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Mrs. Aughty Hite Smith

Interviewee (Deceased 1977)

Jayess, MS

Address

Date of Agreement

Life on the farm in Lawrence County, Mississippi

Subject of Tape(s)

Prisilla P. Johansen
Director
Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin
Regional Library

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Oral History
Data Sheet

FULL NAME Mrs. Aughty Hite Smith (Belle Cothorn Smith) (Deceased - 1977)
ADDRESS Jayess, MS PHONE 587-7291
BIRTHPLACE Lawrence County, MS DATE OF BIRTH September 9, 1893
EDUCATION Providence School

OCCUPATION Homemaker

TRAVELS

SPOUSE'S FULL NAME Aughty Hite Smith
BIRTHPLACE Divide, Lawrence Ct., MS DATE OF BIRTH 1884
OCCUPATION Farmer; Lumberman (foreman); Board of Supervisors

NUMBER OF CHILDREN Six (6)

NAMES OF CHILDREN

Lexie Smith

Harold Smith

Hoke Smith

Larue Smith

Frances Smith

Lucille Smith

FATHER'S FULL NAME John Cothorn

BIRTHPLACE Jayess, MS

DATE OF BIRTH December 16, 1884

OCCUPATION Farmer

MOTHER'S FULL NAME Frances Boyd

BIRTHPLACE Jayess, MS

DATE OF BIRTH

OCCUPATION Homemaker

MAJOR NATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE DISCUSSED

INTERVIEWEE'S AREA OF INTEREST AND/OR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

Life in general on the farm; making soap, curing pork, drying fruits,
etc.

An Interview with
Mrs. Aughty Hite Smith
January 26, 1977

Interviewed by
Evelyn Benham

Mississippi
Department of Archives and History
and the
Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library
Oral History Project
Monticello and Vicinity

BENHAM: This is an interview with Mrs. Aughty Hite Smith, Jayess, Mississippi, January 26, 1977. Interviewed by Evelyn Benham. Mrs. Smith, what is your full maiden name?

SMITH: Belle C. Smith. Belle C. Cothorn.

BENHAM: Belle?

SMITH: Cothorn, C-O-T-H-E-R-N, Cothorn.

BENHAM: Oh, Cothorn? Are you called by your first name? How do people around here call you, your friends?

SMITH: Belle.

BENHAM: Just Miss Belle?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Miss Belle. All right. What is your address and your telephone number?

SMITH: Jayess, Mississippi. Phone number nine?

BENHAM: Yes, I have that. It's 587-7291.

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Thank you. Would you please tell me the date of your birth and your birthplace?

SMITH: September the ninth.

BENHAM: That's all right if you can't remember it. It's all right. How old are you?

SMITH: I'm eight-four (84) in September.

BENHAM: September the ninth. All right. Well, we'll find out. Where were you born?

Page Two: Smith

SMITH: In Lawrence County. Down at Providence Church. Close to Providence Church.

BENHAM: Can you tell me something about your education?

SMITH: Well, we went to school and we walked. We didn't have any transportation. We all walked to school.

BENHAM: How far were you from this school?

SMITH: About four (4) miles.

BENHAM: And you walked this every day?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

BENHAM: Did you go to school the whole year?

SMITH: No, just about, I believe, about four (4) months or something like that.

BENHAM: Now, when did you start school? How old were you?

SMITH: I guess about six (6).

BENHAM: Did you ever work outside of the home when you were growing up?

SMITH: No, ma'am. Well, I worked in the field, you know.

BENHAM: I mean, did you have a job outside away from the home?

SMITH: Oh, no, oh, no. Wasn't such a thing as a job then for people, you know.

BENHAM: Yes, I know. That's just happened within the last few years.

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: And I remember when I was young I wasn't allowed to go out and work anyway. I could work at home, but I couldn't work out on a job.

SMITH: Yes, well, I never had a job either, only home work, you know. And on the farm.

Page Three: Smith

BENHAM: Yes. What is your father's full name?

SMITH: John Cothorn.

BENHAM: John Cothorn.

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Can you tell me when he was born?

SMITH: No, I don't know.

BENHAM: Do you know how old he was when he died? Can you remember that?

SMITH: He was about sixty-five (65).

BENHAM: Do you know where he was born?

SMITH: Yes, he was born in Jayess, Mississippi.

