

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Harvey E. Durham..... 1  
 A. Background and Ancestry..... 1  
 B. Phayer Family connections..... 2  
 C. Birth, Childhood, Education..... 4

II. Bessie H. Durham: Childhood and Education..... 5

III. Early Transportation and Automobiles..... 12

IV. Asworth Cotton Market and Brokers..... 17

V. Crops..... 17

VI. **COBB COUNTY ORAL HISTORY SERIES**..... 19

VII. **NO. 2**..... 19

VIII. Cobb County Soil and Crop Yields..... 17

IX. South Cobb Farming..... 18

X. **INTERVIEW WITH HARVEY E. DURHAM**  
**AND**  
**BESSIE H. DURHAM**..... 21

XI. Churches..... 22

XII. The Durham Children..... 24

XIII. **CONDUCTED AND EDITED BY**..... 25

XIV. **THOMAS ALLAN SCOTT**  
**AND**  
**MARY BOSWELL CAWLEY**..... 27

XV. Cotton Gin..... 29

XVI. Sawmill/Single Mill..... 29

XVII. **MAY 20, 1987**..... 29

XVIII. Bell Block and Lockheed..... 30

XIX. Utilities in the New Hill Community..... 30

XX. Cobb County Farm Labor Costs..... 31

XXI. Today..... 32

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Harvey E. Durham.....	1
	A. Background and Ancestors.....	1
	B. Phagan Family connection.....	2
	C. Siblings, Childhood, Education.....	4
II.	Bessie H. Durham: Childhood and Education.....	5
III.	Early Transportation and Automobiles.....	10
IV.	Acworth Cotton Market and Brokers.....	11
V.	Crops.....	12
VI.	Cobb County Sugar Cane Mills.....	13
VII.	Tenant Farming.....	14
VIII.	Cobb County Soil and Crop Yields.....	17
IX.	South Georgia Farming.....	18
X.	Finances and Banking.....	21
XI.	Churches.....	22
XII.	The Durham Children.....	24
XIII.	The Dairy Business.....	25
XIV.	AAA Cotton Measuring.....	27
XV.	Cotton Gin.....	30
XVI.	Sawmill/Shingle Mill.....	32
XVII.	Rural Mail Delivery.....	34
XVIII.	Bell Bomber and Lockheed.....	38
XIX.	Utilities in the Mars Hill Community.....	38
XX.	Cobb County Farm Labor Costs.....	41
XXI.	Index.....	42

Harvey Edward Durham was born at the Durham homeplace on Mars Hill Road on March 10, 1898, the son of Nathan Andrew and Mary Alexander Durham. His wife Bessie was born in the Mars Hill vicinity on February 18, 1902, the daughter of tenant farmer James Washington and Texarkana Kincaid Hardy. From a background of farmers, Harvey Durham continued to farm in Cobb County and, for several years, in Terrell County. His primary crop was cotton, but he later was involved in dairying and raising cattle. He supplemented the family income by working for the AAA measuring cotton during the depression years. He also served as a rural mail carrier for 29 years, and was a timber buyer for W.P. Stephens Lumber Company. Mr. and Mrs. Durham are the parents of four children, all of whom still reside in Cobb County.

MC How many were there? Four boys and one girl.

TS = Thomas A. Scott JD = James A. Durham

MC = Mary B. Cawley HD = Harvey E. Durham

BD = Bessie H. Durham

MC Why don't we start with each of you telling us a little bit about your background-- who your mother and father were, where they came from, and what they did for a living. Mr. Durham, your son has told us that your family has lived on this land since the Land Lottery. What was your daddy's name?

HD His name was Nathan Andrew. Everybody always called him "Bud."

MC Was he born here?

HD No, he was born at a place on Acworth-Due West Road, between Mt. Olivet Church and U.S. 41.

MC But he was born in Cobb County.

HD My mother was born on this place. She was born up on the hill back behind this house.

MC What was her name before she married your daddy?

HD Mary Alexander.

MC Who was her daddy? Who was your grandfather?

HD I don't know anything about them. In, we do too.

TS Are there any Alexanders left around this area?

HD Not that I know of. I think they're all dead.

MC Did you have brothers and sisters?

HD Mr. Phagan's house. That's the Phagan old home.

HD Me? Yes, a bunch of 'em.

MC How many?

HD In County Line (Road) at Old Stillsboro.

HD How many were there? Four boys and six girls.

JD Uncle Truman is the oldest.

BD There's Bertie, Claudie, Ida, Hylas, Anna, and Nola. I think that's all the girls. Then there's Truman and Harvey, Lenton and Glover. That's four boys. Harvey and Glover are the only ones still living.

MC Did they all stay in this area?

BD They were all born here.

MC And they all stayed in Cobb County?

BD No.

MC Some of them left?

BD The oldest girl--who was the oldest, Bertie or Claudie?

HD Truman, Bertie and Claudie.

BD Truman lived in Smyrna. His son still lives in Smyrna.

MC What's his son's name?

BD Phagan Durham. Phagan's mother was Mary Phagan's aunt.

HD You recollect sufficient problems about that, don't you?

MC Yes. What people around here think Leo Frank did  
 HD We do too. I'll make it that plain, we do too.  
 HD Yes, he did it. No doubt about that.  
 BD They came from up over here. The old Phagan home  
 TS place is burned down now. Was this area involved in  
 the burning of Leo Frank?  
 JD Where was it?  
 HD Not that we know anything about it.  
 BD Mr. Guess' house. That's the Phagan old home.  
 TS I think most of them were from Marietta.  
 MC On further out Mars Hill?  
 HD Well, that wasn't talked. Anybody that knew  
 JD On County Line [Road] at Old Stilesboro.  
 MC Mary Phagan was what relation?  
 BD She was Truman's wife's niece.  
 HD Oldest child.  
 HD They moved from over there when she was just little  
 TS bitty. They lived just about a mile over there.  
 TS I guess you would have been about 15 when Mary  
 MC Phagan was killed. Is that about right?  
 HD Is that Y-1-Y-1?  
 HD 15 or 13. I think it was about 13.  
 TS Her name was Alberta, but we called her Bertie.  
 MC How old are you now, Mr. Durham?  
 HD I was born March the 10th in '98.  
 TS That was the next?  
 TS She was murdered in April of 1913. Do you remember  
 HD anything about it at the time? What were people  
 TS thinking in this area?  
 HD What about after that?  
 HD All I can recollect is when they was trying the man  
 TS that killed her. Ida was older than Julia. These  
 HD girls and such. They were the girls.  
 TS But you don't remember anything. People weren't  
 HD coming in here... was, and Norway is number two, and  
 TS what were the others?  
 HD I was too small to remember anything about it.  
 TS I was and Glover.  
 MC There was a lot in the newspaper and people were  
 HD talking about it? family names? Glover, for  
 TS instance even that a family name?  
 BD It comes back every once in a while.  
 HD No, I can't remember ever hearing they say.  
 HD The feeling here in this settlement was high.  
 MC You know, there are a lot of Grovers in Marietta.  
 MC I'm sure it was. red if any...

TS Did most people around here think Leo Frank did it?  
 it? by unusual name.

HD Yes, he did it. No doubt about that. with that name.

TS Were any of the people from this area involved in the hanging of Leo Frank?  
 TS we like that case from.

BD Not that we know anything about it. no Nola.

TS I think most of them were from Marietta.

BD Well, that wasn't talked. Anybody that knew anything about it kept quiet.

TS I had a little bit of trouble picking up some of the other names. Truman was the oldest child?  
 HD Mary Hill.

