

Emma Royal

Early Settlers' Personal History Questionnaire, WPA  
Interviewed by Arthur R. Hill Hempstead County, Ark April 10, 19[41] .

Transcribed by Andrea E. Cantrell, University of Arkansas Libraries, 2003. [See transcriber's notes](#)

1. Early settler's name  
Emma Royal (Colored) Aunt Emma 82 years of age
2. Address  
911 South Laurel St. Hope, Arkansas
3. Present occupation (most of the old timers are now retired).  
House wife retired.
4. Previous occupation or occupations.  
Farmer.
5. Date of birth.  
December 1, 1858.
6. Place of birth.  
Corsicana, Texas.
7. Married? To whom? When? Where?  
John Royal, Hope, Arkansas.
8. If an immigrant give particulars. City and country of derivation, name of ship on which arrived, etc.  
Native of Texas.
9. How long has the individual resided in Arkansas?  
58 years.
10. If not a native tell of the voyage to Arkansas. Boat? Wagon train? etc.  
Came to Arkansas in covered drove by oxen.
11. Why did the individual come to Arkansas?  
Johnson Melton slave owner brought me to Arkansas.
12. Get details of construction of early homes. (In the southern and southeastern parts of the state chimneys were frequently built of clay and split wood or trimmed branches due to the scarcity of stone and the lack of brick kilns. Some of the more pretentious houses were built with brick imported up the rivers. In the northwestern part of the state stone houses occurred much more frequently. Pay particular attention to these and similar regional differences.)  
Log houses, rough plank floors, stick and dirt chimneys.
13. What form of lighting was used in the early days? Pine knots? Tallow dips? Candles poured at home? Oil or fat lamps? etc.  
Tallow candles, and pine knots.
14. When were electric lights first used in your community?  
Hope, Arkansas 1895.
15. What kind of fuel was used? (This was wood in most parts of the state, of course, because it was plentiful and convenient, but in some of the western counties coal may have appeared early.  
Fire wood and pine knots.
16. What kinds of food did the early settlers have? Were fish and game depended upon for

- the meat supply? Was game plentiful? What kinds?  
Hog meat, sheep, chicken, turkey, fish and game.
17. What kinds of clothes were worn and how manufactured?  
Woolen cloths, home spun garments.
  18. Were there any interesting customs or incidents connected with early courtships? Was bundling ever practiced? (It is highly improbable but possible.) Were charivaries (usually pronounced 'shivaree' in Arkansas and the lower Mississippi Valley territory) frequent?  
Met at dances, parties, church and camp meeting. No bundling[sic] practiced. Chivarees[sic] were customary.
  19. Compare some early food, clothing, etc. prices with those of today. (Since staples were usually bought in barrels, hogsheads, bushels, and similar large units, present prices will have to be quoted on the same basis.)  
Flour barrel \$15.00 1869 other foods high.
  20. What were some of the incidents pertaining to the sharing of food and other supplies in times of common need?  
Shared food 1865 on account of carpet beggars[sic].
  21. What were some early cultivated crops? Domesticated animals? (For instance, when did tomatoes cease to be known as 'Love Apples,' regarded as poisonous? When moved from the flower garden to the vegetable garden?)  
Little tomatoes, corn, cotton, wheat, oats, rye, and sorghum.
  22. What were early farm implements? Any homemade? If purchased, where? Prices?  
Bull Tongue, Ga. Stock with shovels sweeps, and twisters.
  23. What were early industries in the community?  
Black smith shops, grist mill, and saw mill.
  24. What were some native wild plants used as food or for flower gardens? (For example: mullein, sassafras roots, sweet gum resin, sun-flower seed, paw-paws, sumac berries, poke salad-- or salet, or salud. There are stories told of various food substitutes used during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. These might supply interesting sidelight.)  
Poke salad, Lambs quarter, Pepper, grass and wild onions.
  25. Relate interesting incidents of the early days. Tell of childhood impressions and memories. Tell of group activities such as house raisings and warmings, quilting bees, corn huskings, brush arbor meetings, dances, games, socials, hunts and game drives, hog killing, sorghum making, play parties, and the like. Compare early farm and town life with that of today. Tell any experiences relating to the Indians, their customs and habits.  
Corn husking, Houseing[sic] raising, cotton picking, quilting bees.
  26. Tell of early methods of combating forest fires, town or building fires.  
By hand with pine tops, and plowed furrows.
  27. Get origin of place and thing names such as hills, valleys, rivers, soughs, bayous, plants, animals, etc.  
Red river, Fish lake, Ouchita River, Bois D Arc Creek.
  28. Tell of early taverns, hotels, boarding houses, stagecoach stations, boat landings, etc.  
Prescott, Arkansas, Tavern stage coach station for Camden.
  29. Tell of early schools.  
Rural schools, log houses, rough splits log seats.
  30. Location of school? Late?  
Modern buildings in towm[sic].

