

**ECGS**

**ORAL**

**HISTORY**

**PROJECT**



*Capturing Memories from Edgecombe*

**Edgecombe County Genealogical Society**



*Alberta Singletary Dail Best*  
*July 26, 1900*  
*daughter of*  
*Lula Virginia Carlisle and Benjamin F. Singletary*

Date: August 5, 1997

**Interviewee Information**

Name: Alberta Singletary Dail Best

Address: [REDACTED]

Tarboro, NC [REDACTED]

Telephone # [REDACTED]

Birth Date July 26, 1900

Birth Place Kinston, NC, Lenoir County

**Genealogical Information**

**Father of Interviewee:**

Name: Benjamin Franklin Singletary Birth Date: 1878

Birth Place: La Grange, NC , Lenoir County

Death Date: 1918 Death Place: Hugo Church, NC Greene Co.

**Mother of Interviewee:**

Name: Lula Virginia Carlisle (Adopted)

Birth Date: 1882 Birth Place: Lenoir County

Death Date: 1949 Death Place: Farmville, NC

**Spouse of Interviewee:**

Name: Leo Dail (2) Albert P. Best

Birth Date: Birth Place

Death Date: Death Place

Parents of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ born \_\_\_\_\_ Died \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ born \_\_\_\_\_ Died \_\_\_\_\_

This is August 5, 1997 and we are interviewing Alberta Dail Singletary Best and this is for our Edgcombe County Oral History Project. I am MinnieJo Gay and I would like for you to tell me something about yourself. Where did you live as a child?

ASB: Oh Lord, I lived in the woods. The house had shingles on it and we didn't have no lights, no toilet and we had a well with water in it. We drew up at night and put out on the porch in a bucket at night to drink. Everybody drank out of the same dipper. One of them was a coconut hull and the other was a tin dipper and I reckon it cost ten cents, if we had ten cents to pay for it. That was our start off living, no lights, no water, no toilet.

MJFG: Well you did have an outdoor john?

ASB: Yeah, we shore did, everybody did. And the hogs slept under the house and snored and the goat, part of the time, on the porch. Our cow would go off of a morning and stay all day and come back and we would milk her and she would go off again. We didn't shut nothing up. Nobody won't closed up and the animals wasn't closed up, nothing was closed up. Didn't lock a door, slept on the porch, if we wanted to, no window shades, no window curtains. It sounds like we were in a dump and we were, we were. That is the way we come in this world and lived and everybody loved everybody. Everybody helped everybody and every year my daddy would grub up a streak of land and he didn't know whose land it was, but he got a whole acre of land to tend, small crop and in the fall of the year my mother would take what money they made and she would go to town twice a year and she would buy all our winter clothes, all we had to have all Winter, we didn't have but two or three outfits. I think I had two dresses while I was going to school. While I was gone to school she would wash the other one or she would make one. She was a seamstress and then in the Spring of the year she would do the same thing. By time she done that everything we had was rags. We didn't have no bought wash clothes, no towels, no sheets. She'd buy homespum, you know what homespun is? (Yes mam) Well, buy homespun and make sheets and pillow cases. It'd take about three days to get them white. She put them in Lye water and wash them, got them all white. When the men's shirttails and drawers was wore out, then they would cut them up and make rags and that is what we used, rags. Everybody had their own wash pan, an old tin wash pan and everybody took care of their own. We'd buy a bar of soap and cut that soap in pieces so everyone of us would have a piece and it was up to us to take care of it and know where it was at when we got ready for it. We put wash tubs out and drew water up in it to warm up so we could take a bath.

**But we finally was able to buy a Majestic Cook Stove and you had a warmer on that but it didn't supply everybody's water so we were fortunate to have that.**

**MJFG: That had a reservoir on the side, that you put water in that heated up?**

**ASB: Heated up and stayed hot all the time. I don't know how far I am supposed to go but anyhow I'm just telling right on up. (Keep Going) We didn't go to the store and buy groceries, we raised them. Raised the hogs, cows, and everything we eat, just about, was raised. He commercialized in chickens, we raised chickens all the time. My mother would get up in the morning when it was in season and gather corn and cut it, go kill about four or five chickens. There were thirteen of we children, a crowd of us, and he'd buy our food by the fifty pounds. The onions and coffee, coffee we bought by 100 pounds, green coffee. You all don't never see none of that. But he did, and they parched it and I had to grind it and smell of it and couldn't get a bit of it. They would not allow we children to drink coffee along then. We didn't hardly ever get sick and if we did get sick, Mother would go in the woods and dig up roots and cut bark off trees and boil it and use it and get us well.**

