

Mable House Storytelling Project
Interview with Mattie Lou Clowers
Conducted by Clarence Brown, Jr.
July 3, 1999

MLC: Mattie Lou Clowers
CB: Clarence Brown, Jr.

CB: Today's date is August 16th, 1999. The Mable House Storytelling Project. Interview with Ms. Mattie Lou Clowers, 2239 Gordon Circle, in Smyrna, Georgia. Interviewer, Clarence Brown, Jr. Today's date, August 16th 1999.

Okay. We have the first question on the follow-up interview that was conducted on July 5th, 1999, by Susan Smith. The first question is, does Mattie Lou have other brothers and sisters besides Luther, and did Luther have any children?

MLC: Yes. Luther?

CB: Luther.

MLC: Yeah. Luther, that's my brother. He's got four children. He's got three girls and one boy.

CB: ... Names?

MLC: Yes. The boy's name is Milton. No, wait a minute. Yeah, Milton. Milton Bennett.

CB: Milton Lane Bennett? Is he-

MLC: No. He's just Milton.

CB: Oh. Milton Bennett.

MLC: Milton Bennett.

CB: Okay. Is he a Junior?

MLC: No.

CB: Oh. No Junior?

MLC: He's just-

CB: He's just Milton Bennett. Okay.

MLC: Now, the oldest girl, she lived in Atlanta. Her name is Louvenia Drennen.

CB: Louvenia.

MLC: Louvenia. L-O-U-V-E-N-I-A.

CB: L-O-U-V-E-N-I-A.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative). And-

CB: And her last name?

MLC: Drennen. D-R-E-N-N-E-N.

CB: D-R-E-N-N-E-N?

MLC: That's right.

CB: And she's in Atlanta?

MLC: That's right.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Now, Milton's in Chicago. My brother is too. And the next girl, her name is Dorothy Phillips now.

CB: Dorothy Phillips?

MLC: Phillips.

CB: Okay.

MLC: And the other girl, baby girl's name ... Let's see. What do they call her? It'll come to me in a bit. Let's see. Thelma. Thelma Brown.

CB: Thelma.

MLC: Thelma Brown.

CB: Thelma Brown.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative). She's in Chicago. All them, they're in Chicago, but Louvenia, she's in Atlanta.

CB: Okay. Want to know who's the cousin in Chicago, and the address, if you have that address of the cousin in Chicago.

MLC: You want that on the Bennett side of the house or the Kimble side?

CB: On the Bennett side.

MLC: Oh, you're on the Bennett side?

CB: On the Bennett side. And if you don't have the address and all of that right off, we can get that.

MLC: Yeah, yeah.

CB: Because I don't want to stop so you can find an address or anything.

MLC: Yeah. Melba, now, she ... What was her last name? I can't think of her last name now ... I can't think of her last name.

CB: Okay. Well, that's okay. Are there any, besides Luther, that you have?

MLC: Well, you know what, there's a good many of them, but I really don't ... I haven't been in contact with them-

CB: Okay.

MLC: ... I really don't know their ...

CB: Well, you just-

MLC: ... Names right now.

CB: Okay. So-

MLC: I know them when I see them, but not-

CB: Okay. But do you recall their first names of your other brothers, your brothers and sisters, not their children.

MLC: Well, I just had one brother.

CB: Just one brother?

MLC: One brother. That's Luther.

CB: That's Luther.

MLC: Yeah. I never had no sister. My sister died when she was a baby.

CB: Okay. And her name was?

MLC: Let's see what they said her name was. I think they named her Mary-Jane.

CB: Mary-

MLC: She died when she was just, born I think.

CB: Mary-Jane?

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: And she would've been a Mary-Jane of your father and mother, which would've been-

MLC: Bennett.

CB: ... Bennett.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative). And she was named after grandma Kimble, I think.

CB: All right. Died at birth. And I'm going to put, "Named after grandmother Mary-Jane Kimble."

MLC: Kimble. I remember that cousin's name now, in Chicago. Her name was Natalie Hansborough.

CB: Okay. That was the cousin in Chicago?

MLC: Yeah.

CB: Which is a cousin to you and Luther?

