

Interview Data Sheet

Collection/Project name: Black Families in Yalobusha County

Processor's name: Keon Burns

Interviewee: Anita Covington

Interviewee occupation(s): Retired

Contributor: N/A

Interviewer: Keon Burns

Interviewer Bio: Keon Burns took a seminar oral history course his first year in graduate school. In this course, he was introduced to the Black Families in oral history course where he began recording interviews with willing narrators. After the semester ended, Keon joined the Mississippi Oral History Collective and continued to collect interviews. The year prior to the covid-19 pandemic, Keon met Anita at church while visiting her home church, Pleasant Grove M.B. church. After Anita contacted Keon to set up an interview the pandemic happened, and the interview was pushed back a year. This interview is the second interview with Anita Covington.

Date of interview: Black Families in Yalobusha County

Location of interview: March 10, 2021

Interview context: The interview took place at Anita's house in Coffeeville, Mississippi. The house is a one story house with wooden floors. The interview took place at the kitchen table where Anita and Keon sat on opposite sides of the table. There were some technical difficulties with the microphone equipment, so the beginning of the interview did not record. The audio picks up in the middle of Anita talking. The audio is crisp and clear when Anita is speaking, but the audio is low and muddled when Keon is talking due to the distance of microphone to adhere to covid distancing. There are no interruptions or breaks during the interview.

Recording equipment: Tascam Portable Studio Recorder

Recording Settings

bit-depth: 1411 kbps

sampling rate: N/A

Length of interview: 40:39

Note about sound quality: The sound quality is exceptional, but has background noise from a television in the background. The sound is clear and crisp throughout the interview.

Interviewee biographical information

Gender Female
Age 69
Birth Date April 2, 1951
Birthplace Grenada, MS
Residence Coffeenville, MS
Education Yvonne, Not specified in interview Margaret, Walker High School graduate

Abstract:

00:05 Experiences serving as the first black on the school board in Grenada, MS
03:00 Difference between school teacher involvement in community for her and her children
06:00 Black business life in Grenada, Mississippi
08:24 Mass protest in Grenada, Mississippi
11:40 Racial etiquette in public during childhood
18:50 Giving away product for free
20:37 Parents teaching how to deal with racial issues in public
24:45 Trying to understand racial dynamics
27:06 Various childhood memories, watching TV and Christmas gifts
34:04 Interacting with white peers as a child
38:38 Hoping that the interview helps somebody and future generations

Subjects and Key-words:

Names: Martin Luther King, Jose Williams, Reverend Abernathy, Helen Hamilton, Lee Watson

Organizations: Grenada Schoolboard

Events: James Meredith march against fear,

Topics: Willie Wilson high school, Kerry Dawson high school, New Hope Church (Grenada, MS), Walker Cafe, Bell Flower Church (Grenada,MS), Monte Crisco Hotel (Grenada, MS), Black Farmer Life, Shane Bird

Geographic: Coffeenville, MS; Grenada, MS