

Davis, Carrie  
Lee County, Alabama

As I went in, Carrie was washing and I spoke to her and asked if she had a little time to spare me, "Yes'm, I show is and I hopes you is come to help me too; they all seem to have that idea, that I am part of the welfare.

They are always willing to tell what they know and tickled at having their "pitcher tuck". She lived with her daughter and things were very clean and nice.

Carrie is living at Smiths Station, Ala. now, but was born in Harris Co., Ga. and was about ten or twelve when freedom came. Her mother and father, Martha and Nathan Parry, had seven children, Amy, Ida, Knoxie, Jim, Abraham, Franklin and Carrie.

Us lived in the Parry quarters, dey wus log, wid split logs, put up edge ways and daubed with mud inside and out. Dey wus 'bout one hundred yards frum the big house, where Mr. Billy and Miss Nancy Parry lived, they had Clara, Maria, Malinda, Sara, Elic Jim and Bill. They wus real good to us too. Us et at the big house, course hit wus cooked on de fireplace but us had meat and greens, not much biscuit, den us had collards and cabbage. De men folks hunted lots, too, and caught rabbits, possums, coons and fished sometimes. Our beds wus homemade and de sides wus scantlings wid legs nailed on, den had slats nailed on top er hit to put our shuck and straw mattresses on.

We lef' our grand-parents in Virginia. I wus used fer housegirl and to help keep de yards and bring in water. Us wore mostly slips woven in homemade looms and hit wus orsanberg and homespun, Sunday and Monday de same, our shoes wus made at er tan yard and dey wus

brogans and hard as rocks.

Some er our white neighbors wus poor and had no slaves and would help us work. Our overseer couldn't punish us but worked dem hard and late, waked us up wid a trumpet. De carriage driver wus Charles Parry.

The Moster on de next plantation wus mean, whether de slaves done somethin or not, he had certain days ter whip all dem, wid strops, wide holes in hit dat raised blisters, den dey took a hand saw and cut de blisters and bathed dem in salt water. Atter they got thru dey served de helper ter a big dinner. Our Mistress has put salve on a heap er the backs so dey could get they's shirt off, had stuck, they'd come to our place fer water and Mistress would see them.

Dey used ter tell us ef us didn't work dey wus going to sell us to help feed the rest, and bless your soul us niggers would go to work, too. Moster used to lock his prisoners up in de crib as punishment. I'se seed many a nigger put on de block and sold for \$500 and \$600.

Us couldn't go off wid out a pass, and you better not, let dem ketch you wid a book. Us walked to de white church and set in the back. Mr. Davey Snell would preach and baptize you and have foot-washings and sometimes dey would get so happy till dey shouted and sometimes next day they would shout in de fields and git a whipping. Ef you got out widout a pass they sot the hounds on you, and patrollers would tear you up too ef you staid out too late.

Davis, Carrie  
Page 3

Us had sech good times Saddy nights, frolic, dance and have corn-shuckings, they wus a nuther good time, most uv em would be tight and sing and holler, "Sheep's in cotton patch, got em out Monday. Had er been a white man, got em out Sunday." Kid Kimbrough wus our leader, would sing Dixie too.

Xmas morning us had a better breakfast and call us up to de house and give us rations. When any er the slaves got married dey went up to de white folks house and jumped over de broom, now you'se married. Ef Moster wanted ter mix his stock er slaves wid a fine strong stock on nother plantation, dey would do us like horses. When us married us could have a big supper.

All us chillun had a big time, played "Pretty Pauline," in rings, "Turn Charlie", jumping rope and sech like. I never did see nor believe in ghosts.

When us got sick Mistess give us horse-mint, life-ever-lasting, golden rod and holly teas, hissum and den us wore asafetida and pop-hall seed.

De Yankees handcuffed our folks and carried em off. Moster had his meat, corn, fodder and sech, hauled in de swamp er de next plantation and dem Yankees went as straight to hit as ef dey saw up put hit dare, and turned hit up, took some hands frum next farm too. When freedom come, Moster said you is all free and could go or stay, us staid on fer while.

Ku Klux Klan come round and beat em up den, lak dey does now.

I married Charlie Gibson and had two chillun and twelve gran-chillun and nine great gran-chillun

I'se heerd Abraham Lincoln's name but don't know nothing 'bout him. I got tired living 'mong wicked people and in the open and I wanted to be saved so I jined wid de church and I still tries to do right.

D  
M  
  
s  
v  
b  
t  
n  
e  
n  
s  
e  
G  
  
M  
C  
b  
A  
b  
f  
i  
b  
a  
c  
u  
l