MLC: Yeah. First cousins.

CB: First cousin. And her name was?

MLC: Natalie. N-A-T-A-L-I-E.

CB: N-A-T-A-L-I-E?

MLC: Hansborough. H-A-N-S-

CB: H-A-N-S?

MLC: ... B-O-R-U-G-H.

CB: B-O-R-U-G-H.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Okay. Address for the people in Chicago, we can just get back with you on that, maybe once you have it, and we can get that from you-

MLC: Okay.

CB: ... Maybe once you have a chance to maybe look at-

MLC: Okay then.

CB: ... Some of your notes on their address.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative). Yeah.

CB: Okay. Question number two on the list. Who was the one-armed uncle?

MLC: That was John H. Bennett.

CB: John-

MLC: H. Bennett.

CB: ... H. Bennett.

MLC: He worked for the Postal Telegram. Well, last it was Western Union that he worked for. He's retired now.

CB: Okay. Retired from, let's see, Western Union. Now, another question on that question is, do you remember the mill he worked at when-

MLC: The what?

CB: ... The mill he worked at when the arm was cut off?

MLC: No, because I don't know whether I was born then or not when he was-

CB: Okay.

MLC: ... But they told me about it, but I don't know where it was.

CB: Okay. Okay, that's fine.

MLC: But I heard my grandma talking about it, but she didn't say where. And I know they said though, they buried his arm over yonder where that church is on Powder Springs Road, before you get to Bethel. If you turn, you go Macland Road. Powder Springs Road's here, Macland go that way. You know that big old church there, white church, going on Powder Springs. You know where they're building that new Kroger's and all over on Powder Springs?

CB: Right.

MLC: With that church, right?

CB: Right there? Okay.

MLC: Next to there. I forgot the name of that church.

CB: Isn't that West Cobb Community Church, is it-

MLC: No, no. It's something else. I forgot what it is. Anyhow, that's where they buried his arm-

CB: Buried his arm?

MLC: Buried his arm when they cut it off.

CB: Buried arm.

MLC: That's what my grandmother told me.

CB: Okay. And that was grandmother?

MLC: Bennett.

CB: Bennett. Why did they just bury his arm over there?

MLC: Well, see, he was working in that cotton mill. I think it was cotton [inaudible]. And his arm got cut off way up here.

CB: Okay. Okay.

MLC: And she said they buried his arm over there. But child, he could wash, iron, sweep, plough, everything.

CB: Everything, with just that-

MLC: He could do more with that one arm than I could do with my two.

CB: With two.

MLC: Yeah. And he was really smart. Oh boy, he could write. He had the prettiest handwriting you ever saw.

CB: Alrighty. Wonderful. Question number three they have here, could you just take a moment and share some more stories about the T-Model, riding the mules, schools in Marietta, things you remember? Just a couple of minutes on that, and-

MLC: Well-

CB: ... Then, we'll get back-

MLC: ... Riding my T-Model Ford. My uncle John, he bought this T-Model Ford.

CB: Which was John H. Bennett?

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Okay.

MLC: And I would drive it. And I would go down to Mableton to see Aunt Ida, them that lived down there. And it was a long time ago. The roads weren't paved. And it was muddy, but I would be going on down just before ... You know where the covered bridge is?

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative)?

MLC: And all the way back again. It was so muddy. And a lot of people would be going down through there and get in that mud, and they'd have to be pulled out and pushed out. All my days I never did get stuck. I would go on. I could get through it. So, I would go on

through it and go on down to Mableton. And I drove other cars too, and I never did get stuck. When I was teaching school at Friendship, don't know what kind of car it was that I was driving, and it was muddy over there. They hadn't paved the road over there. By John A's-

CB: I remember.

MLC: ... Just before you get to John A's.

CB: Yes, I remember.

MLC: So, it would rain, and the people go over and stand on John A's porch and watch for people. And everybody that went through, they said they'd have to push them out or pull them out or something like that.

CB: Mm-hmm (affirmative)?

MLC: So, they called me Aunt Het because I read Aunt Het so much.