**MJFG: Do you know those remedies now, yourself?**

**ASB: I know some of them. They raised their own fruit. They didn't have to go to the store and buy it! After we done all that, parching that coffee, he would buy fifty pounds of cheese. You know I have never known how cheese was made and I wished I did because I can remember cheese so good and I know we made cheese out of clabber and I eat my share of it. I loved cornbread and clabber. But I have never known fully what they done with cheese. I think that was about the worst thing I lost off. If we had to buy medicine we'd buy Castoria, Castor Oil, and stuff like that, no expensive stuff. We had a little country store down there that won't big as where we lived. Our house was a shingle top house, didn't have no underpinning and woods everywhere, everything was woods. At night the boys would come in from work and didn't want to wash their feet and they lay on that porch and slept and the goat got up there and slept with them part the time and part time go on off about his business. Our clothes was washed on the washboard and two old wash pots. She would wash them and put them in there and boil'em and I can remember right not how they smelt, smelt so clean, with box lye throwed in there with'em. She would make soap every year, enough to last another year. You don't know nothing about that neither.**

**MJFG: Yes, I do. I have made soap.**

ASB: You have? Sometimes we'd have to bathe with that lye soap because the soap would give out. The soap he bought was that old long bar of soap, Octogan Soap and cut it in all pieces. Give us all a little piece. Well, we were happy! We didn't know no better and one time a year we'd get candy. He would buy a box of stick candy. He called us all in and give us a stick apiece. We didn't have no choice. He didn't let us have no choice for nothing. If we went to the table and she cooked five chickens and put on that table, we won't supposed to ask for no certain piece of chicken. They got up there and waited on us. We took what they give us. We got plenty and there won't no dispute over nothing. We'd fight sometimes but we's get over that and at Christmas time, maybe we'd get a present that cost a dollar, a little old mouse running up and down a string or something like that and we were as happy as we could be. The boys, they'd get a fruit jar lid and nail it to a tobacco stick and roll it all day long chasing each another, having a good time. You see what's coming on now, don't you? They got to have the best. All in all, we had a good time but I didn't enjoy washing lampshades (chimney's). Had to wash them everyday. Chimney's that smoked up. We burned kerosene and don't know of no other oil that was burned at our house until we moved up near Hugo. We moved up there and he got a farm and farmed up there. Hardley made enough to pay the bill but he took care of the church and the church didn't have no lights and somehow or other he got with a company and got gas lights. Do you all remember gas lights?

MJFG: I don't remember them, but I know where they were in our church.

ASB: Well, they had them. We were lucky to get some in our house and we felt like rich folks, having a light. Then I quit washing lampshades. From then on we got one old lightbulb sticking down in the top of the house and you pulled a string and that made a light. You didn't do that did you? (Yes Mam.) They're going to like this tape. I was fifteen years old before I got a telephone (1915). I was spending the night in Ayden, with the preacher and his wife, and when my daddy called me and told me I had a telephone. Honey, that man had to carry me home that night. I liked to had a fit over that telephone, course, I got plenty a slap over it. I'd get on it and wouldn't get off it and he'd spank me in the face sometimes. But I enjoyed it. From then on we got able and bought a little farm, lived on it and raised a little crop until we got better and better and better, you know how that works, but we have had hard times.

The first car that was ever in the neighborhood belonged to Joe Smith, and when he'd crank it up everybody in the whole neighborhood for a mile would get to that road so they could see that car. It was an old Ford and went clacker, clacker, clacker, all over everywhere. And we children just had fun with it but we didn't see it but once a week. They didn't take it out everyday like you all do.

The school house was on one side of me and church was on the other and when we'd sweep yards we'd sweep both yards. No grass growed in nobody's yard. Didn't none grow in ours. If any grass growed, my daddy'd say get a hoe or you pull it out. Whichever. Then we'd take these old Dogwood limbs and make yardbrooms and go out there and sweep'em. Mama would get out there and pick the ducks. We had ducks and she'd pick them about onct a year. That was a job.