HD Oldest child.

TS Is that over where the cemetery is?

TS Then Virdie, was that what...  
 HD Yes. I got my college education right there. I

HD The second one. grade.

MC Is that V-i-r-d.. a pretty good education in those days, I would think.

BD Her name was Alberta, but we called her Bertie.  
 HD After they got through the eighth, then they went

JD Make that B-e-r-t-i-e.

TS What was the next?  
 HD as the last grade at that school?

BD Claudia.

MC And then there was a high school in Saworth?

TS What about after that?  
 HD Yes.

BD Nola and then Ida. Ida was older than Nola. Then Hylas and Anna. They were the girls. If you had wanted to, you Saworth at that time?

TS The boys were Truman, and Harvey is number two, and what were the others?  
 HD you and I didn't want to go

BD Lenton and Glover. Durhan. Where were you born?

TS Were any of those family names? Glover, for instance--was that a family name?  
 HD What was your name before you got married?

BD No, I can't remember ever hearing them say.

MC You know, there are a lot of Glovers in Marietta, and I just wondered if any...

TS I was just wondering about those names. Hylas is a pretty unusual name.

BD What were your mama and daddy's names?

BD Hylas? I've never heard nobody else with that name. His name was James Washington, and they called him "Patt." His nickname was "Patt." And my

TS I just wondered where a name like that came from.

BD Of course, Ida was a common name, and Nola. Ever since the Land Lottery, aye?

TS Lenton, is that a family name?

BD Papa was raised in Gwinnett (Swi'-Wit) County.

BD No. Now there's grandchildren and great-grands on down with the same names.

MC Where did you go to school as a boy, Mr. Durham?

HD Mars Hill.

TS Is that over where the cemetery is?

HD Yes, I got my college education right there. I made the eighth grade.

MC That was probably a pretty good education in those days, I would think.

BD After they got through the eighth, then they went to Acworth.

TS So, eighth grade was the last grade at that school?

MC And then there was a high school in Acworth?

BD Yes.

TS Could you have gone on to high school, if you had wanted to, in Acworth at that time?

HD My daddy wanted me to go and I didn't want to go.

MC How about you, Mrs. Durham. Where were you born?

BD Right down the road.

MC What was your name before you got married?

BD That's the Adair?

MC Yes. That's the Indian side.

MC So he was married to two sisters, in two Adairs. That was fairly common

BD Hardy.   
 MC What were your mama and daddy's name?   
 BD Papa's name was James Washington, and they called him "Watt." His nickname was "Watt." And my mother's name was Kincaid. Texarkana Kincaid.   
 MC That was her first name? Had they been here ever since the Land Lottery also?   
 BD Papa was raised in Gwinnett [Gwi'-Nit] County. They call it Gwinnett [Gwe-Net'] now. Mama was raised around here. She went to Mars Hill School. Her great-grandfather was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian on the Adair [pronounced Aye'-dare] side. Papa and mama lived in this area most of their married life. He was like most - a sharecropper farmer. When I was a child he bought a farm on County Line Road near Old Stilesboro. It was known then as the Gladden Place. He couldn't make the payments during the depression and had to let it go back. Harvey and I married along about that time. Papa then moved to a farm on Hill road, the same farm our two sons now own. He died there.   
 TS I worked all the way through the 1900 census once and I've got a pretty good idea I remember "Texarkana" when I went through there.   
 BD Her father, my grandfather, was sheriff in Marietta for several years.   
 MC What was his name?   
 BD His name was Joseph Kincaid. I don't remember what his middle name was.   
 MC Did he live in Marietta when he was sheriff, and then move out here?   
 BD No. I can't remember too much talk about where he used to live, but I think part of them came from Alabama. Married his first wife, and when my mother was born, she died. Then he married my grandmother's sister. They just had one child.   
 MC That's the Adair?   
 BD Yes. That's the Indian side.   
 MC So he was married to two sisters, to two Adairs. That was fairly common.

BD My mother's grandmother raised her, and that's where the Indian came in.

MC You went to Mars Hill School?

BD No, I went to Allatoona on County Line Road at McLain Road. It's burned down now. It sure did make me feel bad.

TS It burned just recently, didn't it?

BD Yes. It sure did make me feel bad. There were nine of us children, and all of us went to Allatoona School. Of course, some of the children went somewheres else later.

HD Back in them days, the children had to walk to school, and they had small schoolhouses. Allatoona was about a mile from Mars Hill--a short mile up here in Acworth.

TS Was Allatoona a one-room schoolhouse?

BD Yes. It started out as a church, Allatoona Church. There's a cemetery over there. It was the church's cemetery, but it's so grown up now, you couldn't find it. I know where it's at. I know it's got a great big tree in it now.

TS But you had all the grades in one room?

BD Yes.

TS How many months out of the year did the school actually meet?

BD There was about seven months, but a lot of the older children didn't get to go when it was time to gather the crops, and things like that. And, of course, in bad weather where we had to walk so far, we didn't go.

TS About which months was it that school was in session?

BD It'd start in the fall--usually about September.

HD Two months in the summer, wasn't it?

BD Two months in the summer.

HD And three months in the winter?

BD I believe that's correct.

HD I think that's right.

TS Three in the winter and two in the summer.

HD Had to study, too.

TS Did you? They make you do homework?

(Laughter)

MC Was Mars Hill a one-room school also, where you had all the grades together?

HD Yes.

MC Do you remember how many children were in your class?

HD Well, it was different at different times.

MC Did children drop out and come in, and drop out and come in?

HD That's right. Generally, I think there was about eight or 10, maybe 12, in my group. They taught through the eighth grade. In crop time, why, I had to get out of school.

BD Where I grew up in a big family, my daddy was a sharecropper. So, I had to help at home, too. Lots of times, I didn't get to go. I had to stay at home, help tend to the babies.

MC If your father was a sharecropper, whose land was he on? Do you remember?

BD The McEver farm on Cheatham Road. Jack Kemper owns it now.

MC McEvers?

BD The McEver family was one of the founding families in Mars Hill Church.

JD Rachel was one of the daughters.

BD Well, anyhow, she's one of the first charter members of the church--her people, the McEvers.

JD By the way, it's celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

TS This year?

MC Did you all belong and go to the Mars Hill Church?

BD I've been a member of Mars Hill Church since I was 17 years old and I'm 85 now.

MC So you were born in 1902?

TS What was the date?

BD February the 28th...February 18th.

HD I was born here.

MC In this house?

HD No, that storm blewed the other house down--in 1910, I believe it was.

MC Oh. And this one was built then?

BD Right over the same foundation. Used the same timbers.

HD My daddy built this one, he and the neighbors.

TS The neighbors helped? Everybody just came and pitched in?

HD That's right. They were people from far and near.

TS Was the old house one of those up on pillars where you could crawl underneath it?

HD Almost.

BD Most of them were, and then leveled the ground down. We had a cellar. We have a cellar right under this one.