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MLC: They said, "Aunt Het ain't coming through here today." Johnny'd say, "Oh yes, she is." They'd say, "Uh-uh (negative)" I said, "Every man come along here got to be pushed and pulled out. And it's a woman. She ain't coming." He said, "I don't care if she is, she's coming through this mud."

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MLC: Well, they were all standing on the porch. They knew what time I was coming along. I had a [inaudible]. And it was hard, but I got through with it. John A and them, they were hollering, "I told you Het was coming through." And if my husband was driving and I'd go over that way, if he was driving, and when we get to this mud, he'd get out from the steering wheel and let me get out of there.

CB: And let you drive.

MLC: Yeah. I don't know how, but I could get through the mud. Never did get stuck where I couldn't get out. Then, I'd drive this T-Model. My uncle came home one day, and he wanted to go down to Vinings to see one of his friends.

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative)?

MLC: He said, "I wanna go down to Vinings." I said, "There's a little gear that's pulling out in here." "Come," I said, "That's all right." I came down, there's a terrible hill down there. Wasn't paved either down in Vinings.

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MLC: I said, "That's all right. Get in here." I tell you, we went on down there, I said, "I know how to get back up the hill." So, after this little gear burned out, we got down there, that baby wouldn't go up the hill. I just turned around, backed all the way up that hill by the by. Then, when I get to the top of the hill, I turned around and go home.

I was going to Mableton one day and had Aunt Ida in there, and got down there, and little gear's burned out. I said, "Oh, that's tough. And Ida said, "I ain't riding up that hill backwards." She got up and rode and went on to the covered bridge.

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative)?

MLC: And I turned around there, and I went all the way to the top of the hill. They walked all the way to top of the hill, and I waited on them, then carried on to Mableton.

CB: That's a wonderful story. You said they used to call you Aunt-

MLC: Aunt Het.

CB: Aunt-

MLC: Because I read Aunt Het so much in the paper. Aunt Hit, I tell them, well Aunt Het said everying. She said one time said, "if hell is as hot as they say it is, even if I were to go there, I couldn't stand it." Then, one time, she said, "Well," she says, "I was thinking about getting rid of this old black dress," but says, "You know, Pa keeps a-ailing, I guess I better keep this old black dress." I don't know. I forgot a lot of them there stories.

CB: You said you used to visit your Aunt Ida in Mableton.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: And-

MLC: I used to stay with her when I was teaching school down in Mableton.

CB: Okay. What were some of the first schools where they used to teach Black children at? What were some of the locations you used to teach at?

MLC: Oh, the first one was Macedonia. You know where Macedonia is?

CB: Yeah, Macedonia.

MLC: There was a school there.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Then, let's see. I left Macedonia-

CB: And this was at the church, right?

MLC: No, it wasn't no church. It was a schoolhouse over there.

CB: Okay. Macedonia-

MLC: Down the road from Macedonia.

CB: Down the road from the church?

MLC: From the church, yeah.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Yeah. Down the road.

CB: I know it's not there because I've never seen it.

MLC: Then, I left there, I went to Mableton at ... No, wait a minute. No, it wasn't. Well, it's out from Mableton. Green Grove. Down in Green Grove.

CB: Green Grove.

MLC: Green Grove.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Then, I left Green Grove, and I went assistant teaching down at Log Cabin, down near beside the river. Then, after that I went to Friendship, where your daddy was-

CB: Okay.

MLC: ... Then, Jesse-Lee and all them bad boys.

CB: Okay. Friendship, was that at a church or was it a school?

MLC: It was a schoolhouse.

CB: It was a schoolhouse?

MLC: Schoolhouse, yeah.

CB: Was it the same building as the church is in now or a different one?

MLC: Well, the church, it was on up that way-

CB: Okay.

MLC: Past the church.

CB: Past the church.

MLC: But it wasn't far from the church, but it was building-

CB: A different building.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: All of them old buildings torn down. So, the Friendship school.

MLC: Yeah. And I don't know how many years I stayed there. And then after that, well, I married later in life. I had to see after my Grandma Bennett, and I didn't marry. So, when my Grandma Bennett died, I married. In five years, well, I had a baby, and I didn't go back anymore. So, the baby died when he was about eight months old. But I didn't go back to school no more, I just stayed at home.