**MJFG:** What did you do with the feathers?

**ASB:** Honey, everybody in the house had a bed. Everybody slept on feather beds. Part of the time they were wet and part of the time they won't. Throw them out on the fence and let them dry and put them back on. That's the kind of mess we lived in but honey it was a happy life. I was proud of it. Then we children began to get grown. I was the first one married, I was the oldest and then on and on. All of us is about gone now. I've got two sisters and two brothers out of the thirteen people. That is about it.

**MJFG:** Where did you go shopping on Saturdays? That's right you didn't go but once a year, did you?

**ASB:** That was when I was a baby, I mean a little girl...She'd buy material for ten cents a yard and she'd buy near'bout the whole bolt. She was a seamstress and she sewed for people, wedding dresses, and everything. She was very talented. I had about three dresses and one of them was for church, nothing but church. One pair of Mary Jane shoes, black patent leather. I had a hat, a roll brim hat with a piece of ribbon on back of it and that was my Sunday hat and I went to church every Sunday. We didn't have clothes like other folks. My grandmother, Betsy Cobb, knitted most of the socks that the men wore. She pieced up bed quilts and we had fun with her. She was nearly ninty years old when she died. When we came from school, we didn't wear our clothes, we went and pulled them off and hung them up like they were worth a million dollars. Now they wear them right on and get more. I told out at church, the girls go to the closet and stand there and look and wonder what they are going to wear, they got so much stuff. I said, If you had what I had you'd put 'ton and go to church. You didn't have nothing to judge from, you take what you got and go on. If young folks had to go back and live like I did it would kill themselves. I believe I would be happy, knowing everybody loved everybody, that's the main thing.

When my grandmother died, we didn't have funeral homes and the doctor had to ride in a buggy and was driving with one of these old plowlines like you plow with. You didn't know

when he would get there cause it was so long to get there. But when she died, we didn't have no way to go but in a two horse wagon and a one horse wagon and a cart. My daddy always had a big packhouse out there, place to build, not an expensive place but a place that people could go to. The men folks would gather what planks and timber they had and you would see them coming with timber on their shoulder and they would get in there and make a coffin, won't no caskets along then. Like the sheets, we didn't know what they was and when they wore out in the middle my mother would sew the sides together to make them last longer. Anyway when they laid grandmother out that day when she died. People began to come through the woods everywhere. Everybody walked. About one night a week, my daddy would have them at his house. He didn't have but the one gramophone in the neighborhood and everybody loved it and they all got together and played music. We children would lay on the porch on the floor and the men and women would take the chairs, we didn't have enough for everybody. The chairs were home made by my granddaddy. Well, this grandmother, I'm telling you about was the one that made them. She had a whole set made. Her whole furniture was home made. She was the nicest, cleanest old lady you every saw but she was the ugliest, hateful acting somebody as could be. You know there's folks like that now. When she died people began to come and some shrouded her to put her away and that night they sat up with her. They kept camphor rags all over her face all night. See, in the funeral home they do away with all that. Camphor keeps you ,the dead, from foaming at the mouth, otherwise. The men folks got together and made the coffins and they are made with pink in them, not made like they are now. My mother helped pad and line them, the women folks got together. Not only my mother. That afternoon when they come to get her body they put we children all in a two horse wagon. That's the way we went to funerals, behind the corpse. I don't know where they got the thing but they had Hearse thing open with a frieze around the top. I remember that, but I don't know where it come from. There was two men drove it with two horses and got us all in that wagon and I had on my Sunday outfit. We were getting arranged to go and here they come out with the coffin on their back, on their shoulders, four men, and put her in there and then took a big screw driver and screwed it down. That was for good, it wouldn't be opened no more. There was about two one-horse wagons behind us and we went out and got on the road to the cemetery. It won't but about four miles but felt like a hundred on that wagon. We got up the hill and my hat flew off!! You could've heard me hollow a mile! I screamed so hard. Well, the men that was going to bury her was right behind our wagon and the wagon wheel run over my hat! One of these men jumped out and got that hat and put back on my head and got it straightened out and I was worse off than the woman was dead. Cause I was upset as worse as you've ever seen anybody.

