon he established a trade in Atlanta and sends his milk there now daily, the Constitution Truck calling for it daily. He is now milking forty cows, fine fat ones, and has 25 or 30 others on his place. He realized early that to be successful he must raise his own feed, and with the exception of some concentrates for the milking cows, he grows all feeds at home. He personally gives close attention to all details of his farm, dairy, threshing machine and other interests. Every bit of manure possible is returned to the soil, arrangements being made for saving the liquid manure, as well as all other. Ample shelters are provided for all cattle, hogs, tools, etc. He uses too, up-to-date methods of plowing, the tractor doing much of the work of this nature.

Since going to the farm where he now is, twelve years ago, he has continued to buy land till he now has 378 acres, 150 being in cultivation and the remainder in pasture. His land is partly small creek land, furnishing excellent lowland for pasture and is well set with native grasses and bermuda. For winter pasturage he sows a large quantity of rye and other small grain. But his chief feed for cattle in winter is silage. He has two large silos, one holding 100 tons and the other 160 tons of silage. His main crop for this purpose is corn cut at about roasting-ear time. This makes the best winter feed known. In good seasons his land has made as much as ten tons of silage to the acre, but this is rare, though large quantities are saved annually from the fields planted to corn. This year he has 30 acres of silage corn, partly ready and a part to mature later. Other corn on the farm is cut and chocked in the field, and later ground, stalk and all in a mill for that purpose, and makes a very fine feed. All roughage is grown on the place.

Five years ago Mr. Chastain built a new residence. I have seen almost all the homes in Cobb county and I am persuaded that there is not a prettier farm home in the county. A natural elevation, rising gradually from the road for a hundred or more feet till the summit is some twenty feet above the roads, an acre beautiful sodded, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country, and especially the carefully cultivated land on the farm southward for a mile; and on its very top an elegant home, not gaudy but pretty, equipped with electric lights, water and all conveniences, a fine road leading out to Marietta five miles away and also a good road to Kennesaw, three miles away. The selection of such a site, the building of such an elegant house thereon, and the whole surroundings show taste, judgment, careful and prudent attention to details and a willingness to spend freely for one's family and comfort; they also show that Mr. Chastain has prospered in his farming operations beyond the average farmer.

Now, from personal knowledge of the facts, I can assure Times readers that location and luck have had less to do with this example of success than that other word, Pluck, coupled with an unlimited supply of energy, industry and will power. Mr. Chastain has never shirked a job because it was hard, or disagreeable: he has never held back because the rains were in his face, or the cold winds were biting. He has often worked from three in the morning till far into the night, but he has succeeded and has made a home worth while.

I might mention other items of interest on this farm, but those who want to see for themselves should go out and look over this farm—it will pay them to do so, for it is an inspiration to see such fine grass, such land made fertile by dairy cattle, such hogs for the use of the family larder. Such beautiful environments altogether. No wonder Mr. Chastain is proud of his home—he has good right to be so.

I might tell you that a little blue-eyed woman has been an inspiration in this work of home-building: yes, I might even say that she, like her husband, has endured much toil, has often taken up the burden and borne a full share of it. Her taste, too, had much to do with the finer fixing of all matters pertaining to the home, leaving to her husband the weightier matters of the farm and dairy.

BILL AND CASSIE CHASTAIN 1924



FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS ON PORCH, 1924



MRS. CHASTAIN'S OLD LOG CABIN HOME, 1934



W. D. CHASTAIN ON ONE OF THE FIRST TRACTORS IN COBB