CB: Just stopped teaching after that?

MLC: Yeah. Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Okay. So, Friendship was the last school you taught at, huh?

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: And all of them ...

MLC: Ooh, there was a lot of them there, but do you know there were so many of them children there, but do you know, nearly all of them dead? Nearly all of those children I had is dead. And when Evelyn Copeland died, I went to the funeral up at Kennesaw. And Eva, her sister, told me, said, "There's Ms. Mattie Lou," and says, "Miss Bennett ..." is what they called ... I was a Bennett.

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MLC: And says, "Lord," says, "Looks like she's going to bury all of us."

CB: She's going bury all of us.

MLC: And you know what? There haven't been many of them buried out to Friendship that I wasn't there. One or two, but I was in Chicago. Yeah. I go to all of them.

CB: Mm-hmm (affirmative)?

MLC: And Robert ... man, what was his name. Anyhow. His daughter, Evelyn, I went there, and somebody, one of them was dead. She said, "Miss Bennett, you're just gone bury all of us." But now there's not many of getting buried over there that I wasn't there. Yeah. I go to all of them, till I couldn't make it.

CB: I hear you.

MLC: I did a lot of funerals with Friendship.

CB: Okay. Thank you. We want to shift gears now, and they have a question here ... Okay. I wanted to get the name of the aunt you had there in Mableton, you visited Aunt Ida. Her last name was Bennett?

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative). Yeah.

CB: Ida Bennett?

MLC: She married. Yeah, she married-

CB: She was one of Mary-Lou's ... Oh, no. Mary-Lee's daughter?

MLC: Mama.

CB: Mama?

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative). She was Mary-Lee's mama.

CB: That was Ida?

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: So, was that Ida Mable?

MLC: Yeah. They said she was a Mable. When they asked me before, I didn't know what her last ... And I asked Bunny today, and he said, "Yeah, she was a Mable."

CB: Okay. So, you visited Aunt Ida?

MLC: Yeah. I stayed with them when I was teaching school in Mableton.

CB: Okay. And you lived with her when you were teaching school in Mableton?

MLC: Yeah. I'd go down there and stay all...

CB: Where was she staying when you stayed with her, when you were teaching in Mableton?

MLC: Right there, I don't know what street you called it, but it was right close to the railroad. You know where the railroad at? It used to be a railroad station there.

CB: Oh, Mableton Station?

MLC: Yeah, right there.

CB: Okay.

MLC: And it was right behind where that old post office used to be.

CB: Right behind the-

MLC: Yeah. It was right there in Mableton.

CB: Right there in the old Mableton Railroad Station and post office.

MLC: That's right.

CB: Okay. So, they live there?

MLC: Yeah.

CB: Old Mableton Railroad Station and post office.

MLC: Yes.

CB: Okay, okay. So, that's where they lived. Her and R.T.?

MLC: Yeah, that's right.

CB: Which was your daddy's brother?

MLC: That's right.

CB: Okay. R.T. Bennett, daddy's brother-

MLC: And John, the one-armed man, that was his brother too. My daddy's.

CB: And your dad had another brother named?

MLC: It was R.T., John ... Let's see. There was another one. Let's see. He died. I don't know his name? I didn't even see him, but I heard them talk about him, but I don't remember the name now.

CB: Andrew Bennett?

MLC: That was my granddaddy.

CB: Andrew was your granddad?

MLC: Yeah. And Lou Bennett was the wife.

CB: And Lou Carroll Bennett was ... Do you remember what her maiden name was before she married Andrew?

MLC: No, I sure don't ...

CB: Okay. So, Lou Carroll Bennett, that was your grandfather's-

MLC: She was a Carroll. That's what it was.

CB: She was a Carroll? Carroll was her last name?

MLC: Yeah, that's right.

CB: Carroll is the last-

MLC: Yeah, because we've had a reunion at the Carroll Reunion.

CB: It was Carroll Reunion?

MLC: Yeah.

CB: So, Carroll is her last name.

MLC: That's right.

CB: And not her middle name.

MLC: Uh-uh (negative).