HD The highway [Mars Hill Road] was this side of where the highway is now, and my daddy and three other men had a cotton gin, corn mill, a shingle mill, and a saw mill right about where the road is now. It was blown all to pieces. This, and the house

MC that was here, and all that machinery. That old  
 crib out back was brand new. My daddy built it in  
 the summer and never used it. It was laying on top  
 HD of this old big water oak out there now. The water  
 oak was just about that big around [six inches in  
 diameter]. They took 10 men and turned that crib  
 back over. They skidded it then by hand out to  
 pretty close to where it's at now. Come out there  
 MC Was it a tornado?  
 HD Called it a cyclone.  
 MC That was in 1910?  
 HD Yeah, I think it was 1910 or '11.  
 BD And the old smokehouse is the original, too.  
 HD They found one bed quilt about two miles, straight  
 through there, wrapped around a pine tree. And my  
 daddy's razor strop, he had a razor strop, an old  
 leather one. It was found this side of Kennesaw  
 Mountain, and he got it back.  
 TS Back in those days, about how many cars would come  
 down Mars Hill Road in an hour?  
 (Laughter)  
 HD There were no automobiles.  
 TS How many wagons came down around 1910?  
 BD I can remember the first automobile I ever saw.  
 TS In 1910 nobody had even seen an automobile out this  
 way. When did you see the first automobiles in  
 this area?  
 BD I can't remember.  
 TS After World War I, maybe?  
 HD The first one I rode in was a little old Baby  
 Maxwell. Way up high, tires just little bitty old  
 tires.  
 MC Who owned it, do you remember?  
 HD A man that lived right above Acworth. J. F. McLain.  
 That his raised? How much? Tell 'em  
 how much he got it raised. "I'm going to raise it  
 a little more," they'd say?.

MC He was a friend of your family, and came and took you for a ride?

HD A friend of my daddy's. When they built the gin back, they built it back right in front of Mars Hill Church now, where that house is. McLain would come about every three weeks with a peck of corn to grind to make bread out of. He'd come out there one evening with that little old thing, and we was just catching up with the grinding. I was just a boy, and he took me and my daddy about a mile and a half, two miles, turned around and brought us back. That was the first automobile I ever rode in.

MC McLain was a cotton broker?

HD He was just a farmer.

TS I guess just about everybody was a farmer at that time.

HD Yeah, this was cotton country then.

MC Where did you sell your cotton -- in Marietta?

HD In Acworth. Acworth was a big cotton market, too.

BD You'll find pictures, if you haven't seen them. They've got pictures of Acworth with all the cotton wagons. We don't have one, but somebody had one the other day that we were looking at.

TS Who were some of the merchants in Acworth that bought the cotton?

BD McMillan Brothers and Awtrey.

HD M.C. and C.C. Phillips.

TS C.C. Phillips?

HD Yeah. They bought the cotton, and Awtrey and Sons. There were three buyers there.

TS So, you had several different people that were bidding on your cotton when you went in there?

HD Oh, yeah. Haul it in there on the wagon and they'd come by and cut it and sample it, and give you so-and-so for it. Put it back on the wagon and go on. Directly, they'd come back and they would say, "Did you get that bid raised? How much?" Tell 'em how much you got it raised. "I'm going to raise it a little more," [they'd say].

MC So, you were so much closer to Acworth [that] to go to Marietta was a big trip, wasn't it?

HD Oh, yes. It was only about four miles to Acworth and 11 or 12 to Marietta.

MC Did you ever go in to Marietta?

HD Oh, yes.

MC Is that where you did a lot of shopping?

BD We didn't do much shopping.

HD We didn't have much shopping money.

MC You just made everything yourself. You raised your own food, I'm sure.

BD Our mamas would go to Marietta and buy our clothes, but we children hardly ever went.

TS Did you grow anything besides cotton?

HD Cotton, corn, wheat and oats.

TS Did you grow those crops to sell them, or to feed the animals, or what?

HD We'd sell some. We'd eat the wheat and corn ourselves, and fed it to the stock.

BD Made syrup. Sorghum.

HD We lived at home. Raised our own meat, milk and butter, and also eggs and chickens. My mother never bought a frying chicken in her life.

TS As far as the meat was concerned, did you eat mainly pork?

HD We had our own pork.

BD Sometimes we'd kill a beef and peddle it out, you know.

TS But you couldn't preserve the beef too well, could you?

HD It would preserve all right. where the mole goes  
around. in the horses

TS Did you hang it?

HD The mole goes around and grinds. About an hour in  
HD The fall of the year was the time to kill beef. to  
make another one.

TS Did you salt it down after that?

HD Yes. you'd have used to cut that syrup cane down and  
HD Yes. at you cook, and eat it--chew it like candy.  
get the juice out of it.

BD Part of the time. Part of the time we would just  
TS hang it in the smokehouse and let it cure, let it  
dry.

HD We'd grow the cane here on this place--we had  
HD It was hard on the outside. Take a good butcher  
knife and cut it off, and it would be just as over  
tender, just through the skin there. It was good  
meat.

TS About how often did you have meat--everyday?

BD Yes. I mean, you gave him a part of your  
meat.

HD If we wanted to. you'd give him a third. He  
would eat it. I mean, you'd give him a third. I had  
BD We kept hog meat, salted it down. had a good patch  
of land. we'd give him a third. I mean, you'd give him a third.

HD We had sorghum syrup, beef, pork, chicken, eggs, and  
rabbit and possum. Did you ever eat any possum  
and potatoes?

TS No, I've never had any possum. worth and he said,  
"That's all right. I mean, you'd give him a third. I had  
HD I never did care too much for possum, but I sure  
did like the 'taters. back when you made it." He  
said, "I mean, you'd give him a third. I had  
TS The sorghum--where did you get your sorghum from?

BD Made our own, grewed our own syrup cane. year when  
you brought some cane in.

TS So you grew cane?

BD Had syrup mills where they made it. nothing else to do.  
BD I mean, you'd give him a third. I mean, you'd give him a third. I had  
MC Where was the nearest one here?

BD Pitners. he'd give him a third. I mean, you'd give him a third. I had  
BD They call it Pitner Road. You know where County  
Line Road is? You go Mars Hill Road and then off  
on County Line--right in that fork. Pitner Road  
comes in by old Allatoona School. on your place

TS Is that one of those things where the mule goes around, or the horse?

HD The mule goes around and grinds. About an hour is as long as a good mule can stand it. You have to put in another one.

BD We children used to cut that syrup cane down and peel it, you know, and eat it--chew it like candy, get the juice out of it.

TS Did cane grow well in the soil around here?

HD Yep. We'd grow the cane here on this place--we had a cane patch. Then we'd strip it, cut the tops out, load that stuff on the wagon and haul it over there. He'd grind it and make syrup, for a third.

BD He put it in jugs.

MC You bartered. I mean, you gave him a part of your cane crop?

HD That's right. We would give him a third. He furnished his vessels and we furnished ours. I had a Negro sharecropper. I didn't plant a cane patch that year, and he did. I sent him over there to get his cane ground. I told him to tell Mr. Marion to send me a gallon of good syrup and I'd pay it back when I brought mine over. Didn't have no patch. [Laughter] Two or three months later, I run up on him [Mr. Marion] in Acworth and he said, "When you gonna bring my syrup?" I said, "What syrup?" He said, "You borrowed a gallon of syrup and said you'd pay it back when you made it." He says, "You never did bring your cane." I said, "I didn't make no cane either." I didn't have none.

TS I bet he still remembered that the next year when you brought some cane in.

HD We just had a laugh about it. Nothing else to do.

BD He enjoyed a joke better than anybody I've seen.

HD That old Negro was the best old man you ever saw. It just tickled him to death. He came back. He said, "Mr. Harvey, you ain't got no cane, have you?" He said, "I told Mr. Marion what you said." I said, "That's all right. We'll get by."

TS Was he working as a tenant farmer on your place then?

BD George. You talking about George Kemp? Yes, he lived in the little house over here where my daughter lives now. His wife was a school teacher, and they had a house full of children--a whole bunch of children.

MC How long did they stay, a long time?

