Chern Oral History Program UNC Chapel Hill H.H.H.H.H.H.H.H.H.H.H. TAPE INDEX SOHP Series: Piedmont Social Hist Transcription Priority: <u>3 (tows:</u> k (1-Transcribe; 2-May Transcribe; Jast First Middle te of Interview: <u>3-27-79</u> Place: <u>Burlington</u> Interviewer: <u>Allen Tullos</u> T.M. May Comp. C. C. State States T.M. M. Market S. C. C. C. C. O. C. 90 Interviewer: <u>Allen Tullos</u> T.M. M. M. M. Market E.P. Cassette: <u>C-45 2 C-60</u> C-90 Interviewer: <u>Allen Tullos</u> T.M. M.					A 1 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
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and then lost married daughter two years ago. Now one son in Cal, one in Burl, one					
in RXm & Kernersville, two daughters in St. Petersburg, Fl.; & one daughter near Saxapaha					
Redmon "went from country to the mill" age 10. Maggie wasi in orphans' home then.	edmon "went from country	to the mill" a	age 10. Ma	ggie wast in or	phans' home then.
Redmon three years older than Maggie. Redmonitleft Edenz and moved to Reidsville in 1908.	edmon three years older t	than Maggie. F	Redmontleft	Edena and move	d to Reidsville in 1908
Left R'ville and went to G'boro. From G'boro to Glen Raven. From G. Raven toBurl (this	eft R'ville and went to (G'boro. From G'	boro to G1	en Raven. From	G. Raven toBurl (this
was mother and family and cow, moving together). From Burl to Graham .					
Explains mule spinning. Moved so much is to get "to a better place or to a place that					
was running." "We had to feed ourselves you know" Manufacturers would "go on short					
time" or "curtail." Redmon was oldest boy and had to be there for mother to depend on.	ime" or "curtail." Redmo	on was oldest b	boy and had	to be there fo	or mother to depend on.
Redmon has sister, 1 1/2 years younger, who is Holiness preacher.					
"I'm theoldest Robertson that's ever been in my family." Except the great fx grandfather					
"who came x from Europe right after Christ was x born. You see, you getting way back	I'm theoldest Robertson t	abt offer Chud	et was w ho	rn. You see, y	
yonder now. Christ was born in the middle of the Bible. In the middle of history."	I'm theoldest Robertson t ho came x from Europe rig				
Maggie says x Redmon is "stretching thepoint." Redmon's mother worked in mill, took	I'm theoldest Robertson t ho came x from Europe rig				middle of history."
in family members who were married as boarders. Redmon onw work: I always took	I'm theoldest Robertson t ho came z from Europe rig onder now. Christ was bon	rn in the midd]	le of the B	ible. In the m	
advantage of my work. If I had a job I couldn't run, if it was going to run me, I'd	I'm theoldest Robertson t ho came z from Europe rig onder now. Christ was bor aggie says z Redmon is '	rn in the middl "stretching the	le of the B epoint." R	ible. In the m edmon's mother	worked in mill, took

TAPE INDEX (continued)

2811

	ons of work whenshe started at age 12. "really bad." In spinnin rest, school at night. School over company store, school paid
for by Mr. Ervin. Redn	non worked at Golden Belt in Durham once.
and a second s	boxinxotd Redmon met Maggie at #6 mill.
Courting: to the movi	les, to the park, a playground at the mill. Company would show
novies at the mill recr	eation area, could play records, read books and magazines.
o toLakewood Park some	times. Redmon remembers Charlie Chaplin: "A good Christian says he put first 15c in Swinny's church. "I was born again up
Da play-boy. Redmon s	a little three room wooden building - church." Baptized in
ha 1911 "That was ric	ht after the Titanic sunk. That's the way I kept up withit."
cells how he became a C	
I put 15c in that the	foundation of that church up there (means Swinney's) and 1 put
ny whole life into Burl	ingtonm Mill. And everything that I've ever put my foot on,
he doubled and increase	a."
	outting tags on tobacco sacks, in Durham, after marriage.
Redmon: "Wealways worke	ed."
Redmon didn't goto LUI	of Maggie's mother's home. I Some family present. , was deferred due torupture which he says army doctor gave him
also totake care of der	pendants in his and wife's mothers' families. Did go to
amp Jackson, Columbia.	SC for a short time. Redmon and Maggiet lived fora while
in w Maggie's mother's	home. Then shared house with hisbrother.
Tells of first child, p	premature baby, put it in shoebox to scare grandma, child lived
cast grew up, died at ag	ge 56.
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H-40

TAPE INDEX (continued)

						History
						Roberts
Date	of	Inter	view:	3-27.	-79	2
Place		Bur!	lington	l.		
Inter	vie	wer:	Allen	Tull	ec.	