CB: Okay. Yeah, yeah. All right. Okay. As we move on here, the next question that we have down is, Charles Gordon-

MLC: Well-

CB: ... And could this be the Charles Gordon that one of the Mables wrote down in his report as having some business dealing, sharecropper dealings? Did this Charles Gordon work for the Mables in any way as a sharecropper?

MLC: That's the one I don't know.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Uh-huh. I don't know whether ...

CB: Okay. He had a brother named Bud. Do you remember them at all?

MLC: Bud. Yeah, I remember Bud Gordon, and I remember the name. I remember seeing Bud Gordon, but I don't remember Charles.

CB: Okay. Do you remember Bud Gordon?

MLC: I remember Bud Gordon.

CB: Okay. And he worked for the Mables as a sharecropper?

MLC: Well, now that I don't know.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Probably did.

CB: Okay. Do you remember any of the stories about the old sharecroppers and how those arrangements were?

MLC: No, I didn't know that.

CB: You didn't know much about the sharecroppers and what they did?

MLC: Uh-uh (negative).

CB: Okay. Okay. We move on to question number five that we have on the list from the July 5th 1999 interview. Shifting gears now and going to the Mathises, and Ike and Drew Mathis, and Ike and Emma-

MLC: Yeah?

CB: ... And what you may remember about that. What we were looking for was, we need to know more about Emma Mathis.

MLC: Well, Emma was my grandma's, Lou Carroll Bennett, that was grandmother's niece, Emma was. And Emma, she married Ike Mathis. And they had several children.

CB: Lou Carroll Bennett's niece.

MLC: Yeah. That was her niece. And she married Ike Mathis.

CB: And that was here in Georgia?

MLC: Yeah. Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Okay.

MLC: And you said something about Drew?

CB: Yes?

MLC: That was Ike's brother. And he lived with these white people. And they were crazy about him too. Nobody did not bother Drew.

CB: Okay. And which whites did they live with, the Mables?

MLC: Yeah, the Mables. That big old house is there yet where these Mables lived in. Great big white house. And there's another little house out there. That's where cousin Emma lived, and her husband.

CB: A little house in the back of the Mables?

MLC: Yeah. You can see it from the road-

CB: Okay.

MLC: ... That they built for cousin Emma and Ike.

CB: And Ike.

MLC: Then, Drew, he had a house somewhere there. And see, his mind wasn't too good. And he wore feathers in his hat all the time.

CB: Okay.

MLC: And they was crazy about him. Nobody did not bother him. So, the neighbors, they had some children, or somebody lived in Atlanta, and they'd go over there sometimes, eat dinner with them, and they'd take Drew with them. And after Drew had dinner, Drew happened to ... See, then they had outhouses out there. They didn't have bathrooms.

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative)?

MLC: Drew wanted to go to the outhouse. He didn't know where the outhouse was.

CB: Uh-huh (affirmative)?

MLC: And they told him, "No." They said they didn't have an outhouse. They said, "You come on going into the bathroom." He's standing in that bathroom. He looked in there. He said, "I ain't going S in that pretty white thing." They had to take him back to Mableton so he could go to the outhouse.

CB: So, he could go ... Now, we ran across, and I wanted to ask you about it, we ran cross an old record of an Ike Mathis marrying a

Sylvia Risby. Because you have Ike Mathis marrying Emma, which was Lou Carroll Bennett-

MLC: Yeah, that's right.

CB: So, he married Lou Carroll Bennett?

MLC: Well, I don't know nothing about that part.

CB: Well, that may have been-

MLC: How have you heard that?

CB: I have a copy of that marriage certificate where Ike Mathis ... But it is probably ... It could not be our Ike.

MLC: Well, listen, some of his grandchildren might have been named Ike.

CB: Aha. Okay.

MLC: It could be.

CB: Okay.

MLC: It has to be like that. It must be.

CB: It has to be. Okay.

MLC: It has to be some of his grandchildren probably was named after him.

CB: Ike's grandchildren.

MLC: Yeah. Must be his grandchildren. Probably-

CB: How many children did he and Emma have? Do you recall or do you remember?