BENHAM: Can you remember what kind of work he did?

SMITH: Well, he was a farmer. And he worked buying cottonseed and things like that, you know, in the fall.

BENHAM: Mrs. Smith, what is your mother's full maiden name?

SMITH: Frances Boyd.

BENHAM: When was the date of her birth? Can you remember when she was born?

SMITH: No.

BENHAM: Well, how old was she when she died? Can you remember?

SMITH: No, I don't remember.

BENHAM: Well, that's all right. Do you remember where she was born? What place was she born?

SMITH: She was born in Jayess.

BENHAM: Did your mother work outside? Did she have a job outside of the home?

Page Four: Smith

SMITH: No.

BENHAM: When and where did you meet your future husband, Miss Belle?

SMITH: Well, at Providence Church.

BENHAM: Where is that?

SMITH: It's about, oh, about six (6) miles from here.

BENHAM: From where you are living now?

SMITH: Yes, yes.

BENHAM: What is his full name, and when and where was he born? What is your husband's full name?

SMITH: Aughty Hite Smith.

BENHAM: And do you remember where he was born?

SMITH: At what we call Divide now, over here.

BENHAM: And do you know when he was born?

SMITH: No. In 1884, I believe.

BENHAM: How old was he when he died, do you remember?

SMITH: He was eighty-three (83).

BENHAM: What kind of work did your husband do?

SMITH: Well, he was a farmer since we've been married, but he worked for Denkman Lumber Company.

BENHAM: How do you spell that?

SMITH: I don't know.

BENHAM: Say it again.

SMITH: Denkman Lumber Company.

BENHAM: You don't know how that's spelled?

SMITH: No.

Page Five: Smith

BENHAM: All right, Can you remember the date of your marriage?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am. January the tenth, 1910.

BENHAM: Miss Belle, would you say it's M-I-S-S or M-I-Z? Miz Belle.

How would you say that? Miss Belle? Is that what your friends call you, Miss Belle? M-I-S-S? Miss Belle?

SMITH: My who called?

BENHAM: Is that how everyone around here calls you, Miss Belle?

SMITH: Miz Belle, mostly.

BENHAM: All right, I'm going to put that like that, Miss Belle, Miss Belle, did you and your husband talk about living on a farm before you came to live on the farm?

SMITH: Well, no. We bought this place and we didn't live on it for a long time. He public worked,

BENHAM: I see. But you always wanted to go back to living on the farm, didn't you?

SMITH: Yes, yes. We lived on the farm, but he worked off, you know.

BENHAM: All right, Well, where you are living now, is this the farm that you came to as a bride? Is this where you came when you got married?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

BENHAM: Was this farm in your husband's family?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am. It's his granddaddy's old place.

BENHAM: And his grandfather, what was his name?

SMITH: Hite Smith.

BENHAM: Was the road paved as it is now?

SMITH: No, ma'am.

Page Six: Smith

BENHAM: What kind of road was it?

SMITH: It was just a little old country road.

BENHAM: Where did it go from? Where did it start from? Say, like Monticello?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: And then where did it go to? How far did it go down the highway? Do you remember?

SMITH: I don't know, but it's called Monticello and Bismarck Road.

BENHAM: The Bismarck Road. So this used to be known as the Bismarck Community, wasn't it? A long time ago, what did they call this community?

SMITH: No. I don't know.

BENHAM: But this road was called the Monticello and Bismarck Road?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: What is the name? But we've got that. The name of the community is Jayess that your farm is in.

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Was this called a different name a long time ago?

SMITH: I said Bismarck; it was Homesville.

BENHAM: Oh, Homesville.

SMITH: Monticello and Homesville Road.

BENHAM: All right, good. In that case, then this little community could have been called the Homesville Community?

SMITH: No, no.

BENHAM: What did they call it?

SMITH: Homesville's way back down towards McComb.

Page Seven: Smith

BENHAM: Well, then what did they call this little community a long, long time ago? It wasn't called Jayess; it was called something else, but I don't know what it is.

SMITH: No, I don't either.

BENHAM: It wouldn't be Saulsbury?

SMITH: Well, Saulsbury is in this county down here.

BENHAM: It is?

SMITH: It's not too far from here.

BENHAM: All right. Then it could have been called that. Well, we don't know and I was just trying to find out where it was. Where was Bismarck? Do you remember hearing about Bismarck?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am. It's down below here on Tilton.