BD They lived here with us a long time. Once, he and his wife and another colored man, they got to taking off [fighting] a little. He [George Kemp] walked right out there in front of the house, went over and shot that man. He didn't hurt him much, but George had to go to the chain gang. He didn't stay but a year, and Harvey paid him out.

HD Stayed how long?

BD About a year.

HD No, he didn't stay but three months.

TS What did it mean to "pay him out"?

MC He went and paid a fine?

HD "Politiked" him out.

BD Old George didn't ever give them any trouble. The sheriff knew him, and knew he was all right. He only did one bad thing.

HD He was supposed to get 12 months straight. The judge was as good a friend as I had. So, he [the judge] told me, "He's gonna have to make three months at least."

BD Came back and raised a big family of children.

TS You had to pay?

HD I didn't pay nothing.

MC You didn't have to pay. You just had to go talk to the judge, sort of vouch for him. Is that what you did?

BD "Stood" for him, that's what they called it.

TS Who was the judge? Do you remember that?

HD Judge Hawkins? Yeah, I reckon I do. I'll tell you what happened with me and him. Several years ago, they measured cotton land, and I was a



HD That's the reason I didn't plant any syrup cane that year that I was talking about while ago. The tenant had a big patch and made a good crop. I got all the syrup I wanted, and didn't cost me anything.

TS Was it expected for a tenant to pay a third of the cane that he grew, or was that the way it worked?

BD If the landlord furnished everything, and the tenant grew cane, he got half of it, didn't he?

HD Yes. Or, it was just according to what you agreed on.

MC It would vary from thing to thing?

HD If he was a good man, and a poor man having a hard time, I'd say, "Go ahead."

TS Just keep it all?

HD And if he made a big crop of it, well, we shared.

BD Everybody had their own garden and their own chickens and meat and milk. When we married, he had a hog and a cow and his horse. And we had our chickens. I had the chickens, and I think it was 75 jars of fruit and vegetables I canned that year.

MC The year that you married, where did you live?

BD He lived here and I lived on what was originally part of the McEver place on Cheatham Road.

MC But then, when you married, where did you go?

BD We stayed here about a month and then we moved in a house on the McEver place.

TS Would you say the soil in this area was pretty good for agriculture or not very good?

HD It was pretty good then. Good farming land. It wasn't all growed up in pine timber.

TS About how many bushels of corn could you produce on an acre back then?

HD Well, they didn't fertilize then. Some of it made 10 bushels to an acre, some of it might make 25, some might make 30. We had some land rented, what we call the old Hill place. When Edward, our oldest son, was in the 4-H Club, he made 129

TS bushels of corn on that acre. We fertilized it yearly.

TS But, in your early days, the farming people didn't really use a lot of fertilizer?

BD Fixed their table out in the yard. We were usually

HD No, they wouldn't use it. theirs afterwards.

BD We used guanner [guano] when we planted cotton.

HD We made one crop on the McEver farm, and then we moved to Terrell County, south Georgia. Stayed down there six years and then moved right back here.

TS How did the soil down there compare to here?

HD Well, it was better down there than it is here.

BD They fertilized, and it was leveler land.

HD You had so much more level land, but the biggest thing was field hands. You could have all the help you wanted anywhere from two to three dollars a week.

BD I had a old colored woman who washed for me.

HD I paid 65 cents a day for a hand to plow.

BD This colored woman lived right close to us, and she did my washing every week for her dinner.

MC It was just another exchange. You just exchanged the food for the washing?

BD Yes.

HD We had one black man down there. They didn't work on Saturday evening--blacks didn't--and he'd come just before he'd go to town. He'd come back in the house and say, "Miss Bessie, gonna scour the kitchen." He'd scour the kitchen, the back porch, and anything she wanted scoured. The next morning, by the time we built a fire in the stove and had it going pretty good, that same fellow would come back and knock on the door. "Breakfast about ready?" [Laughter] That's all he ever wanted. He wanted his breakfast on Sunday morning.

BD He was the happiest person I think I've seen. He could just dance and sing, happiest thing you ever saw all the time.

TS When they came in for their breakfast, did they eat at the table?

HD Oh no, no.

BD Fixed their table out in the yard. We were usually through eating. I'd fix theirs afterwards.

TS Did you supervise tenant farmers a lot, or did you pretty much just leave them on their own? Were you out there everyday to make sure they were doing things right?

HD Was out there with them. Had to. That was in south Georgia. Now, here--the blacks you could get here had sense enough to go ahead and farm by themselves. But down there, I stayed in the field with the hands lots of days with my overcoat on, early Spring.

TS I know when I checked the figures on the 1879 census, that even though the soil may not have been as good in this area as it was in south Georgia, the crop yields were better here. You were getting more cotton per acre, more bales per acre, and more bushel of corn per acre. I was just wondering if that's still true when...?

HD What's caused a whole lot of that was people got educated to fertilizer, began to use fertilizer. Down there, now. I was raised here not to use over 200 pounds an acre. Went down there, I ran a one-horse crop. Plowed the hands to a mule, just like the other farmers did. So, I made 11 bales of cotton and enough corn to feed a pair of mules and some hogs on the side. I saw I couldn't do that much, so I quit it. I bought me a pair of mules. Then I bought eight. There's where I made my mistake -- when I went to eight. Things went to the bad, and I almost lost out.

BD I didn't like that country.

HD If I hadn't had a good banker friend, I would have been busted.

MC What year are you talking about now?

HD That was in 1924.

BD Somewheres along there. We had just been married a year when we moved down there.

TS What year did you get married?

HD '21. The last of '21. *... money?*

BD I'm getting to where I can't remember back as good as I used to. (Laughter) Lots of times I can't remember tomorrow, what happened today. Forget it.

TS *...?*

TS Do you remember about how old you were when you got married?

HD *... up here in Acworth, and there's one in Marietta.*

BD Yeah, I was 18 years old.

BD *... usually borrowed from the McMillans.*

TS So that would have been about 1920, maybe?

HD *... that was always my brother. (Laughter)*

BD Somewhere in there. We married in November, and I was 19 in February. *... money?*

TS I see. So that would have been 1920, I guess.

MC I started to ask how many acres of land, Mr. Durham, did you have here?

HD *...?*

HD Here, when I bought the place?

MC *... bank in Marietta? Do you remember?*

MC Yes.

HD *... Durham.*

HD 140.

MC *... that would have been earlier in the '20s and the '30s.*

MC When did you buy it? Did you buy it from your relatives, from your brothers?

BD *... the bank.*

HD Bought it from the estate. When my father died I bought the place. *... there that early.*

MC You were already farming on it, weren't you?

HD Yes, we were still here. Daddy was living with us or we were living with him.

BD His mother died while we lived in south Georgia, so and his father asked us to move back so we could live with him. The other children already had their homes set up elsewhere.

MC *...?*

TS Did you have to borrow money each year to buy your seed and buy your fertilizer? *... pockets.*

HD *... when the Loan Bank closed up. I had 26 cents in my pocket. (Laughter) It closed over night.*

TS *... Or my. When did it close? Was that before the New Deal or afterwards?*

HD Always had to borrow some money.

TS Where did you go to borrow money?

HD Mostly the bank.

TS I mean, was there a particular bank that you went to?

HD Had two banks up here in Acworth, and there's one in Marietta.

BD He usually borrowed from the McMillans.

HD That was always my trouble. (Laughter)

TS Trouble that you borrowed money?

HD I could get it too easy.

MC You used the Lemon Bank in Acworth?

HD Yes.

MC What bank in Marietta? Do you remember?

HD Cobb Exchange.