MLC: Let's see. Annie ... They used to live in Atlanta. Dovey, and Lovey, and-

CB: Annie, Dovey and Lovey-

MLC: And Gertrude.

CB: And Gertrude.

MLC: That's four girls ain't it?

CB: Yes.

MLC: Because I know there were four girls I knew. But I know don't know whether he had any boys or not. I don't know about no boys.

CB: Okay.

MLC: I'm going to ask my cousin, in Decatur, if there're any boys.

CB: Okay. And that cousin in Decatur is-

MLC: That's Mildred Meriweather.

CB: Mildred Meriweather.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Okay.

MLC: That's cousin Gertrude's, one of the daughter's daughter.

CB: One of Ike's daughter's daughter? Of Gertrude?

MLC: Yeah, Gertrude-

CB: Mildred?

MLC: Yeah. Mildred is-

CB: Mildred Meriweather is Gertrude's daughter?

MLC: Daughter.

CB: Mildred Meriweather. Okay.

MLC: Wait, I missed one. Clara.

CB: Clara Mathis?

MLC: Yes. Yes, Clara Mathis. I forgot about cousin Clara. Yeah.

CB: Clara?

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Okay. Clara, we heard of-

MLC: She married a Wilson.

CB: She married a Wilson?

MLC: Clara Wilson.

CB: W-I-L-S-O-N, Wilson. Okay. Okay. Mildred, we would like to get Mildred's number and talk with her just to see what she remembers there in Decatur.

MLC: Yes. She said didn't remember no more, but I can give you her number.

CB: Okay. Well, if she doesn't want to be bothered, we won't bother her.

MLC: Well, she just said ... I had told her what all this ... She said, "Well, I don't know no more than that."

CB: Okay. I don't know, maybe she could recall just something that might-

MLC: Yeah, she might.

CB: ... Help us to put all of this together, because-

MLC: Let me give you her number.

CB: Okay.

MLC: She lives out there with her daughter.

CB: Okay. All right, I'll put this on pause. Pause, so that Mrs. Clowers may get the number for Mildred Meriweather in Decatur, Georgia.

MLC: That is 770-

CB: Okay, 7-

MLC: She's Mildred Meriweather.

CB: Okay.

MLC: And it's 808 ...

CB: 808.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative). 7438.

CB: 7438.

MLC: That's it.

CB: Okay. Okay. And if she has some additional information she could give us, it may be something ...

[tape break]

Okay. Side two of the tape with Mrs. Clowers, August 16th 1999. Okay, we've got Ms. Mildred Meriweather's number, we've got Clara married a Wilson. And the next question on our list is R.T. Bennett Jr. Was there an R.T. Bennett Jr that died in 1946?

MLC: No, there wasn't. It's just R.T. There was no Junior. They just had one girl, and that was Mary Lee Anderson.

CB: Okay. Mary Lee Anderson?

MLC: And that's all the child they had.

CB: So, R.T. Bennett and Ida Mables just had the one child-

MLC: Ida -

CB: Mary-Lee Anderson.

MLC: Mary-Lee Anderson, yeah.

CB: Okay. Now, of course, she was a Bennett before she married the Anderson?

MLC: That's right.

CB: And the Anderson man she married, his name was?

MLC: Forrest.

CB: Forrest Anderson. That's right, that's right. Okay. So, that question is answered real quickly. R.T. Bennett Jr. There was no R.T. Bennett Jr.

MLC: There was no Junior. Just RT.

CB: Just RT.

MLC: Robert Thomas.

CB: Okay. The next question is, and it looks like we are getting ready to wind up, because Bunny, you've given me the information on him-

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative)?

CB: ... On Bunny Watkins.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: So, I'll get with him and let him tell me what he can tell me.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: You had mentioned in the July 5th interview with Susan Smith of Ike's grandchildren in Chicago.

MLC: Mm-hmm (affirmative)?

CB: Can you give us any more information on those children and Ike's family in Chicago?

MLC: No, I can't. I asked Mildred. I called Mildred and asked her about it. She said she doesn't know what the trouble is but she never hear from them now.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Never hear from them.

CB: Never hear from any of them?

MLC: Don't know why.