BENHAM: I see. About how far is that from here would you say?

SMITH: I'd say it's eight (8) or ten (10) miles.

BENHAM: How many children did you have?

SMITH: You mean counting all?

BENHAM: Your children, all of your children that you and your husband had together. How many children did you have born to you?

SMITH: Six (6).

BENHAM: And can you tell me their names?

SMITH: Lexie, Hoke, and Larue and Frances and Lucille and Harold.

BENHAM: All right. What was your first year like when you came to your new house? Can you remember that?

SMITH: Well, yes, he had built the house here on this old place.

BENHAM: Was this the house that you are living in now?

Page Eight: Smith

SMITH: No, no, ma'am. It was down on the creek.

BENHAM: What creek was that? What was the name of that?

SMITH: Cooper Creek.

BENHAM: Cooper's Creek.

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: All right. Can you tell me anything else about your new house?

SMITH: Well, it was a five (5) room house and it was real nice, but it got burned up. We didn't live in it but about a year and it got burned.

BENHAM: Then you came over here and built this place?

SMITH: No, ma'am.

BENHAM: When did you build this place?

SMITH: In '41.

BENHAM: Did you have another house after that one burned up?

SMITH: No, we went to public work then, he did. We moved here and yonder.

BENHAM: I see. Miss Belle, how did you and your family entertain yourselves? Did you sing and play the piano or go on picnics with the children, things like that?

SMITH: Well, there wasn't much entertainment back then. You had to entertain yourself by going places you liked to go and picnicking and things like that. We didn't have entertainment like we have now.

BENHAM: Did you go visiting to neighbors?

SMITH: Oh, yes.

BENHAM: And how did you go? Did you go in a buggy?

SMITH: Yes, buggy.

Page Nine: Smith

BENHAM: Did you ever hitch up a horse to a buggy?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

BENHAM: You did? Is there some trick to doing it or how to do it or something?

SMITH: Well, yes, I guess you would say so if you didn't know how, you know. There'd be a trick to it.

BENHAM: Is there anything that you can tell us about it?

SMITH: Well, I've hooked up a many a one.

BENHAM: Is it hard to do it?

SMITH: No, if you're used to it, it's not. It just comes naturally, you know. Like everything else you do, you learn to do it, you know.

BENHAM: How long did it take to drive to Monticello? Can you remember that?

SMITH: No, ma'am. I sure can't remember, but it seems like a long time, you know, especially when it was cold.

BENHAM: That's right, because you didn't have any doors to it. Everything was open, wasn't it?

SMITH: No, that's right.

BENHAM: Can you remember the different kinds of animals that you had on the farm?

SMITH: Well, we didn't have anything, only things that were, you know, necessary to farm with, you know. Mules and cows and things like that.

BENHAM: Yes, that's what I mean. Did you ever have to cook and feed the hands that worked for your husband?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

Page Ten: Smith

BENHAM: I did too. I remember doing that. What do they mean by "hands"?
Can you explain that expression? "Hands," what does that mean?

SMITH: Well, it means men that you hired to work for you.

BENHAM: What sort of chores did your children have to do every day?

SMITH: Well, mine didn't have too many chores, you know, because we
public worked a lot, you know.

BENHAM: Well, did the boys have to cut wood?

SMITH: Oh, yes.

BENHAM: That's what I mean. And what did your girls do?

SMITH: Well, they worked around the house and did housework.

BENHAM: Do you remember it snowing a lot of times when you were young?
Did it snow around here a lot when you were young?

SMITH: Oh, yes, lots of times. Every winter nearly, back then in my
young days, you know. We'd have a big snow.

BENHAM: Did I ask you how old you were?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

BENHAM: You said you were eighty-four (84), right?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Did this community at one time have a school? You talked about
a school. You said the school was about four (4) miles from this house.

SMITH: That was Providence School.

BENHAM: Providence School.

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: All right.

SMITH: Where I went.

Page Eleven: Smith

BENHAM: All right. You said your children walked to school. They always walked to school?

SMITH: Well, yes, mine did. But they went to Divide School over here, my children.

BENHAM: I see. And you don't know what the name of that school was, do you?

SMITH: They called it Divide.

BENHAM: Oh, Divide School. And that was about four (4) miles from home?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am. About four (4) miles from here.