MC That would have been maybe in the '20s and the '30s.

HD Yes. '30 something.

TS Cobb Exchange wasn't there that early.

JD It was later.

BD Most of the time, he had his money borrowed in Acworth--McMillan Brothers.

HD Whenever the Lemon Bank closed up, then it went to Marietta as the Cobb Exchange.

MC Yes, it did [in later years].

BD Every bit of money we had was in that bank. He had 30 something cents in his pockets.

HD When the Lemon Bank closed up, I had 26 cents in my pocket. (Laughter) It closed over night.

TS Oh my. When did it close? Was that before the New Deal or afterwards?

HD It was right in the Depression. [the churches,

MC Didn't they re-open it, though?

HD They never did open it as Lemon Bank, but I got my money.

TS So, when you say "in the Depression," before Franklin Roosevelt and FDIC is what you're talking about? In other words, you were in danger of losing everything when it closed?

HD Lemon Awtrey told me, whenever I got to see him--it was three or four days before I ever got to see him. He told me, "You'll get your money."

BD Lemon, Jr.'s daddy. [Lemon Awtrey, Jr., a Marietta and Acworth attorney]

HD He said, "It will take some time, but we'll get your money."

TS Did the Awtrey's go to the same church you all went to?

BD No. They went to Acworth, and we went over to Mars Hill.

TS The Awtreys went to Acworth Presbyterian? Were the two churches together at one time, and then Acworth pulled out of Mars Hill?

JD It was a mission of Mars Hill. Then some of the people--like the McMillans, the Awtreys and some of the other folks--started a new church in Acworth.

BD There was another Presbyterian Mission of Mars Hill back over here off of the highway toward Dallas.

MC In the '20s and the '30s, did your social life pretty much revolve around the church?

BD Yes.

MC Lot of church activities and church suppers?

BD We had Mars Hill Church, County Line Methodist, Midway Presbyterian and Mount Olivet Baptist. And we went to one of those churches each Sunday. They had church once a month, each church. First church on the first Sunday, second Sunday, third Sunday, fourth Sunday. Different churches on different

BD Sundays. We'd go to all four of the churches.

TS Did they have different ministers?

BD Yes, but Acworth, Mars Hill and Midway shared the same pastor.

BD Mars Hill was Presbyterian, County Line was Methodist, Midway was Presbyterian, and Mt. Olivet was Baptist. Harvey's mother--she was a Baptist, wasn't she [Question directed to Mr. Durham]? I said, Mrs. Durham and Anna and them all were Baptist?

TS Did you ever see credit or did you pay cash?

HD Yes.

BD A lot of the time by Jacy bought on credit.

TS Well, you [went] a long way to go to the Midway church, didn't you?

HD By Jacy's horse he bought enough flour in the fall of

BD Pretty good piece.

HD We went to all of them.

BD We drove a buggy.

TS About how long did it take to get down there from here?

BD 30 or 40 minutes, except for Midway.

TS Is that all?

BD Good horses.

HD Always kept a good mule and a good buggy.

BD Each church had their revivals at a different time, too, you know. I didn't go to Acworth as much.

MC Midway, is that on Dallas Highway? That is a long way.

BD That's a branch of Mars Hill Church. There's a mission over near Dallas off the highway called Mission Church--it was a branch of Mars Hill Church.

TS What ever happened to that church? It's not around anymore, is it?

BD I think it's still down there.

TS Is it?

BD Don't they have a mission -- no, that's right. It never was so strong a church as was Mars Hill.

TS When you went into town to buy supplies, what kind of things did you have to buy?

BD Flour and meal, if we didn't have our own corn. Flour was the main thing, and clothes.

TS Did you buy on credit or did you pay cash?

BD A lot of the time my daddy bought on credit. McMillan got most of his money.

HD My daddy usually bought enough flour in the fall of the year to do about a year.

TS Just as soon as he got his own money from his crops, he paid cash and caught it up?

HD Yes.

TS I know a lot of tenant farmers would pledge their crop when they would buy, under the crop lien system. I was just wondering if farm owners did the same thing.

MC You started your own family, the two of you? When was your first child born? What year was that?

BD Marjorie was. She's had her 63rd birthday, I think.

TS She was born about 1924?

BD She was born in south Georgia, and our two oldest children were born in Terrell County.

MC How many children do you have all together?

BD We have four, two boys and two girls.

MC Are they all still here in the Acworth area?

BD Yes. Jimmy and Edward live right down there next door to each other. Hill Road, down there. My oldest girl lives right over there in that house next door [indicates a house on Mars Hill Road].

TS What's her name?

BD Marjorie Evans.

TS I've got Jimmy--and Edward, did you say?

BD Edward lives--he owns this little house on the corner up here, but he's built a new house down Hill Road right next door to Jimmy. It's on the same land. Jimmy and Edward bought that land from Harvey. He [Harvey] bought that land back in the '50s, and he sold it to them. Edward just moved in to his new home.

TS I think I missed out on one of the daughters' names.

BD Mary. Marjorie and Mary. Mary lives down on Antioch Road close to Powder Springs.

TS According to Jimmy, you all started dairy farming somewhere along the line. Did you give up cotton farming when you started dairy farming or did you do both at the same time?

HD Yep.

TS So you were doing both together?

HD That's right. We had 26 cows milking at one time when we were in the dairy business.

JD Why did you get into the dairy farming? Weren't there a lot of people doing that about that time?

BD Yes, there were a bunch. Got to having little family-size dairies. A lot of them around.

MC The cotton market went down so much that you needed to do something else to supplement?

BD Had to make a living.

HD Make a living and we just got started. We started off with three cows and wound up with 26.

MC Did it start in the '30s, during the Depression years? How long did you stay in it?

HD I don't know how long, about 1957.

MC Now, that's almost 20 years.

BD We stayed in it longer than most of the rest of them did.

TS Who did the milking?

BD We did.

TS Both of you together?

HD We did.

JD We all did.

BD Then they got a milking machine, built a dairy barn, and put in stanchions for the milking machines, and a cooler.

HD We had milking machines.

BD We had electric coolers.

TS About when did the milking machine come in?

BD Right after we got our cows. We didn't milk by hand but about two years, did we?

HD No, about two years.

BD I don't remember what year it was.

MC Did the county agricultural agents come in and help you out and give you advice, or did you just sort of have to do it on your own?

BD Yes, and then they had inspectors come in and inspected to see if everything was clean.

HD Back in those days, we could get labor pretty reasonable.

TS Who did you sell the milk to?

BD William Terry. It started off that way. He had a dairy in Acworth. Then after he went out of business, we sold it to people who came and picked it up. I churned, had buttermilk and butter. I soon quit that.

HD We had a cooler, and people would bring gallon jugs and half-gallon jugs. My wife would fill them jugs

up the days they was supposed to get their milk. They'd come sometime in the evening, late, pick up their milk and most of them left their money in the empty jar. She made more money than we did out of the milking machines.

MC You know, there are not many people left in Cobb County who farmed, and can tell us what it was like to have a farm. That's important to know.

JD Daddy, why don't you tell them some of the things that happened when you were doing the cotton measuring. When you measured cotton, where did you do that? [Question to Mr. Durham].

HD We was all over the county when I was doing that.

TS What does it mean to "measure cotton"? What did you actually do?

HD You could just have so much cotton planted.

TS So, this was the Triple A that you were working for.

