

Author William

Early Settlers' Personal History Questionnaire, WPA  
Interviewed by Johnny L. Selby Crawford County, Ark. December 17, 1940 .

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

1. Early settler's name  
Mr. Author William (Colored)
2. Address  
512 Detcher St.
3. Present occupation (most of the old timers are now retired).  
Retired railroader.
4. Previous occupation or occupations.  
Railroader, Stationary Fireman.
5. Date of birth.  
1871 Sept. 9.
6. Place of birth.  
Bradie, North Carolina.
7. Married? To whom? When? Where?  
Yes, Lula Hammow.
8. If an immigrant give particulars. City and country of derivation, name of ship on which arrived, etc.  
No.
9. How long has the individual resided in Arkansas?  
30 years.
10. If not a native tell of the voyage to Arkansas. Boat? Wagon train? etc.  
Come on a train to Arkansas.
11. Why did the individual come to Arkansas?  
Better place to make a living than where he was.  
[no answer]
13. What form of lighting was used in the early days? Pine knots? Tallow dips?  
Candles poured at home? Oil or fat lamps? etc.  
Oil lamps. Pine knots.
14. [skipped]
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.)  
Wood.
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?  
Plenty of game, turkey, duck.
17. What kinds of clothes were worn and how manufactured?  
Homemade clothes. Mother made them.
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?

It was pronounced Shivaree.

19. [no answer]
20. What were some of the incidents pertaining to the sharing of food and other supplies in times of common need?  
Give poor people things they needed if they had it to give.
21. [no answer]
22. What were early farm implements? Any homemade? If purchased, where? Prices?  
Plowing ox.
23. What were early industries in the community?  
Farming homemade plow, single plow.
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.)  
Sassafras roots, sweet gum, sun flower seed.
25. - 29. [no answer]
30. Location of school? Late?  
One room school house. Frame house church house
31. - 32. [no answer]
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.)  
Blue Back Speller. First Reader
34. - 55. [no answer]
56. What is total number of descendants?  
One sister--Adline Williams.
57. What are names and addresses of sons and daughters?  
One girl Ethel Colwell, Wichita, Kansas.
58. Name some of the grandchildren and greatgrandchildren, if any.  
Mannie Lou Colwell.
59. Tell of any books, diaries, journals, sketches, or newspaper articles the individual has written. Give details.  
None.