

**Clifford Holder,**  
Son of a Calhoun County Sharecropper

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Tape Outlines  
As a requirement in  
History 444  
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Presented to:  
Dr. Harvey H. Jackson  
Jacksonville State University  
Jacksonville, Alabama

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Prepared by:  
Wade Webster  
March 24, 1994

## Outline

### Tape 1, Side 1

1. He named his mother and father. He gives the birth of the first child (1906).
2. He pointed out that you started working as soon as you could hold a hoe. You started plowing as soon as you could hold the plow. Even the girls were required to help.
3. Cotton and corn were their two main crops.
4. He pointed out the best price for cotton - 40 cents a pound during WWI and 8 cents a pound after the war.
5. Roosevelt's "soil bank" policy. His father wouldn't plow up his cotton.
6. Roosevelt's WPA program - they couldn't qualify for it because they had farm animals.
7. Ed, his older brother, did work in the Three C's.
8. They took their cotton to one of two places - Union warehouse in Anniston and Profile Mill and Gin in Jacksonville. They preferred the Profile Mill and Gin because they could gin and sell it in the same place.
9. A plug was taken out of the cotton and cotton brokers bid on it. They sold to the highest bidder.
10. They had to pay \$3 a bale to have the cotton ginned. There was 500 pounds of lint in a cotton bale. It took between 1,200 - 1,500 pounds of seed cotton to make a cotton bale.
11. Some of the gins would allow you to pay for ginning in cotton.
12. In a good year, they made 16 bales of cotton.
13. They generally farmed between 20-25 acres.
14. They had to travel about 8 miles to carry their cotton to Anniston to sell it.
15. They saved the cotton seed when they had it ginned.
16. The landowner didn't do any of the work, he just got the money.
17. Houses - many of them were poor structures. The Wakefield

- house was a good house.
18. Many of the sharecropping houses only had four rooms.
  19. The cracks in the floor were so big that when you swept the floor, the dirt sifted through the cracks.
  20. They used a "shuck mop" to clean the floors.
  21. They doubled and tripled up in sleeping quarters.
  22. They cut wood in the winter time to make money.
  23. The children never got to start school in the fall.
  24. In the Spring, they had to drop out of school to get the fields ready for planting.
  25. He remembered the one room Peaceburg Schoolhouse. This schoolhouse taught a number of subjects.
  26. He had to drop out in the tenth grade because he got so far behind.
  27. He moved to Pensacola with his sister-in-law. He got a job on a dairy. He earned seven dollars for seven days of works.

## Outline

### Tape 1, Side 2

1. Named his mother and father. He revealed that his mother and father were first cousins. He explained that it was not unusual for cousins to marry.
2. He pointed out that there were eleven children. He named the children and revealed that the youngest daughter died of a kidney ailment.
3. Clifford's grandfather was also a sharecropper.
4. He could only remember one relative who owned any land - his Uncle Jeff.
5. His great-grandfather, Grandberry Holder, served in the Civil War.
6. He pointed out what they ate for breakfast, dinner, and supper.
7. They always made sure that they could have a garden before they moved to a new place.
8. They mainly planted potatoes in their garden because they would keep during the winter.
9. Their garden spot was usually 1/4 to 1/2 of an acre.
10. Clifford's dad never borrowed money from the sharecropper. He always borrowed it from a bank.
11. When the girls got old enough, they started helping their mother cook.
12. They drank mostly milk. They did drink a little coffee.
13. Some of the neighbor's daughters had to help plow.
14. His mother washed on Mondays. He described the process of washing.
15. His mother made most of their clothes.
16. His father worked a couple of months in the winter at a sash-weight foundry to make a little extra money.
17. They wore high-topped shoes for the field and for church services.

18. He described how they would cut the toe out of an old pair of shoes for planting.
19. They went to church services every Sunday and most of the time one night during the week.
20. They were members of the Peaceburg Church of Christ. Clyde Woodruff was the minister who started the congregation.

## Outline

### *Tape 2, Side 1*

1. They had a couple of Bibles in their home.
2. Their house burned when he was ten years old. The wind blew some coals into a broom closet and caught some broom sage on fire.
3. His daddy taught himself to read by reading the Bible. He taught Bible classes.
4. Several of the boys led singing.
5. The Peaceburg congregation had approximately 25-30 members.
6. The government bought the land that they were farming at Peaceburg.
7. An old Civil War veteran dedicated the land so that they could build a church building at Peaceburg.
8. They finally got to the point that they could work land for "standing rent."
9. They moved to Jack Balton's farm at Cedar Springs and then to the Bacchus' farm at Peaceburg.
10. They had to pay \$180 a year as "standing rent" for the Bacchus place.
11. "Standing-rent" was much better than sharecropping because you got to plant what you wanted where you wanted.
12. In sharecropping, you had to pay 1/4 of a money crop and 1/3 of a feed crop.

1. Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary.

2. Holder, Clifford. Taped Interview. Tape 1, Side 1.

Oral History Tape Recording Release

I, Clifford Holder, hereby give and grant my tape recordings and their contents to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History Jacksonville State University, and authorize her to make them available for scholarly research purposes.

Clifford Holder

INTERVIEWEE

Wade Webster

INTERVIEWER

Wade Webster

DATE OF INTERVIEW

March 6, 18

NUMBER OF TAPES

2

DATE OF AGREEMENT

Feb. 14, 1994

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE/DONOR

C. F. Holder

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Clifford Holder M/F male

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s): 435-6541

Approximate age or date of birth: March 29, 1910

Mother's Name: Attie Green Holder

Father's Name: John Franklin Holder

Places lived and when: Jacksonville

Education: Jr high school - 10th - Alexandria, Peaceburg, Jacksonville, Cedar Springs

Religion: Church of Christ

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) \_\_\_\_\_

Machinists union

Present occupation: Retired - 1974 (from Lockkey)

Former occupations: picking cotton, dairy work, Newport Industries (wood chemicals)  
Lee Bros Foundry, Lockkey Industries

Special Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Accomplishments: WWII - Jan 1942 - Oct 1945

National Events in which interviewee has participated: Great Depression -

Share-cropping

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: \_\_\_\_\_

National born U.S. citizen? Yes/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Country from which he/she emigrated: \_\_\_\_\_

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_