HD That's right. It had to be measured to find it. We had to go to school just about three weeks to learn how to operate those things. We had orders to be sure and watch for cotton planted where it shouldn't be. I ran into a field over here once. The little road ran out into the woods away. I don't know what made me do it, but I said, "I just believe I'll see where that road goes to." I walked back as far as from here to the highway out there, and there's where a man had cleared up a four acre field and planted it in cotton.

BD They had a restriction on it.

MC They were trying to keep that price up.

HD How much it was, I couldn't guess at that.

TS So you had to measure it?

HD Yes, I measured it out. Carried my papers in, showed them to the head man down there. I drew a red line on the pictures right where that cotton was planted. He looked at the paper and said, "You got four acres there." I said, "That's what I measured." He said, "Well, someone will have to check you on that." I said, "All right. Just go to it. If you don't come out like I do, I'm going to demand the state man to check you." He said,

"Well, you've got the authority, you can do it." The state man happened to come in the very next day. So they both went to the field at the same time. When I went back in to get some new papers, why, Mansfield, my supervisor, said to me, "Harvey, me and the state man--have you been over there where they's that cotton field in the woods?" I said, "No, I haven't been there." He said, "Well, we went out to measure that." He said, "There's one thing I want you to tell me--how did you find that?" I asked him, "Do you see that little field road that went over through one place?" He said, "That's where we went." I said, "That where I went too."

BD Those people sure did get mad.

JD What did they do to the man that grew the cotton? Did they just plow it under, or what did they do with it?

HD No, he wasn't quite over [his allotment]. He didn't quite have enough open land to get his allotment, and that's what he was working at---to get his allotment; and thinking all the time that nobody would never see it.

TS Did you ever worry about anybody shooting you while you were out there measuring?

HD Nobody but Judge Hawkins.

(Laughter)

MC Did most of the farmers cooperate pretty well?

HD Oh yes. We had one man down below here. Had a boy by the name of Kemp that went to measure his cotton. He took a shotgun to him. Ran him off, and told him not to come back there and not to send nobody. So, Mansfield talked to me about it and said, "I want you to help me out on this." He asked me for some kind of suggestion. He said, "I don't know how to handle this." I said, "Well, let's just study about it for a few days." So the next time I went in, he said, "I've figured out what we'll do." He says, "I'll get Raymond Ward to go with you. One of you go to talk to him, and the other one go down there close to the creek and go across the woods and measure that cotton." I said, "Mansfield, I don't want to have no part of it. None whatsoever, that-a-way. I won't slip around and do nothing." He said, "Then, what would you do?" I said, "I'll measure that cotton." He said,

HD "You'll go over there and get shot." I said, "I  
won't." He said, "Well, do you know the old man?"  
I said, "No, I don't know him, just know him when  
I see him, is all." He said, "I'll tell you what  
TS I'll do. I'll give you pay for a full day's work  
if you'll measure it. There's not but six acres  
of it." I said, "Give me the papers." The next  
HD day, I got in the car and drove over there. I met  
the old man coming out behind a pair of good mules.  
TS I kept good mules, too. I stopped, got to talking  
to him, looked at his mules, bragged on 'em that  
HD they was the prettiest things that ever I saw. I  
guess I sat there about an hour. "Mr. Jed," I  
HD said, "they tell me you and Kemp had a little  
trouble about measuring your cotton." He said,  
"Yeah, he came over here and said he was going to  
measure it, and I just told him he wasn't. I took  
TS my gun to him." I said, "Well, did he run?" He  
said, "Yeah, he got it on." I said, "What are you  
going to do to me? I've got the papers out there  
in the car." He said, "You want to measure it?" I  
HD said, "Yeah, I'll measure it." He said, "Let's  
go."

MC And that was no problem at all. \* mules to do that?

HD No problem at all. I went right on, and didn't  
have a bit of trouble with the man.

TS It must have been difficult for farmers in those  
years who were accustomed to doing everything their  
own way. \* he had three mules. \* there was  
HD \* \* \* \* \*

HD He didn't like the program. And I didn't like all  
of it myself. I'd tell them I didn't. There  
wasn't no slipping around.

TS What kind of an allotment did they give you here  
for cotton? \* mules gin located?

HD Just the same as the others. It was just a Road.  
certain percent, and I've forgotten what percent it  
was now. \* \* \* \* \* there that  
HD \* \* \* \* \*

TS But it was a lot less than you had been growing  
before? \* mules gin was it?

HD Well, it was cut some. It had to be. That's what  
they was after, cutting the cotton crop down.

TS Did you see the prices go up once you started  
cutting back on production?

HD It didn't go too high. But it helped. Well, the people had just got to where they thought they couldn't make no money out of nothing but cotton.

BD

TS Was cotton the only crop that there was an allotment on in this county?

TS That was the main crop. (over long bales?)

HD That was the main crop.

TS Did you have a corn allotment?

HD No.

BD I don't think there ever was an allotment on anything but cotton.

HD There was no wheat allotment then.

TS That first year, did you have to plow up some cotton that you'd already planted?

HD Yeah, yeah. I had to clear four acres on this place.

TS Did you have trouble getting the mules to do that?

HD No, I just went ahead and plowed it up.

TS I understand that you had a cotton gin at one time.

HD My daddy did. He and three others....there was four of them in it.

JD But you worked in that cotton gin?

HD Oh, yes.

TS Where was the cotton gin located?

BD Right where Clyde Wilson lives on Mars Hill Road.

HD Right in front of Mars Hill Church, where that house is now.

TS How big a cotton gin was it?

BD

TS

HD

TS

HD

HD Three 60-saw gin.

BD How many bales a day could you gin?

HD About 20.

TS Twenty bales. How much did the farmers have to pay to have their cotton turned into bales?

HD Well, that varied in different years.

TS Was it expensive for the farmer?

HD Well, usually run around five dollars a bale. It went by the pound.

TS Were most bales about 500 pounds or did they vary a lot?

HD Most of it run around 500 pounds.

BD Who was it put the steelyard weight in their cotton?

TS The what?

BD They had what they call steelyards. It's a scale that has big, big heavy weights. They call them steelyards. That's what they weighed their cotton with in the field, you see.

MC Oh, and they put it inside the bale?

BD They put that thing that weighed five or six pounds in the cotton to make it heavy. It tore up the gin, I think.

HD No, my daddy happened to catch it before it got in the gin. He picked up the sack, knew it was too heavy, emptied it and found the weight.

TS And you worked in the cotton gin some, too?

HD Yes.

TS What kind of job did you do in there?

HD Any of it. I done any of it.

TS What would be some of the types of work that people would do?

HD We had to have steam. Had to have a man to run the ginner, and had to have a man to pack it. After I

TS got 17 or 18 years old, my biggest job was firing  
the engine, keeping the books, weighing the cotton,  
and weighing the wagons. One man could do all of  
that.

TS The farmer drove up in a wagon, and then you  
weighed the wagon with the cotton in it?

HD That's right. They put the cotton up in suction.  
Pulled it with a suction.

BD It'd come right down over the wagon, and they'd  
drive under there.

HD I didn't have to touch it at all. All I had to do  
was just weigh the wagon, put it down [in the gin  
book], the whole load, and then take the empty  
wagon and put it down. I was through. Daddy  
finished the rest of it. I better put it down  
there right.

BD We did have the gin book here, but I reckon Edward  
has it.

TS Does it have the names in it of all the farmers?

BD Yes.

MC Oh, we'd love to see them if you come across them.

TS Now, the saw mill and the shingle mill were across  
the road?

HD Right about where the highway is now.

TS Was that a pretty big operation down there?

HD Pretty good size. Then, a road came down between  
this branch and where the highway's at now. Went  
across down yonder and went up in front of where my  
daughter lives. There was a big well where they  
got the water out. They filled that well up when  
the road was changed.