I just messed up things sure enough and I won't but about six years old. I've always laughed about that. We got back home and the folks in the neighborhood come and brought some food, what they had, you know. They parted with what they had and at night you would see lanterns all in the woods where they were coming to see you. It was dark and there were no lights no where. Can you imagine what that was like?  
(Yes mam, we had lanterns, too.)

My daddy would have pea shellings, corn shuckins, tobacco tyings, they'd get together and sing, Lord have mercy, and sing and sing and parch peanuts and make pull candy. The men and women would square dance. Just good clean fun, I can't think of nothing they done wrong, they didn't hurt nobody, didn't kill nobody, everything was pleasant, everybody loved everybody. If they had a tobacco barn to put up, they had to raise it with ropes, you know. When one had to be raised, every man in that neighborhood was at that tobacco barn. A lot of times they were skinning the bark off. They had one of these long blades, you know, and they would skin the bark off the round logs. They were right there to do everything there was to do. I can think back and it is a pleasant thing, it really is.

**MJFG:** You were rich!

**ASB:** I was rich and didn't have sense enough to know it.

**MJFG:** That's exactly right, I didn't either until I got married and went to town to buy ham. Did you raise your own hogs?

**ASB:** We raised our own hogs and the best I ever had. Had none since like it. When she would go out and kill about five chickens. They weighed about a pound.

**MJFG:** Did you ever kill a chicken? Did they walk away?

**ASB:** Yes, Turkey and Chicken, and didn't look at them either. Some of them run away. But, I'll tell you they were good times. She would get corn and stew it and cook about fifty biscuits and about pound of butter and put it on that table. Don't you know that would be good if we had some of that now?

**MJFG:** I still make biscuits with lard, even it it isn't good for me.

**ASB:** Keep it up! I used lard in collards and things we cook. That's why mine's better than anybody else's. You can say what you please about this old stuff.

They kill hogs and put the lard in the stands and sometimes now I think about it, there'd be about 200 pounds of lard setting in our house at the same time and it didn't rust.

**MJFG:** Did you put it in tin or stone.?

**ASB:** We did use stone but we finally got some tin lard stands and then we put sausage in the stands and heat our lard in the pot and pour it over that sausage and honey we had sausage all the year.

**MJFG:** My mother cooked her sausage and poured the grease over the sausage in a stone crock and heated it in the oven in a pan for a meal. She canned tenderloins, chitterlings.

**ASB:** We canned some too. Spare ribs and things like that. How old was your mother?

**MJFG:** She was born in 1904. We were farm folks.

**ASB:** We were too and we didn't go out there and put poison on our Irish Potatoes and collards. We went out there and picked the bugs off and the worms off the tobacco and killed them.

**MJFG:** Where did you go to school? How far did you have to walk?

**ASB:** Walked about a mile when I was a tiny thing. I never rode to school because I stayed close enough to walk. And I never carried a lunch basket to school because I stayed close enough. I didn't ever do ugly about that but one time. Some of these girls out that had some biscuits punched with molasses in it. I thought it was nice to go to school and carry your lunch and I didn't have the privilege of doing that. So that day she asked me to stay with her and eat and I did... but my daddy beat me near about to death when I got home because I was supposed to show up at home. Now along then you got your whippings but it didn't murder you up or nothing, but they you knew where they stand. I remember it until today. It made a different person out of me than it has out of some of them. They ain't got enough whipping. I would stand on the back porch and when they rung that bell at school I would fly across that cotton patch and get in line at the tail end.

**MJFG:** Did you have a one room school?

two months when he got killed in 1942 in Germany by snipers. The other one went through all of it and then got back home and had brain cancer and died. He was shot at at Pearl Harbor. I reckon he had that bullet when he died. I've been through a whole lot and lived like I have and the children have, there have been things we wanted and needed and didn't have but that's all right.