BENHAM: All right, can you explain the expression, "laying by your crops?" Have you ever heard that expression?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

BENHAM: Well, can you explain that to me? What did that mean?

SMITH: That meant you were through with it till it was time to gather.

BENHAM: What did the farmers do to lay it by? What did they do to prepare that?

SMITH: They ran around it with a little sweep and then they plowed the middles out and that was it. It was laid by.

BENHAM: Is this a job that all farmers did?

SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

BENHAM: What animal was used for breaking the ground to get ready for the spring planting?

SMITH: Mules and horses.

BENHAM: Why did the farmers burn off the sedge broomstraw in the early spring?

Page Twelve: Smith

SMITH: Well, they couldn't plow it unless they did. It would be so high, you know. They usually burned it.

BENHAM: I see. I noticed that they still do that now. They still do that practice, don't they?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Can you tell me some of the main crops that were grown on your farm?

SMITH: Oh, yes. There was corn and potatoes and peanuts and cotton. Cotton the main thing, you know. That was where they got their money was from the cotton.

BENHAM: Did your husband sell the crops or did he feed it to the animals? Sometimes that happened.

SMITH: Well, fed the corn and like that to the animals. But they sold the cotton. You know, that was where they got their livelihood.

BENHAM: How did some of the farm women make their spending money?

SMITH: Well, there wasn't much to be made.

BENHAM: I know. But they did something. I know some people did different things. Some women used to sell plants, you know, that they had. And then - you tell me though. What did you do?

SMITH: Well, Honey, I never did do anything like that to sell anything.

BENHAM: Did you sell your eggs to get a little spending money?

SMITH: Yes, yes, people sold their eggs.

BENHAM: That's what I mean. And didn't you make butter?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: And you sold butter?

Page Thirteen: Smith

SMITH: Yes, sold butter.

BENHAM: So that's probably how you made a little spending money, didn't you, that you could call your own?

SMITH: Yes, yes. That's right.

BENHAM: Do you remember some of the old home remedies that the women used in those days?

SMITH: Oh, I don't know. They had some, but I don't know what they were.

BENHAM: Well, what did you do? Suppose one of your children burned themselves badly, what did you do?

SMITH: I don't know. I doctored it with different things.

BENHAM: Well, did you put some grease on it or something?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Well, that's what I mean. Or suppose they cut themselves, what did you do?

SMITH: Well, we just usually bound it up, you know. Put clean wrapping on it, that's about all, and let it heal, you know.

BENHAM: Did you ever use iodine? You know, that isn't used anymore. Iodine, did you ever use that on a cut or anything like that? To sterilize it and to kill any bacteria that was in anything.

SMITH: No, we didn't have that stuff back then, I don't think, when I was growing up.

BENHAM: Suppose a horse was injured in some way, how did you get him well? Suppose his foot was hurt in some way, what did you do to the horse's foot?

SMITH: I don't remember.

Page Fourteen: Smith

BENHAM: You don't remember. That's all right. Well, did you buy your clothes or did you make them?

SMITH: We made most of them.

BENHAM: Did you have a pattern to make them with?

SMITH: No, ma'am. There wasn't such a thing as a pattern back then. You probably cut it out, you know. We didn't know what a pattern was I don't think.

BENHAM: I see. You just probably put the cloth up to the person or cut it out of a piece of paper and worked from there.

SMITH: Yes, that's right.

BENHAM: On cold winter days, what did some of the farm women get together and do when it was cold lots of times? What did they do?

SMITH: Well, they used to have quiltings, you know. Everybody would gather and help each other quilt and things like that, you know.

BENHAM: Did you all do anything else?

SMITH: Well, used to have log-rollings, you know. What they call log-rollings, you know, where you clear up the new ground.

BENHAM: No, tell me about that.

SMITH: People used to clear up new ground. I know when Aughty and I got married, he had bought this place and we had some new grounds down there and he had a log-rolling.

BENHAM: Well, what is a log-rolling?

SMITH: Well, all the men gather and they pick these logs up and they pile them in a pile and burn them, you know.

BENHAM: Oh, really?

Page Fifteen: Smith

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Well, what was the idea of that?

SMITH: Well, you couldn't sell it for anything. You know, you didn't sell it and you would want to get out of the way, so they'd just gather and all of them would pile it in a pile and they'd burn those logs and trash and stuff and get it ready to plant something there.

