

Interview with Virginia Ex-Slaves, Hampton, Virginia, ca 1937-1940

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[Mrs. Jessie (?): *[long recording gap]* That happened before I was born.

Unidentified Woman Interviewer: Mrs. Jessie what were they hung for?

[Mrs. Annie Williams (?): *[utters something incomprehensible]*

[Mrs. Jessie (?): They were hung for giving uhm, they were hiding. *[possibly fugitive slaves]*

[Mrs. Annie Williams: Running from they didn't take (?) ??? .

[Mrs. Jessie (?): They hung them with bats. They tied sewed up. They hung them with—

Roscoe Lewis: Ah, do you remember the song that they made up about them?

[Mrs. Jessie (?): Ah, the ah, the song, they sung it themselves.

Roscoe Lewis: Mhmm. Those women?

Unidentified Woman Interviewer: Who sung it? You mean the two women sang it?

[Mrs. Jessie (?): These two women.

[Mrs. Annie Williams: Don't ask me (?)].

Unidentified Woman Interviewer: Just before they were hung? *[just before they (?)]*—

[Mrs. Jessie (?): They, they sung that two women *[before they hanged them (?)]*. They ??? hang them soon as they done.

[Mrs. Annie Williams (?): I can't talk about that.

[Mrs. Jessie (?): And one began one women began, began crying—

Unidentified Woman Interviewer: Were they ah slaves?

[Mrs. Jessie (?): Yeah ma'am, they was before I was born.

Unidentified Woman Interviewer: [*distortions and recording repeats: "Were they slaves?"*]

[Mr. Saylor (?): [*grumbles*]

Unidentified Woman Interviewer: How are you Mr. [Saylor (?)] [*repeats: Mr. Saylor. Mr. Saylor.*] How are you today? You remember me? [*echoes: Remember me? Remember me?*] Hmm? You remember me? You remember me? You remember me? Do you remember when I found? Do you remember when I found? When I found? Found? Found? Found? Found? Found? Found? F——?

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