**MJFG:** How did you meet your husband?

**ASB:** I met him at church. I was in the chior and played the piano at that time, but I did not care anything in the world about music. My daddy did everything in the world he could and the music teacher did, I didn't care no more about it than anything in the world. I loved other folks music but I didn't want it. I was in the chior that Sunday and played the piano and he come out there with this man and he stood there looking at me and told the man, "That's my wife, I'm going to marry that woman." So after service, he come up, this Lawrence knew me but my husband didn't and he made me acquainted with him and we went together until we got married. The thing about it, he had a horse and buggy. The rest of them didn't, rubber tired, too, I mean. Sun Top, and that ain't all, a robe to put over your lap, a switch to pop the horse to make him dic, dic, dic, dic. That courting stuff was something in this world. One night we went through a swamp there going to church and that swamp fire got under the wheels and Lord, have mercy, I jumped out of the buggy, right over the wheel. Scared me so bad. Leo said, I swear, I thought you'd gone crazy. We went to church one night and went to get out of the buggy. He helped me out and don't say folks didn't wear short skirts and tight skirts. They did! I had a skirt, up to my knee, my mother wouldn't let me wear it now, I don't reckon, and let me get out of the buggy. When I hit the ground, I said "Did you see my activity?" Just kidding him, you know! He said, "Yeah, I saw the damn thing and didn't know what it was." He ain't seen nothing and that was some expression for young folks to make, won't it?

**MJFG:** Was that the only time you saw the swamp fire? Was it there all the time?

**ASB:** No, Yes. When we would go on a wagon to church at night, a whole crowd, not only my family but every family would go on wagons and the fire would be there. That fire would come right up on the wheel.

**MJFG:** What church were you headed for at that time?

ASB: We were going to Church at Hugo but I won't far from home. And honey, when we had revival at that church and I joined church at fifteen years old. I thought I was the best Christian in the world. But I was one of the sorriest in the world. I told them at Church recently that if I had died that day I would'a went straight to Hell, because I was not saved. And the funniest thing about it, I went that way about twelve months or more, longer than that and there was about fifteen of us and they got the crowd together and were baptized. I didn't know nothing about a creek. I hadn't no water no wider than a house but we went to a little creek somebody had cleaned up all down both sides so pretty. So we didn't have any blankets, what we had were quilts that we made and things like that. So we got our quilts and got in the one-horse wagon and went down to that creek and is seems like it took a month, but it didn't take that long. Cause now they got a place to take a bath and dry off and go back to church. But we didn't have nothing but the woods, and so we went on down there and lined up to go be baptized. When we got there they tied the old mule and we got out and now we don't have mules any more. Anyway we got out and lined up and went on down and there were some women and men down there and the women had on long aprons tied in the back and bonnets on and the men had old black floppy hats on. Now, you would not even speak to them, you would think they were tramps. They were singing, "Shall We Gather At The River". I can feel it right now. Got down there and bless my Lord, I was the first one to go in and I looked at the preacher, my preacher, a young man, he was a Harris and I said, "I don't want to do this." He said, Well now, you have pledged and you are going to have it to do and so we did and got it over with, washed off and went back to that wagon and wrapped up in that quilt and had to ride all the way back home because we did not have any where to change. I can hear those folks singing right now some of the sweetest songs on that river and that was sweet singing in this world. Well, I thought I was saved, I thought I was the best girl in the world. Kept going to church and it went on , and on, and I was married and had one child before I was saved. Before I realized what it took to save you and it was worth it. So I told it that night at that church and that is when the undertaker heard. I said I hope there is not a one in here who is as dumb a Christian as I was, cause it's not saved. That man was saved that night. And the next Sunday they said his little boy was saved, I don't know about that. I could sit here and talk all day about that life. I wore my hair plaited until I was married and took it down the eve before I was married next day and just like an indian, I had a lot of hair and wore it plaited all the time. I never put it up after I was married though. I looked like an Indian, fat, plump, my face was broard. People used to ask me if I was kin to the Indians, but I won't.. I didn't know it was such a thing as an Indian. If I was I didn't know it. I don't

think I was. I was just fat. The smaller children in the family would always get information from me and it won't worth five cents after they got it.

Our make-up was red tissue paper. We would buy red tissue paper and wet it and make our lips red. I reckon we looked like Indians with that on there but everybody used it, some used pink tissue paper. It was pretty to me, I'll tell you that. We didn't go for jewelry. We made our own out of berries. We'd go in the woods and get chinaberries and cook them and skin them and dye them and make beads. We dyed them with paper.