BENHAM: Oh, to plant there, yes, I see. Well, when somebody built a house or a barn in the community, did everybody go together and help put the house up and the barn? Did they do that?

SMITH: Yes, yes, they did.

BENHAM: They worked together, didn't they? That would be nice if they did that now, wouldn't it?

SMITH: Yes, it would.

BENHAM: It would bring people closer together, wouldn't it?

SMITH: That's right. They helped each other more back then than they do now, you know. We don't have that anymore, they want to charge you for everything. But back then they worked together.

BENHAM: That's good. (Pause) What was the busiest time of the year on the farm?

SMITH: I guess gathering the crops, you know.

BENHAM: Did people all come, different farmers come and help you?

SMITH: No, you had to do that yourself.

BENHAM: And where did you put your crops? Where did you put this, whatever you gathered? Where did you put it?

SMITH: We had barns to put them in, you know. We didn't even can back

Page Sixteen: Smith

then like we do now.

BENHAM: You didn't can your things?

SMITH: Why, no. It was put up dried, you know, and put up. Like your beans and your peas and things like that. And we had a lot of apple trees and my mother used to dry apples, cut them and dry them, you know,

BENHAM: I used to see Mrs. McCullough do that. How did your mother do it?

SMITH: Well, all I know is they cut them up and fix them just like you were going to make a pie or something, you know, and put them on something to dry like a big white cloth or sheet or something, you know, and spread it out and leave them out in the sun till they got dry.

BENHAM: Did you peel the apples first?

SMITH: Yes, yes, just like you were going to cook them and dry them. Had apples or peaches. We had an orchard, you know, and had plenty of apples and peaches and things like that.

BENHAM: I am glad you brought that up because I often wondered how they did that.

SMITH: Well, they just put them in the sun, just like drying peanuts now, you know, pretty nigh.

BENHAM: Where did she put these dried apples and peaches? Did she put them in a jar or where did she put them?

SMITH: I don't know where she put them, but they kept.

BENHAM: They kept all the year?

SMITH: Yes. They knew how to keep it.

BENHAM: That is very interesting.

Page Seventeen: Smith

SMITH: You take in the summertime or in the spring when they killed a yearling or something, they'd pickle it, you know.

BENHAM: Oh, that's how they did it.

SMITH: Yes, to have meat.

BENHAM: Did you have a smokehouse on your farm?

SMITH: Oh, yes. And sometimes we'd kill as high as five (5) and six (6) hogs a day.

BENHAM: My goodness.

SMITH: Somebody had to keep that smoke going, you know, when they got ready to cure it.

BENHAM: Well, how long usually did it take to cure a hog or several hogs?

SMITH: Oh, it took several weeks. You know, you had to leave it to hang up there and dry.

BENHAM: Did they use just any kind of wood to do this?

SMITH: No, mostly hickory and old sap that came off the pine trees. You know what sap is, don't you?

BENHAM: Is that that resin?

SMITH: That's that stuff on the outside and when it dies, you know, that's the sap.

BENHAM: Oh, that.

SMITH: It makes smoke, but it wouldn't make any blaze, you know.

BENHAM: That's good. What about making your lard? What did you do with your lard? How did you get lard to cook with, grease?

SMITH: Oh, they got it out when they killed a hog, you know. They trimmed them, like you trim your middlings, you know. Everything. And then they'd fry

Page Eighteen: Smith

that out and the fat that came out of the inside of the hog, they'd dry that out and they'd have lard, you know,

BENHAM: I see. And that made the best biscuits in this world, didn't it?

SMITH: Yes. And you know, we didn't have a little country store, so they didn't go to town but about once a year, you know. And they'd buy up their groceries like, and they'd buy a hundred pounds of rice and barrels of flour and things like that. Enough to last, you know.

BENHAM: For a whole year? Oh, my goodness. That was something.

SMITH: Yes, till fall, you know. In the fall when they'd sell their cotton, they'd go to town and they'd buy up a wagonload of stuff, you know.

BENHAM: That must have been a wonderful time then, wasn't it?

SMITH: Yes, it was.

BENHAM: Did you make your candy?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Did you have a taffy pulling candy?

SMITH: Yes. (Pause)

BENHAM: What were some of the old weather sayings of farm people, such as like a ring around the moon meant rainy weather so that you shouldn't plow. What were some of the weather signs? Do you remember what some of them were about?

