

## Interview Data Sheet

**Collection/Project name:** Black Families in Yalobusha County

**Processor's name:** Keon Burns

**Interviewee:** Yvonne Townsel

**Interviewee occupation(s):** Both, retired

**Contributor:** Margaret Letcher

**Interviewer :** Keon Burns

**Interviewer Bio (including relationship to interviewee):** 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. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Keon was introduced to Yvonne Townsel who agreed to do an oral history about the Chapman side of her family. Because the interview was done remotely, Yvonne decided to include her mother, Margaret Letcher, in the interview.

**Date of interview:** March 25, 2021

**Location of interview:** Virtual interview via TapeaCall

### **Interview context:**

Keon is using wired headsets on his cellphone, google pixel 3a, to record the interview. He is sitting down in his living room for the duration of the interview. The floors are hardwood, and there is minimal movement throughout. The whereabouts of Yvonne and Margaret is unknown. However, the background noises sound like one of them is in a car driving during portions of the interview. The audio has a lot of background noises that are distracting throughout. There was no interruption or break for the interview, but Margaret did step away from the phone momentarily. The audio is extremely muddled throughout the interview and some portions are inaudible.

**Recording equipment:** Tapeacall app on a Google Pixel 3a

### **Recording Settings**

**bit-depth:** 32 kbps

**sampling rate:** N/A

**Length of interview:** 70:34

**Note about sound quality:** The audio is not clear due to the software recorder. There are many interruptions from the narrators as things happen in the background. Parts of the interview are inaudible.

### **Interviewee biographical information**

<b>Gender</b>	Yvonne, Female; Margaret, Female
<b>Age</b>	Yvonne, 52; Margaret, 74
<b>Birth Date</b>	Yvonne, May 29, 1969; Margaret, May 21, 1946
<b>Birthplace</b>	Yvonne, Memphis, TN; Margaret, Water Valley, MS
<b>Residence</b>	Yvonne Memphis, TN; Margaret Memphis, TN
<b>Education</b>	Yvonne, Not specified in interview; Margaret, Walker High School

### **Abstract:**

<b>02:21</b>	Margaret's schools in Oakland, MS.
<b>03:50</b>	Margaret parents' stance on the importance of education
<b>04:37</b>	Parent's work life as sharecropper and homemaker
<b>05:00</b>	Self-sufficient living, personal garden
<b>07:02</b>	Transportation to school
<b>09:13</b>	Helping father in the field with the crops
<b>11:00</b>	Early church life at Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church
<b>13:47</b>	Voting and registration of Margaret's parents
<b>15:43</b>	Integration of Ole Miss
<b>20:23</b>	Moving to Chicago for a couple of years
<b>23:00</b>	Moving back to Memphis
<b>26:36</b>	Working in Memphis to provide
<b>31:41</b>	Margaret's brothers' experiences in the military
<b>46:36</b>	Yvonne's research on their families history

### **Subjects and Key-words:**

<b>Names:</b>	Raymond Chapman, E.L. Chapman , Ronnie Chapman, Dottie Chapman Reed, Sam Chapman, Landry Morgan Willie James Chapman, Otis, James D. Robinson, Betsy Sanders, Otis Chapman
<b>Organizations:</b>	Springhill Missionary Baptist Church, Big Yank, Army, Marines
<b>Events:</b>	Vietnam War, Cold War, Assingation of Martin Luther King
<b>Topics:</b>	Family Genealogy (Chapman family), Jim Crow segregated schools, Black Church Life, Black Military Experiences, Sullivan Rule, Walker High School, Life in Mississippi, PTSD, DD14
<b>Geographic:</b>	Oakland, Mississippi ;Chicago, Illinois; Memphis, Tennessee; Greenwood, Mississippi