When Christmas would come our mother would take the axe and take us and go into the woods and it didn't make no difference whose woods, and cut down a little pine, or cedar, or Holly and we children would make things to go under it. We cut out doll babies out of paper and things like that and dressed it up and then she would get in there and cook cakes and take berries and trim the cakes up with them.

Christmas Eve you would see women come from everywhere all through the woods, wiping their mouths, I reckon they were dipping snuff, with their apron. Come to see how your cakes were. Then go see how others cakes were, see which one had the prettiest cake. We didn't have nothing to give, so it was just think it was pretty. I tell you there was some pretty cakes cooked. They started cooking cookies about a month before Christmas. You can cook them and keep them a long time. We had a good life.

Lord, have mercy, the first radio we got, unh! Everybody in the neighborhood thought , good gracious a life. Then everybody got to work, to get the other one one, and kept on until everybody in the neighborhood had a radio.

**MJFG:** You talked about a graphaphone, gramophone?

**ASB:** Yeah, one of them with the big horns. My daddy, I think the music box was about like that and the tapes are round. I believe that thing is in the neighborhood of Lenoir County now. If I was able and could, I would investigate because my daddy wrote down everyone of those tapes in the lid of that box. When we sold that thing, after he died. We got so disgusted, there was somebody there all the time wanting to play it and my mother sold it to Betty Murphey and would not be surprised if it ain't in her family somewhere, she's dead and gone. That was the way we had of getting good music, there was good music on there.

**MJFG:** The one with the horn coming up separate on the outside was the first one that Edison made. My husband's family had an Edison and the horn goes down inside and the music comes out the front and it has the round records like a sleeve.. Red Wings, Sweet Hour of Prayer, Overthere, there must be about twenty records . Norman's daddy brought it when he was about 18 and his mother was 16 and he used to take it on the buggy with them and wind it up and play it. He was born in 1900.

**ASB:** Well, I think you have to wind this one once in a while, too. From that different people went to getting one of them now and then but that was the outstanding one in the neighborhood.

**MJFG:** What kind of music did you have other than this and the piano? Did anyone play the violin?

**ASB:** Just this, and the piano and the organ. **ARE YOU KIDDING**, I got my backend beat with that violin, I shore did. He played the violin his self, had a snake tail in it. I mean they cut the rattlers off and put them in there and it done something to that violin, and it made pretty music. One day I talked ugly to my mama, but that's a long story.

**MJFG:** That's all right, tell it!

**ASB:** When we went to school in the morning we had our bed to make up and we'd go out the back door to school. And that morning, the colored girl come to clean up and do the washing and I had made the bed. I knew I had and mama called me back and said "Bert, you come back here and make this bed up." I said, "I made the bed up." Then she said, "Well, it's not made up". What they did, they went in there and pulled the sheets all off it and curled the quilts up and left them curled up. "I said, "I know durn well I did." Honey, my daddy was settin' in the window, playing the violin and when I said that, I didn't go to school in a long time, because he beat my backend raw and whipped me with that violin. Sometimes, I wished he had busted it. But I did, I got a whipping with the violin. If we said anything ugly he would got on our butt and he won't long about it. One day I was out there at the two horse wagon thing. They kept that two horse wagon just like you do your car. They washed it and kept the wheels clean and shining because that was all we had to go on and I did love that two horse wagon. I was settin' on the tongue, you know how the chains hook in the tongues...is your husband too old to know? I loved to play music with no music, and I was just settin' there on the tongue of that wagon, having the best

time playing with it and it was so soothing and nobody bothered me. I won't rearing and tearing up something, the chains were hitting together and making a noise and he come up and saw me. Honey, I ain't never touched a wagon no more, playing with it. It made him so mad he could have killed me but we knew not to do things like that but there won't no harm in it.