SMITH: Well, not too much, Honey. People didn't pay as much attention back then to it as they do now, you know.

BENHAM: I know. You know, this almanac that comes out and it says, "Don't plant on this day because it's going to rain. Don't plant today or

Page Nineteen: Smith

don't plow today." Did you all have some old sayings like that back then?

SMITH: No, I don't remember anything like that, you know.

BENHAM: That's all right. How did you feel when you got your first telephone?

SMITH: We didn't have a telephone.

BENHAM: Well, when did you get your telephone? Do you remember?

(Begin Side Two of Tape)

BENHAM: But do you remember when you got your first telephone? Let's see, we were talking about getting your first telephone.

SMITH: I was grown and they put up telephones through the country, you know, and certain people could call each other. And just very few people had them, you know.

BENHAM: Did you have one?

SMITH: No, we didn't, but Aughty's daddy and mother had one.

BENHAM: Well, how far did they live from you? From this place, from your house?

SMITH: They lived at Divide - about two (2) miles.

BENHAM: But you don't remember when you got your first telephone?

SMITH: Oh, yes. Since I've been here.

BENHAM: About how long ago? Would you say it was about twenty-five (25) years ago?

SMITH: Oh, no, not that long. About, well, say ten (10) years.

BENHAM: Ten (10) years you've had your telephone. Do you think that farm life has changed very much over the years?

SMITH: Oh, yes, quite a few.

Page Twenty: Smith

BENHAM: Can you name some of the things that have changed?

SMITH: Well, they use machinery now to farm with, you know. And they didn't have that back then. We farmed, you know. When we first started to farming, we didn't have that. We had just mules, you know.

BENHAM: Do you feel that living in the country on a farm is better than living in a town?

SMITH: Oh, yes.

BENHAM: Why do you think that?

SMITH: Well, because we have our freedom out here to do as we like, you know. And nobody can interfere. And I just don't like to be crowded up.

BENHAM: I don't either. Would you like the good old days back again?

SMITH: Well, no. Too hard work, you know. We've got the equipment now to do things that we had to slave and do ourselves. Like when we washed we had to draw our water with a bucket, you know, out of the well.

BENHAM: Yes, that was hard, wasn't it?

SMITH: That was hard work.

BENHAM: I remember, because I did that when I first came here.

SMITH: I know it.

BENHAM: And you didn't even have a washing machine, did you?

SMITH: Oh, no.

BENHAM: How did you wash your clothes?

SMITH: With a rub board and boiled them out in a pot, you know. Just like boiling something to eat, you know. Boil our clothes, make them clean.

BENHAM: What kind of soap did you use? Did you make your own soap back then?

Page Twenty-one: Smith

SMITH: Well, yes. Back then used to people made their own soap. They called it lye soap, you know.

BENHAM: How did you do it?

SMITH: They saved their ashes from their stove and fireplace, and they dripped their lye from that, you know. Put it in a barrel and poured the water in it and it dripped.

BENHAM: Oh, you mean they poured the water over the ashes?

SMITH: Yes.

BENHAM: Oh, and they used that, that was the lye?

SMITH: That what ran out of there, they used that and cooked it down and made soap out.

BENHAM: You mean they cooked down those wood ashes and that made the soap?

SMITH: Well, that lye, that water that ran out of there, they put it into there. I don't know how they made it, but anyway, they made soap that looked just like soap you buy, you know. You could cut it in bars.

BENHAM: You know, I always did want to know how to do that. I never could make mine hard enough. And I wondered what else did you put with the lye.

SMITH: I don't remember what all you put in it, but they made it.

BENHAM: That's interesting.

SMITH: I can remember when my mama made soap, you know, but I never have made any myself.

BENHAM: Oh, you didn't make any when you were on the farm?

SMITH: No.

Page Twenty-two: Smith

BENHAM: What are some of your hobbies?

SMITH: Well, crocheting and embroidery was the biggest thing, you know, that was a hobby with me when I had time.

BENHAM: Yes. Do you have a favorite expression or advice that you would like to share with others?

SMITH: No, ma'am, I don't reckon, I don't think of any.

BENHAM: Well, thank you, Miss Belle, for giving us a picture of what farm life was like long ago. Thank you very much.

(End of Interview)

(Transcribed by Evelyn Benham)