31. Name of teacher?  
Prof, Bonds. "White Men".
32. How were funds provided? Tuition? How much? Was payment made in kind?  
Tuition or pay school
33. School books used? Title? Author? (Many of the old plantations maintained tutors either for individual families or groups of families. Sometimes 'school' was conducted on the premises for darkies'[sic] youngsters. Check on such information.)  
Bluck[sic] Back speller, McGuffey reader Appletons Geography.
34. What constituted the reading matter of the early settlers? Books? Magazines? Newspapers? Get titles and authors.  
Almanacs, very fond of newspapers.
35. Where was the first telegraph station in the community? When established?  
Hope, Arkansas, 1873.
36. Tell of the early "Horse cars." When were trolley cars substituted? When buses?  
Horse cars at Little Rock, Arkansas 1896.
37. When and where was the first automobile seen?  
Hope, Arkansas 1905.
38. When and where was the first train seen?  
Hope, Arkansas 1881.
39. When and where was the first airplane seen?  
Hope, Arkansas 1918.
40. Early theatrical performances? Local people? Traveling stock companies?  
Circus and local talent shows at Mt. Holly Academy[sic], Mt. Holly, Arkansas.
41. When did automotive busses begin interurban operation? (Give descriptions on the five foregoing.)  
Don't know.
42. Tell of any important local celebration in memory of any individual or event.  
Grover Cleveland 1885.
43. Does the individual recall any early historical character such as Sam Houston, Co. James Bowie, former President Zachery Taylor, the James boys, etc.?  
Bames Bous[sic] 1881.
44. Tell of any duels. Where were they fought? By whom? Why?  
Parnell duel, El Dorado, Arkansas.
45. Tell of any feuds. Who was involved? Where? Why?  
Don't Remember.
46. Tell of any early tombstone inscriptions. Where?  
Mt, Holly, Arkansas Dove and Lambs on tomb stones.
47. Tell of any bank robberies, stage holdups, executions of horse thieves or other impromptu executions, including lynchings. Give details.  
None.
48. Tell of Civil War days, giving the fullest detail possible.  
Lots of soldiers had guns and lots of cannons, also 4 brass bands.
49. Tell of any battles, skirmishes, forays, etc., witnessed.  
Camden, Arkansas, Poison Springs, Arkansas.
50. Tell of Reconstruction, the Carpetbaggers, scalawags, etc.  
Burned houses and crops, stole chickens hoges[sic] and horses.
51. Get all information possible regarding the original Ku Klux Klan or similar organizations.  
Ku Klux Klan organized to drive off carpet beggers[sic].

52. Tell of any participation in the establishment of any religious or fraternal organizations.  
Eagle Lodge, Knights of Honor Lodge.
53. Tell of any military affiliations.  
None.
54. Tell of any Indian mounds, cliff dwellings, caves, etc., that may be recalled. Get as accurate information as possible regarding artifacts, particularly such things as calendar stones, mortars, pottery, baskets, etc.  
Near Emmett, Arkansas.
55. Tell of any other historic sites.  
Old State Capitol, Washington, Arkansas and Old Tarven[sic].
56. What is total number of descendants?  
2.
57. What are names and addresses of sons and daughters?  
Ed Royal, Mary Alice Royal.
58. Name some of the grandchildren and greatgrandchildren, if any.  
5 - George, Ray, Flono, Ray, Emma.
59. Tell of any books, diaries, journals, sketches, or newspaper articles the individual has written. Give details.  
None.