CB: Okay. But any leads or any of their names or anything that you could possibly give us of Ike's children in Chicago?

MLC: No, I can't think of anything. Mildred would know, I think.

CB: Mildred may know?

MLC: I think Mildred may ...

CB: I will make a note here to ...

MLC: I used to know the names. It was years ago, but they grew up, and I haven't seen them in ninety million years.

CB: Was Ike ever married twice, or did he marry someone else when he was in Chicago, or was he-

MLC: You mean cousin Ike and Emma's husband?

CB: Right.

MLC: Yeah. No, no. They went to Chicago and stayed with their daughter up there a while, and then they came back here-

CB: Okay, so-

MLC: ... They died down here.

CB: Yeah. So, one of their daughters. He didn't move up there and live and marry nobody else?

MLC: No. He just went and lived with his daughters for a little while-

CB: It was one of his daughters that moved up there. Okay. He went and stayed with-

MLC: Stayed with one of the daughters.

CB: That was a question we wanted to get answered-

MLC: Oh.

CB: ... Was there another wife and family in Chicago?

MLC: No.

CB: So, this is one of the daughters he had here in Georgia-

MLC: Oh yeah.

CB: ... That moved to Chicago-

MLC: He had all of them here, everybody was born here in Georgia.

CB: All of them here in Georgia-

MLC: But they just went to Chicago.

CB: Oh. Moved to Chicago?

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Okay. Any other stories you remember? I wanted to ask you about old Drew. We had someone to tell us that old Drew, they found him dead and that he was buried by the County, but yet, they didn't bury him right, and they had to redo it. Do you remember anything like that?

MLC: I'm going to tell you the truth, I really don't know. I didn't know when Drew died. I sure didn't.

CB: Mm-hmm (affirmative)?

MLC: So, I don't know when. I might have been in Chicago visiting or something. I don't know. I guess didn't know when he died or nothing. It was a long time before I knew he was dead.

CB: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Some people have reported to us that he was buried at-

MLC: Little Bethel?

CB: ... Little Bethel, over in Mableton.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: And Ike and Emma are buried there also?

MLC: Yeah, I think so. Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Okay. Any of the other Mathises that you may know of that may be buried here in Georgia that you can think of?

MLC: No. My cousin Clara, they buried her in Atlanta somewhere. I went to a funeral, but that was years ago.

CB: Okay. That was-

MLC: Because I went to the funeral, but I didn't go ...

CB: Okay. One of Ike's daughters?

MLC: That's right.

CB: Okay. Dovey and Lovey, anything you can remember about Dovey and Lovey or Howie or Annie, any of the other Ike Mathises girls?

MLC: No. Just Dovey and Lovey, they live in Chicago.

CB: They're in Chicago.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: If you-

MLC: They buried them there when he died.

CB: Buried in Chicago.

MLC: Yes.

CB: If you run across any numbers of any of the family in Chicago, please share it with us. We would just like to-

MLC: Okay.

CB: ... Just call them and just ask them to be involved.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: A lot of people turn us down. They don't want to talk about it. They don't want to answer no questions.

MLC: You ask Mildred.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Because that's her aunt. She really knows more about them.

CB: Okay. Because we just want to know if they want to talk with us. If they do not, it's no problem.

MLC: Yeah, that's right.

CB: But if they want to talk with us and share with us some more information, then we would love to have it, because again, bottom line, once we have finished with this, we should have a genealogy starting from R.T. Bennett and Ida Mables, and coming down.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: And it looks like that if Emma, which married Ike, that was Lou Carroll Bennett's niece, it looks like the two lines came together. Started out separately, but yet, still-

MLC: Yeah.

CB: ... Came together.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: And that's very interesting.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: But I guess that's how it works, because, hey, it was only so many of us.

MLC: Yeah, that's right.

CB: And it seems like ... Because I want to get into that, that ... Anything else you can remember about Ike Mathis, where he may have come from, was he already here in Georgia?

MLC: Well, when I heard about him, he and cousin Emma were married. So, I don't know where he came from.

CB: Yeah, okay. Where he came or if he was here in Georgia all along or-

MLC: Yeah. I don't know.