I was just riding the old Jackass up there in the lot one day. I had a horse, but my horse was so humble, she won't fittin' to ride, that's the truth. But that mule was dangerous and there won't nobody home and I got up there and rode that mule, held onto his ears and rode that mule with nothing holding on but me. That scared him, because he had told us not to go about that mule. The mule would kick everything around him, you know how they done. I rode that mule all over that lot three or four times and didn't get hurt. Now you know the Lord was working with me. My daddy whipped me that time. He whipped me more times than a little, my mama never whipped me to amount to nothing. She would just take it and go on. I got mad that time over the bed, because I did make it but they made me make it again and whipped me to boot. I put on a pair of his drawers before he got in there. When I knew I was going to get whipped I'd put on a pair of his long drawers and he didn't know it (they wore long drawers long then). I sound like he was mean, but he was a good daddy and he took care of things around where he was at and everybody knew it.

(Side two)

It's like living in two worlds. What did I know about a beach, nothing! I don't care if I didn't!.. When we went to the beach I would get up in the morning sometimes and make jellyrolls..we had to work hard for what we got. I would cook jellyrolls and pack them in a box and we would go down to the beach and that was something. Sit around on the sand and eat jellyrolls, didn't even have money to buy drinks with. These young folks has everything in the world they ask for and then don't have enough. Long then it would take one day to wash and one day for my mother to iron and another day to scrub and now they wash and do all the housework in one day. Had to fix three meals a day and went to the orchard and picked up the fruit and went to the garden, dug this little thing and that little thing, get it cooked and fed them, it had gone late. We didn't know no better. That was our activity, that and riding through the woods on the bicycles. You could hear them girls come a whistling and I reckon if you'd see that now it'd be a disgrace. There would be fifteen or twenty of us and boys and girls didn't get together neither. The boys went one way and the girls went another. But you'd better believe they would protect that sister, though. It was a different way of living. It really was.

My daddy died when he was forty years old and had already been a father and he died in 1918 in the flue epidemic. My mother died at 69. She married agin and had another child and now that child is dead. The day my daddy died there were two tenants, two women on the farm that died and if daddy had known it, it would have broke his heart more. They told him they were not dead, but they were. Those two women were hard workers on that farm, they plowed and done anything. Janie Tilghman and a colored woman, I don't remember her name but they were hard workers. Honey, he was a Mason and there won't enough Masons hardly able to bury him. I didn't go because I won't able, I was home with pneumonia and I had had my baby. Everybody was sick, I had two brothers who went to the hospital that same evening but they pulled out of it. My husband's mother took my baby and carried it to her house, it was a boy, and they wrapped me up in a bed quilt and put me in the back of an old ford and carried me up to her house and I stayed there until I got better.

**MJFG:** What was your husband's name?

**ASB:** Leo Dail, he was raised in Edgecombe County. There's three sets of Dails here in Tarboro. One down here at Dail Town, and us and Joe Dail and another Dail and they were talking one day as they got together and he said, "I'm bound to be kin to one of these dogs." But they never found any kin anywhere. Joe Dail lost his wife and he lives on the railroad track. He retired from the railroad.

**MJFG:** Did you remember the "Shoo Fly" train?

**ASB:** Yes, but if I rode on it I don't remember. If I did it was when I was little.

**MJFG:** Where were you when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

**ASB:** We were living in the country on a farm. We were farming and that is where my husband died. We built this house. We lived on the Jenkins Farm on the Speed and Oak City Road, on the Scotland Neck highway. When you go to Scotland Neck you go on the same road where we lived toward Oak City. We lived near Mayo's Cross road and my best friends lived there at Mayo's Crossroad. One way was to Coakley. Do you know where Coakley is?

**MJFG:** Yes, there is a Sarah Dale Coakley who is in this old family bible that I have that belonged to Col. Nathan Mayo, his second marriage is where I came from on my mother's side. So the Dale's tie in there too, I don't know which set it is or anything.

**ASB:** L H Fountain's wife was a Dale and she was from Mount Olive. We spell our name Dail.

**MJFG:** I feel I have bothered you long enough and I have enjoyed this so much.

**ASB:** I wish this could have happened a year or so ago before I got sick like I am. I love everybody. I don't know nobody I don't love and my family is so good to me. They are here anytime..they have been here waiting on me since the middle of March and there is one here all the time.

**MJFG:** I expect you have done your share of waiting on them, too!

**ASB:** They tell me I have but then that don't make it right. I want to be one of them. I've always wanted to be partners with them as best I could.

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(Researcher's Signature)

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