

# **Sallie B. Hunter**

## **A Transcription Of An Oral Interview**

6 Burch Village  
Champaign, Illinois  
July 1, 1983

Interviewed by  
Melinda Roundtree

Champaign County Historical Archives  
Urbana, Illinois  
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## **Introduction**

This interview is with Mrs. Sallie Hunter. Mrs. Hunter was born in Winona, Mississippi, in the year of 1920. [Note: The correct date of birth is 1923.] Mrs. Hunter came to Champaign in the late 50s. This interview is being conducted on July 1, 1983, at the home of Mrs. Hunter, Apt. 6, Burch Village on Bradley Avenue, Champaign. The interviewer is Melinda Roundtree, representing the Urbana Free Library Archives Department.

*Note:*

The transcription of this interview is incomplete because many of the words could not be understood. The transcription is accurate and as complete as possible; whenever words could not be understood, underlining was used.

Roundtree: Okay, first of all Mrs. Hunter, I would like to ask you about your, about your early, early childhood life. Could you . . .

Hunter: Eight years old, I chopped cotton. Had sunstroke \_\_\_\_\_.  
Under a shade tree for two hours. They fanned me. I couldn't get no air. For two hours. I got sunstroke. I chopped cotton. \_\_\_\_\_ mother.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Grandad Herbert, who died in Memphis. This month, I'm giving my husband back.

[Tape recorder is turned off, and then back on.]

Roundtree: First of all Mrs. Hunter, could you tell me a little bit about your early childhood life?

Hunter: I told, \_\_\_\_\_ with some.

Roundtree: Okay, where were you born?

Hunter: \_\_\_\_\_ Winona, Mississippi. I picked cotton for eight years. I picked 450 pounds of cotton a day.

Roundtree: What day were you born?

Hunter: April 6, 1925. I'm 58 years old.

Roundtree: Okay. When you were picking cotton, did you have to pick all day, or, you know, certain hours?

Hunter: Yes. From 8 until 8 at night.

Roundtree: Okay. You said you were 8 years old when you started?

Hunter: Yes.

Roundtree: Eight years old?

Hunter: And 450 \_\_\_\_\_ cotton, 450 a day.

Roundtree: Okay. Did any other of your family members have to pick it too?

Hunter: Yeah, \_\_\_\_\_, Mary, Emma, Clara, Edith, Ellis, Jimmy, and Walter Campbell.

Roundtree: Okay. All right. Were the youngest child or did you have?

Hunter: No, Jimmy next to me. Jimmy Campbell next to me. He live in California.

Roundtree: Okay. Could you tell me a little bit about your parents and what their names were, their background?

Hunter: Well their names Felix Campbell, F-e-l-i-x, and my mother named Jessie Lee Campbell.

Roundtree: Okay. Could you tell me the kind of jobs that they've held? What kind of things that they?

Hunter: Farming. Farming.

Roundtree: Your father was a farmer?

Hunter: Yes.

Roundtree: What did your mother do?

Hunter: Farmed.

Roundtree: She farmed, too?

Hunter: Um hum.

Roundtree: Okay. You said you had . . . How many brothers do you have?  
How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Hunter: It was six brothers and six sisters. Wait, I'll tell you. Mack, Jimmy,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Walter, and Robert. Five.

Roundtree: And how many sisters?

Hunter: Emma, Clara, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Mary, \_\_\_\_\_. Six sisters and six  
brothers.

Roundtree: All right. How many are living?

Hunter: Eight, um, six, there's two killed \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy, Mack, Mack, Jimmy, Ellis, \_\_\_\_\_ Walter. \_\_\_\_\_ lives in  
Memphis. Jimmy live in California and Walter live in Texas.

Roundtree: Could you tell me, when did you first come to Champaign?

Hunter: What year was it now? Twenty-five, 29 years ago.

Roundtree: Twenty-nine years ago?

Hunter: Uh huh.

Roundtree: Do you remember the month?

Hunter: December.

Roundtree: December?

Hunter: Uh huh.

Roundtree: Do you remember where you lived when you first came here?

Hunter: \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi. \_\_\_\_\_ farmed.

Roundtree: Okay. When you came to Champaign, where did you live? What street did you live?

Hunter: \_\_\_\_\_. On Oak Street in Champaign.



Roundtree: On Oak Street?

Hunter: Uh huh.

Roundtree: Where did you go from there?

Hunter: From there, just a minute. \_\_\_\_\_ clubhouse. From there, to Market Street.

Roundtree: In Champaign, right?

Hunter: And from Market to \_\_\_\_\_ Street. \_\_\_\_\_ to Dublin Street from Dublin to Dunbar Court. From Dunbar Court to Burch Village in Champaign. That's it.

Roundtree: And that's where you're living right now, right?

Hunter: \_\_\_\_\_ Burch Village in Champaign.

Roundtree: Okay. When did you have your first child?

Hunter: My first child was born in Hunter, Mississippi. Her name was \_\_\_\_\_ Evelyn Burnett, born in Hunter, Mississippi. Then Jessie, Andrew, then Ellis Lee Miller, Willa Mae Brown.

Roundtree: Could you tell me where they live right now?

Hunter: Willa Mae. Evelyn Underwood live at 1310 Ellis Drive. Willa Brown live at, I don't know the number, Orchard Downs. Ellis in Charleston, South Carolina. And Jessie live on \_\_\_\_\_ Washington Street.

Roundtree: Okay. Could you tell me how many grandkids you got?

Hunter: Wait. \_\_\_\_\_ got seven. Evelyn got five. Jessie's got one. Willa Mae got two, that's all.

Roundtree: Okay. How many grandkids do you have? Great-grandkids?

Hunter: Wait a minute. \_\_\_\_\_ she got three. Evelyn \_\_\_\_\_ got two.

Roundtree: Okay.

Hunter: Ellis got one and Teddy got one. That's it.

Roundtree: Okay. Okay. Could you tell me what kinds of things you've done in the community? You said you were a member, you were a senior citizen?

Hunter: Senior citizen. I chopped cotton. Cooked for 30 year for the public.  
And now I'm at home. I can't work.

Roundtree: What kinds of things did you do with the senior citizens? Did you go  
any place?

Hunter: Well, I do needlework and . . .

Roundtree: You said you went to Springfield, they took you to Springfield?

Hunter: I went to Springfield, Decatur, Rantoul \_\_\_\_\_.

Roundtree: What kind, what are you doing when you go to these different  
places?

Hunter: Well, on this trip, you know, \_\_\_\_\_.

Roundtree: Oh, just to get out and go.

Hunter: Yes. Uh huh.

Roundtree: Okay. So, um, anything else that you'd like to say, you know, things that you've done in Champaign-Urbana?

Hunter: I tell \_\_\_\_\_ I love my grandkids. I love my grandkids. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

[End interview]