TS About when did they come through and straighten the  
road?

HD It's been straightened two or three times since  
then.

TS I see.

JD It was in the '50s, wasn't it?

HD Yeah.

BD I think so. It was paved along about that time.

HD It's been paved twice.

JD I can remember when it was paved the first time.

TS In the sawmill, what were you producing--lumber for houses around here?

HD Wood for people. Customers.

BD Neighbors and all.

HD Custom business was what it was.

TS Where did you get the wood that you used? Did you just cut trees down around here?

HD They'd cut the logs and bring them in the yard up there. We'd do the sawing.

TS Oh, so the person that wanted the lumber would bring the wood?

HD Yes.

BD The pine wood, they cut cords--what they called it--to fire their engines that burnt cord wood.

TS So, a lot of the business was for people that wanted firewood?

JD Mostly for lumber.

TS Was there a lot of building going on around here?

HD Well, just people keeping up what they had. Nothing like what's going on now.

JD When did you put your first sawmill down here yourself?

HD 1931.

JD He had his own mill. Daddy, didn't you buy timber for Stephens Lumber Company?

HD That was after I sold out. the other was a Democrat.

MC You had your sawmill for a while, and then you sold it. Who did you sell it to?

TS

HD A fellow by the name of Brown. I reckon he paid me, and I was glad to get out of the sawmill business.

HD

MC Then you went to work for Stephens Lumber Company?

HD I started buying timber for them. You've heard of Berry School [Berry College] haven't you?

HD Nearly the whole timber.

MC In Rome?

HD Yes, Rome. Ed Stephens had a regular man that bought. We called him a timber cruiser. Mr. Ed called me one night and wanted me to go with this man to Rome to look at Berry School's timber. And I told him, I said, "Ed, I can't. I can't be gone from home. I'm substituting on a mail route and got the dairy. I've got all I can do. I just can't go." And he come back in about three days, the man did, and he just begged me to go with him up there. And I was getting ready then to deliver the mail. There was a little over a million feet of it [timber].

TS

TS Why don't you tell us some of the stories about your experiences delivering the mail in this area?

HD

HD That's too much.

TS

TS Is it?

BD Thirty years of it. We moved back here from south Georgia, and you got that job right quick after we moved back from south Georgia, didn't you?

HD

HD Yes.

MC Who was the postmaster when you got the job?

HD Carlene Fowler. Carlene was the first one, and then Ruth come in. They changed politics in there.

TS

TS Carlene Fowler and then....

JD Ruth Davenport McClure. They were sisters.

TS One was a Republican, and the other was a Democrat?

HD That's right.

TS So, when you came back, the Republicans were in, so you had a Republican. When Roosevelt came in...

HD Ruth got in. We were second cousins.

TS I see. Were there any politics in who were the actual mail carriers, or was the politics just in who was the postmaster?

HD Mostly the postmaster. Most of the time, the mail carriers were ex-soldiers.

BD Carlene married, and her husband worked in the lumber business. He was killed.

TS Were you in World War I?

HD No. I had my socks ready, but I didn't have to go.

TS As a substitute mail carrier, does that mean if somebody was sick, you took their route that day?

HD That's right.

BD That was on Route 1.

HD And Paul West for Route 2. I was substituting on Route 1, and Paul was subbing on Route 2. Mrs. McClure called me one Sunday morning and said, "What are you doing this morning?" She says, "I want you to come up here." I said, "I've got to shave and take a bath." She said, "I don't care if you shave or take a bath or not, I need you." I said, "Well what's your trouble?" She said, "I don't want to tell you over the telephone. I need your help." I said, "Well, I'll be up there in 30 minutes." Got up there, and she said that Paul West resigned on Friday, and she handed me a letter. The Post Office Department had swapped Paul West's regular man to a man in Florida--going to swap the two men, bring the Florida man up here and send this man to Florida. They wanted us to learn that man Route 2. I said, "Ruth, you know I can't do that." She said, "I know there is nobody else that can. You know the general routine of the mail business, and you know nearly everybody." I let her talk me into it. She said, "I want you to go with this man up here Monday. Tuesday, I want you to take a route, take the mail." I said, "I

TS can't do it, no man in the world can do that." She  
HD said, "Yeah, you can." So I took it. I brought  
back six pieces of mail with me, which was extra  
good. The next day when I went by, I picked up  
three pieces that I put down wrong. I subbed for  
both them two men for about 10 years.

BD It was a long time.

HD I substituted for both of them.

BD Mr. Henry Lewis was our mail carrier when I was  
growing up. I don't know how many years he carried  
the mail. Drove a horse and buggy.

TS When you were working as a mail carrier, did the  
JD government provide a truck to deliver in, or did  
you use your own car?

TS My own car, mule and buggy. Part of the time, it  
HD was so wet you had to use a buggy. Most of the  
roads were not paved and got very bad in the  
wintertime.

BD I can remember a time all of the routes was carried  
by buggy.

TS About how big was the route? How many miles did it  
cover?

HD When I was carrying it with a horse and buggy, 26  
BD miles. It finally wound up, before I quit, we was  
running between 60 and 70. Of course, we didn't do  
it with any mule and buggy then. Used my own  
HD automobile.

TS That's a lot of wear and tear on your own car.

HD I've got a card somewhere, maybe in my billfold,  
where I carried the mail 29 years without a  
accident.

TS Is that right? That's some record.

HD It's some. I didn't know I was going to get it.  
Didn't know a thing in the world about it. Ruth  
came in there one morning and said, "I've got  
something I want you to take and be proud of it."  
I looked at it. She says, "You carried the mail 29  
years and never had a wreck." I said, "Yeah I  
did. I had one." She said, "Yes, but you weren't  
TS blamed for it." My brakes failed me.

TS Is that when you had your wreck?  
HD  
HD Yes. Brakes failed, and was meeting an old car just about head-on on a little narrow bridge. I knew that wouldn't do, so I hit the ditch. It didn't do anything but tear up the car.

TS Everybody got their mail once a day back then?  
TS  
HD Yes.

TS Did you stop and talk to people along the way or did you just rush through?  
HD  
HD Just a few words.

JD He took time to talk. I rode with him some.

TS Is that right? I guess everybody really wanted to talk along the way, if you didn't see that many people in a day's time. You mentioned a little bit earlier about Ruth calling you up on the telephone. About when did you get a telephone around here?

BD When they first put telephones through here. There were seven of us.

TS Do you know about when?  
HD  
HD I can't recollect what year.

BD I can't remember the year, but there was seven phones.

HD We had telephones before we were married.

BD Yep.

TS I was just wondering, because I was talking to somebody over in the Lost Mountain community that didn't get telephones until the 1950s.

BD  
BD No, we got phones when they first started putting telephone lines through. My daddy had a phone for years. I've forgotten how many families, but we were all on the same line. Anything happened, everybody would know it. You'd ring a certain ring, you know; and everybody would take the phone down; and they'd know what was going on.

TS I see. You just had your own special ring, so you knew when to pick it up. If you wanted to hear what your neighbors were gossiping about, you would pick up their ring.

TS  
HD On this line, if you wanted to talk to the whole line, it was five long rings and there was somebody on every phone.

BD  
BD Everybody would take the phone down. Usually it was some kind of catastrophe.

TS  
TS Well, nowadays you have to pay extra money if you want to have one of those conference calls.

MC  
MC Do you all remember when the Second World War came along, and Bell Bomber came in? Did that have any effect on any of the people up here? Did some of the sons and daughters go to work for them?