Tape # 2A

Maggie on conditions in cotton mills. "You could just see the dust everywhere. de It was terrible. And lot of people used tobacco and snuff and they spit all over the floor. They had spittoons (sp), but they just spit wherever they was at." M's sisters used snuff, everybody just about did." Redmon says the tobacco would help keep the cotton dust out of your mouth. Redmon gestures with his thumb and first fingers at how the cotton dust used to get in noses of workers. M: You had to brush it off of you when you came out of work. You had it all over you, in your hair, on your clothes. Mill accidents. M. tells of a where woman whose hairs was pulled off by a belt. Redmon tells of his sister getting her hair cut in a machine. They tore that machine to pieces a to get her hair unwound. She was 8 years old and a-spinning. That's how we had to make a living. They put everybody to work that they could. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 years -- and if they were older than that they didn't work, they a stayed on the farm, example of M R's oldest brother The boss's wife made R's sister a dress (to make up for the accident). He give her a nice ress dress because she was so little and he thought so much of her. R tells of accident he had, got finger cutx on frame, before SWWI. Tells of how army doctor caused his rupture. R and M came to Burlington in 1923, August. M's father died when she was 4. We had to work for a living. She and brother went to an orphan home at Oxford.

Redmon tells of his schooling: only a few years, at various times.

recalls beginning of Piedmont Hts. Love had a black chauffer named Clarence (?). Redmon: e a wealthy man/a nigger for a chauffer. It's cheaper than a white man. A white man would ...ul him a while and you couldn't tell which one was hauling the other."

Some details on starting up of mill.

Recalls Jim Copeland: "He'd give you a whupping and then he'd laugh at you."

M.B. Smith was Pres. of Pdt. Hts. His son took it after he died. Love was head of all urlington Milàs. Tells how Copeland was drawing \$600 a week for being supt. of 6 different mills at one time; this was the cause of Smith firing him says Redmon.

Redmon says Buil. Mill area wadn't no worse than any other part of the country. X Just some sinners that hadn't been saved. We tamed them.

Preacher got them to let him put a cook place and an ice plant at back of mill. Preacher took that money and Love's money and our money we made up and got some people saved, built a church. We got out of Chicago.

Maggie shows photos from chur history book, Swinney (sp). Maggie and Redmon joined Glen Hope. Swinny's son is on radio on Sunday morning (Donald). They joined church in 1932. If Redmon on unions: If it hadn't been for the unions there wouldn't be no social security. X I belonged to union in 1940's. Remembers no union in 1930's, no one

trying to start one. The union didn't come through WWI. Tells of 1940's **freque**xeex t

End of fix 2A Begin 2B. Redmon a loom fixer at Burl. Mills. Pescribes job.

TAPE INDEX (continued)

cont 2B

1.64

Tape # Side on fancy looms we had 16 pick and picks (at beginning). plain looms we had 32. They cut us down to 24. "I liked it. I could do it and rest. I could just whup that ol loom and that was it. One time I went in there and I picked up a surew on the floor and put a strap back on a picker stick and that's all I done that day. Nothing didn't happen. I had them going didn't I. Just automatically run. That's the only time I ever had that to happen. Just one time." Relations between weavers and loom fixers. If you lag, the weaver can't get no pay. Some weavers were bad to get along like axia that. "I liked that work. I wouldn't go through it again for a new life. I wouldm't take the changes on getting killed as many times as I have for nothing. X(Tells of several near fatal accidents.) (some good things here). Tells of fatal accident at Burlington, man wound into cloth. Church attendance at Glen Hope. Redmon "We went just as regular as a clock til the church HXX bubnt down. X and they moved mx it way over xawad yonder. Maggie recalls Love coming to church.Recallin g Love's gifts to church. Robertson's house was not mill house. He bought it in 1923, expanded it gx several times. Redmon recalls favorite food as a boy. "I eat everything I come to and anything that would stay there, that was eat. And I starved to death. It was right after Cleveland's panic nd nobody z had anything and everybody had nothing." "I was born between two troubles. One of them was starving to death and the other was that you didn't have no place to go get it," There wadn't no tin cans when I was growing up ... We liked peas, butterbeans, corn. Didn't like cucumbers much. Onions wa is my favorite vegetable. If I was going on a vegetable and nothing else a tall I'd take a onion. MaMaggie points out that after towns incorporated you couldn't raise chickens and hogsx like people used to. Redmon still has two chickens in vard.

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