

S.S.: "THEY TOLD THEM?"

F.L.: "BUT, THEY WERE STILL UNDER SLAVERY. THEY WOULD GIVE THOSE OLD SETTLERS, (OUR 'FORE PARENTS' THAT WAS UNDER SLAVERY), MAYBE AN ACRE OF GROUND—TWO ACRES OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT—JUST BIG ENOUGH TO PUT A HUT ON. BUT YOU WAS STILL SLAVING FOR THEM."

S.S.: "SO, THEY WOULDN'T PAY YOU FOR ANY WORK YOU DID?"

F.L.: "OH, IF THEY LET YOU HAVE SOME MONEY WHEN . . . WHEN UH, . . . IF YOU WAS UH, SHARECROPPIN'."

S.S.: "M-M-M . . ."

F.L.: "WELL, UH, . . . THEY'D TAKE EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAD . . . AT UH . . . IN THE FALL."

[VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE]: "UH, DIDN'T THEY CALL IT HALF'S OR SOMETHING? WHAT DID THEY CALL IT?"

F.L.: "THIRD AND FOURTHS."

S.S.: "THEY CALLED THIRD AND FOURTHS."

M.B.: "AND SOME WAS ON HALFS. IF YOU HAD YOUR OWN TEAM, YOU WORKED THIRDS AND FOURTHS. BUT IF YOU . . . WAS LIKE MY PARENTS—DIDN'T HAVE YA' TEAM—THEN THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BEEN WORKING ON THE HALF'S. AND OF COURSE, AS HE SAY . . . THEY WOULD BUY . . . SUPPOSED TO BE BUYING ALL YOUR SEEDS AND THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER. AND WHEN . . . YOU'D GATHER THE CROP, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY."

S.S.: "M-M-M."

M.B.: "I REMEMBER THAT."

F.L.: "YOU OWED IT ALL."

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F.L.: "YOU OWED IT ALL."

S.S.: "SO, YOU WERE ALWAYS IN DEBT AS WELL?"

F.L.: "SO, THEREFORE WHEN I LOST THOSE SHOES IN THE MUD I SEEN IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE THIS PLACE. AND I LEFT HERE . . . SIXTY-ONE YEARS AGO."

S.S.: "UM, I WOULD LIKE TO TALK A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THAT. UH . . . IT SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING THAT . . . THAT'S ENDEMIC TO THE SOUTH. UM, CAN YOU TELL US ANY MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE UNDER THAT . . . THAT SYSTEM, WHETHER IT'S CALLED SHARECROPPING OR SLAVERY. AND I GUESS THE OTHER THING I NEED TO FIND OUT, WAS THERE EVER TITTLE GIVEN . . . TO YOU?"

S.S.: Stan Solamilo

M.B.: Maggie Jackson Briscoe

L.L.S.: Lillie Lawson Sheppard

B.B.: Betty Benjamin

M.M.: McCleendon Moody (Mac)

M.E.B.: Mary Eliza Barr

F.L.: Fred Lawson

S.W.: Shirley Larue Barton-Washington

M.E.: Michael Evans