BD  
BD Oh, yes. Both of our sons, one daughter and both sons-in-law. Our oldest son went to work at Lockheed. It was Bell, but he didn't go to work until after it became Lockheed. He graduated from high school in Acworth and went right to Lockheed and went to work. He worked there until he had to go into the Army, you know, when they drafted him. He went to the Army, and they [Lockheed] told him his job would be there when he got back. When he got back, he went to get his job and they didn't have it. They had it filled. They told him to put on his collar and tie and come the next morning. So, they put him in the office and gave him a better job.

BD  
JD One sister and two brothers-in-law have retired from Lockheed.

BD  
BD My daughter worked there. Mary just retired last year. She worked at the thread mill a while.

TS  
TS Clarkdale? Are you talking about in Acworth?

JD  
JD Unique Knitting in Acworth.

BD  
TS She went from there to school. Where's the place she trained and worked--trained on the job?

JD  
BD She was a keypunch operator.

BD  
JD Well, I mean after she left Unique.

JD  
JD What she learned to do was a key punch operator.

BD  
BD She was at Lockheed about 29 years, I think, before she retired.

TS When did you begin to see the population growing in this area around Mars Hill Road? Did it happen as soon as Bell Aircraft came in, or was it later?  
 one 1174

BD Just gradually. It really has multiplied in the last five years.  
 JD

TS When did you get electricity in this area?  
 one

BD We were part of the first families, but I don't remember how long ago. Anyhow, they were a bunch of us had lights.  
 TS

HD I imagine it was around--it was before Daddy died.  
 HD

BD Oh yeah, it was long time before he died.  
 1300

HD It was around '36.  
 TS

BD We had electricity when we had the little dairy.  
 BD

HD I believe it was somewhere around '36 or '37.  
 TS

BD I can't remember back to dates like that. I can remember the time it happened. I can remember what we did and all, but I can't keep the dates straight.  
 BD

TS Do you still have a well?  
 MC

BD Yeah. It's right out there on the back porch--got a pump in it. We haven't used it now in about six months or longer.  
 JD

HD It went dry last summer. We got county water. I bet it's got water in it now, though.  
 MC

BD Nobody has drawn any out in a long time. The bucket's there. The county water is cheaper. It's cheaper than keeping up the electric pump to run the well.  
 JD

TS Has the Mars Hill Presbyterian Church been at that same location as long as you can remember?  
 HD

BD As long as I can remember.  
 TS

JD The church was at one time at the cemetery, but not where the building sits now.  
 TS

MC What's the white frame building that is at the cemetery?  
 MC

BD That was the school--Mars Hill School. It's used now as a community meeting house. I was thinking that the church was over across the road from there one time.

JD It was down Mars Hill Church Road, closer to where the Womack place is--at the spring [about midway between the cemetery and the present location].

HD It was a log building with slab benches. As far as I know, the spring is still there.

TS So, as long as you can remember, it's been the same place it is now?

HD That's right. That building was built in the late 1800's.

TS It's grown quite a bit, hasn't it?

BD A good bit.

TS I noticed that you have a gymnasium over there now.

BD Yes. It's called the Family Life Center.

MC Do you remember when you raised your last cotton crop? Was that in the '40s, around the war? Was it before the war?

JD In the early '40s.

HD It's been a long time.

MC What did you raise after cotton?

HD The biggest thing that we made money out of was black calves.

JD Tell him how you got into the cattle business that you're in now. How did that evolve?

HD We went into the calf business. We quit the dairy business. When a cow would have a calf, we would buy another one to put with her and let her raise two. Then we bought a registered Black Angus bull and bred the milk cows to him and raised calves and kept on going. We've got about 26 nice babies in this year's crop so far.

MC So, you have never really been out of farming, of one sort or another, from the time you were born?

HD That's right.

TS Why did you give up growing cotton?

HD I don't know, just got started doing something else.

MC Was it not bringing in enough money?

HD I don't know why.

TS I've heard some farmers around this area say they gave up growing crops because they couldn't find cheap labor any longer. Is that a problem around here?

HD We never did have no trouble getting labor up until the last two or three years. You can't get no labor now.

TS But up until just recently, you could find plenty of labor?

JD It's been a little bit longer than that.

HD It costs three and four dollars an hour on the farm. I don't care what you're raising.

TS Can't make any money?

HD You just can't make it. Fertilizer is too high, everything is too high.

MC Do any of your children farm?

HD Edward does. I'm not doing anything myself. Edward and myself are in the cattle business together, and he looks after all that. I do still keep a handle on things, though. Bessie and I check on the cattle almost every day. We can ride through the pastures in our truck. When the boys are in the hay field, I go and sit in the truck and watch them--sort of supervise, you might say.

MC & TS Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Durham.

Fowler, Carlisle INDEX

- Frans, Leo (see Phagan, Mary)
- A. A. A. (see also Depression), 27-30
- agriculture, Cobb County, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16,  
Hawkins, Harold, Judge, 17, 18, 24, 25-32, 40,  
41
- Keep, crop lien system, 24  
crop yield, 17, 18, 19
- Locke, crops, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 27, 28, 30  
dairy, 25-27
- McClure, fertilizer, 17, 19
- McEwen, labor (see Tenant Farming), 41
- McClure, livestock, 12, 13, 40, 41
- agriculture, Terrell County, 18-19 (churches)
- automobiles, 10, 11
- Awtrey, Lemon, Sr., 21-22
- Phagan, Mary 2, 3, 4
- Bell Aircraft Corp. (see Lockheed)
- blacks, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19
- churches, 1, 8, 22, 23, 24, 40  
activities, 22, 23  
Mars Hill Presbyterian, 8, 9, 17, 22, 23, 40  
ministers, 23  
Mt. Olivet Baptist, 1, 22
- cotton Brokers, 11
- Depression, the (see also A. A. A.), 21, 22, 7-30
- Durham, Bessie H., 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, 18, 20,  
22, 23, 24, 25-27, 38  
parents, 6, 7, 23
- Durham, Edward 17, 24, 25, 26, 32, 41
- Durham, Harvey E., 1-3, 9-11, 14-22, 24, 26-29,  
31-37, 39-41  
children, 17, 24, 25, 26, 38, 39, 41  
finances, 11, 12, 21, 22, 24  
homeplace, 1, 9, 10, 20  
parents, 1, 20  
siblings, 2, 3, 4, 23  
wife (see Durham, Bessie H.)
- Durham, James 24, 25, 38
- Durham, Mary 24, 25, 38
- Durham, Phagan 2
- Evans, Marjorie Durham 24, 25

Fowler, Carlene, 34  
Frank, Leo (see Phagan, Mary)  
gins 9, 30-32  
Hawkins, Harold, Judge, 15, 16, 28  
Kemp, George (see also blacks), 14, 15, 16  
Lockheed of Georgia, 38, 39  
McClure, Ruth D., 34-35  
McEver Family, The, 8, 9, 17  
McClain, J.F., 10, 11  
Mars Hill Presbyterian Church (see churches)  
Mars Hill Road, 9, 32  
Phagan, Mary, 2, 3, 4  
Rural Mail Delivery (see also Fowler and McClure),  
35-37  
saw mills, 9, 32, 33  
schools, 5, 7, 8  
sharecroppers (see tenant farming)  
Stephens Lumber Company, 33-34  
syrup mills, 12, 13, 14  
tenant farming (see also blacks), 6, 8, 14-17, 19,  
24  
Terrell County 18, 19  
utilities, 37-39  
weather, 9, 10