CB: Okay. I know our time is running out and I have gone over. I'm only supposed to be with you for an hour. We've gone a little over that. So, I want to get ready to-

MLC: No, that's all right.

CB: ... I want to get ready to wind it up with these questions. And I think I have everything down that we wanted to ask on this session. We will just want to get maybe another session with you, and we want a video that last session. And again, we want that session to be about you and just some of the stories that you remember about the old school, talk about some of those old wild children, like my father, that you may have taught.

MLC: Oh, I get it.

CB: So, we could put it all on tape. Their history will be recorded.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: They think they can throw a rock and hide in their hand. No, we going to put them on tape forever.

MLC: Yeah. All right.

CB: But anything else you can remember that you may want to add about any other Mables that you may be able to remember? Anything else that you may remember about any of the other Mables?

MLC: Yeah. I think I remember nothing else.

CB: Okay.

MLC: If I do, I'll come up with it.

CB: Okay. Well, if you come up with anything else, please, like I say, just contact me or Susan Smith there with the project-

MLC: Yeah, I've seen her.

CB: ... And we'll just jot it down because we want to get it.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: And-

MLC: Let's see now, the third Sunday in August, I was the Woman's Day speaker down at Little Bethel.

CB: Okay.

MLC: And they said they were coming, and ... Wait a minute. Now, Susan, wait a minute, she's the Colored woman, ain't she? No, is she the White-

CB: No. She's the White lady-

MLC: She's the White ... Wait a minute. And the other lady-

CB: Carol [inaudible]?

MLC: Yeah.

CB: The other Black lady that was there-

MLC: Yeah.

CB: ... With her?

MLC: But there was one white woman came, and one Colored.

CB: Yes.

MLC: And they said were coming. And this lady, I think it was Susan... And she told the other lady, she said, "I know where Little Bethel is," and says, "I, I'm going to bring you." But Reverend Harden-

CB: Mm-hmm (affirmative)?

MLC: ... Who lives up the street here.

CB: Yes?

MLC: His wife was real sick. And the lady was coming. She was to bring the other lady, and she didn't get to come down there. But there were two more there. They were there.

CB: Okay.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: Okay.

MLC: So ... Yeah.

CB: This was wonderful. And we have that Emma was Ike's second wife, but that is not true.

MLC: Oh no, that ... Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: Ike only had one wife. One wife, Emma.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: And no second wives. Okay. Alrighty. On my notes here, I'm going to circle that and put "wrong" here.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: "No second wife." Now, if there was an Ike that married-

MLC: Somebody else, it must be-

CB: ... Somebody else, then it had to have been-

MLC: I'm going to call Mildred and ask her if there was another Ike or somebody like that.

CB: So, it could have been an Ike Jr.

MLC: Yeah, something like that-

CB: Because we have an Ike that married. And either way, we're going to have to look at that and put it together because-

MLC: Yeah.

CB: ... But we only have the one child. Somebody told us, and that's why we've got to get it all together-

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: ... Because somebody reported to us that they only had the one child, which was Clara, but that is not true.

MLC: Oh no.

CB: They had four daughters-

MLC: Yeah. They had-

CB: ... Which were Lovey, Dovey, Annie, and Clara.

MLC: Annie, Clara, Lovey, Dovey, Gertrude.

CB: And Gertrude.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: That's five daughters.

MLC: Yeah. Gertrude.

CB: Five daughters. Gertrude.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: Yeah. Let me make sure I've got-

MLC: Now, Gertrude is Mildred's mama.

CB: Mildred's mother.

MLC: That's right.

CB: Which we want to talk to.

MLC: Uh-huh (affirmative).

CB: One, two, three, four, five, from Ike and Emma.

MLC: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

CB: Got it.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: Got it. Now we began to clarify, because we had just gotten another report that said Ike only had the one daughter, which is not true.

MLC: No, that's not true.

CB: He had five daughters.

MLC: Yeah.

CB: Okay.

MLC: I know he had ...

CB: Okay. We want to thank you very much, Mrs. Clowers, for-

MLC: You're welcome.

CB: ... For giving us your time today. Now, we'll go ahead and conclude the recorded interview. Thank you.