

Multi-Generational African American Farmers of the Midwest
Anna-Lisa Cox
Library of Congress AFC Archie Green Fellowship

Date of interview: August 29, 2019

Names/s of those interviewed: Travis Nolcox

Primary Interviewer: Anna-Lisa Cox (ALC)

Secondary Interviewers: N/A

Interview Location: Lyles Station Museum, Lyles Station, Gibson County, Indiana.

Transcriber: Mabel Scroggins

Abstract: Travis Nolcox is descended from the Nolcox family who settled in Gibson County, Indiana in the late 1830s. They were originally free people of color from Virginia who moved to Tennessee around the time that Tennessee became a state. The Nolcox and the Lyles families lived next to each other in Tennessee, married into each other's families and moved together to Indiana when Tennessee whites rewrote the state constitution making it illegal for African-descended people to vote or to own guns (for more information on the Lyles and Nolcox families see *The Bone and Sinew of the Land* by Anna-Lisa Cox). Travis Nolcox lives and works his family farm in Gibson County, Indiana. He is a community leader who was a member of the national federal USDA Board for about a decade. His mother, Mrs. Vivian Nolcox, was also interviewed for this collection.

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[0:00] Introduction to Travis Nolcox.

[5:00] Details of his education, the struggles of making money as a teacher, details of his grandmother.

[10:00] Travis's relations to Hardiman and Walden, details of his family members, the longevity of his ancestors.

[15:00] Work ethic and healthy eating contribute to a long life, details of family land.

[20:00] Travis describes his grandmother's food, details of strong family ties, discussion of racial prejudice.

[25:00] Travis's first experience with racial prejudice, details of transitioning to a new community.

[30:00] His wife's involvement with 4H, details of vacations, Travis shares about his wife Terri.

[35:00] Story of meeting a knowledgeable descendant, details of his wife's historical interest.

[40:00] Discussion of racial prejudice, details of racial segregation, discussion of specific racial incidents in Indiana.

[45:00] Details of raising cattle and other animals, danger of selling things in Mount Carmel [Illinois, just across the Wabash River] discussion of the Klan in different areas of Indiana.

[50:00] Discussion of the draft, details of his great grandfather, discussion about losing track of heritage.

[55:00] Travis discusses how others view his skin color.