

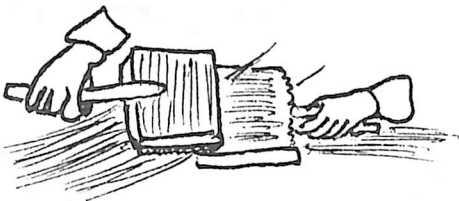


ANNIE HYATT: "I never worked in the mill. I raised my babies. (Photo by Susan Meiselas)"

Annie Hyatt

My grandmother Hefley lived out in the country, she was from up here, you see, and when she married Grandpa Hefley he had that home ready for her over there. That's where they lived and raised all their children. And there's a bunch of 'em died there in that old house. I tell you one thing about it, in that middle room where the staircase went upstairs, that's where we had our beds, us children, and we would lay there and look up the stairs. The door was right at the head of our bed, you could shut that door at night, and it was a big door, big heavy door, and that door'd just swing open. Now that's the truth. No hearsay to it. Under the cover we'd go. We just knew it was some of those dead people on the other side, for the next room from where we slept, that was where they laid out all them dead people — the parlor they called it. Yes sir, under that cover we'd go!

You see, we lived in Columbia (S. C.) and my mother would come up here to help Grandmother either when it was time to can fruit or maybe wait and come in the winter when it was time to kill hogs. They'd get all that done and then they would card the cotton and make the quilts. I've seen Mama and Grandma card that cotton. They had two things about so long



and it had wire on it and they'd rub it together and get that cotton carded and that was the padding for the quilt. I've seen 'em have stacks of it. Then when they'd finish we'd go back to Columbia, Mama and us children. Now my father and

our nephew would stay in Columbia and he run what they call the locks down there. That was to lower big gates up and down to furnish water to make power for Columbia.

When we'd come up and was livin' with our grandmother, well, we'd walk over to this school house down the hill. So after I come over here to live after I married it wasn't a strange place to me.

Well, when I married I didn't know how to do nothin'. I was 16 on the 4th of July and married on the 25th of October.

I married over there in my mother and them's house. My daddy and my sister was our witness and they was there. Preacher Lomas in Edgemoor married us. And we got up the little suitcase and come to Lando and I've been here ever since. We stayed in the house with Walt's sister. She had two rooms and we got two rooms. Well, then we went over to my daddy's house and stayed awhile and that wasn't right either. So my daddy asked the "super" about a house for us and he gave us a house. I think it might be tore down, down there next to where the warehouses are. We come there and lived in the house with Mr. and Mrs. Allman, two old people. They had two rooms and we had two rooms. Then later on we got two more rooms further up the hill and lived in the house with Helen Bolton's mother and daddy, Jim and Curt Gwinn. Then we finally got us a house by ourself — a little three room house and from then on we've been by ourself and we've done very well with our little nothin's and we've 'preciated it.

I never worked in the mill. I raised my babies. I just made do on what Walt could make. I stayed home and naturally I had to work hard raising 9 children. I have been down to where I'd wash their clothes at night so they'd have clean clothes to put on next day. I used to carry wash water up the hill and washed clothes on a washboard. Mr. Clarence Irby's mother stayed with me before my babies come and a Mrs. Carriker — but I always had Dr. Gaston. I'd go pick blackberries and strawberries and Mrs. Mae Irby. Mrs. Eila Ramsey and Mrs. Nell Ramsey. We'd all go off together and we'd pick berries to can for our children for winter times. I sometimes would wonder how in the world I'd get things for another baby. But thank goodness, they put flour in flour sacks then — cloth sacks. And I sewed them little sacks and made my diapers. I've had it hard.

My babies just lay on the bed. I never used a crib unless it was with Genelle, the baby. I have laid 'em in a big rockin' chair and fixed 'em a little bed there when they was real little. But after they begin to move about a little bit, I couldn't do that. My babies always slept with me then. When I'd turn this way that baby'd come on this side. If I'd turn back the other way, why I'd put that baby on the other side. And if they moved, I'd wake up.

"Soakey", now that was biscuit crumbled up very fine and put some sugar on it and some coffee. That's what we'd feed our babies after they stopped nursin'. Then they'd eat grits or eggs or just anything I had on the table. There was about 2½ years difference in all my children.

Mrs. Mary Stephenson and I taken our clothes and went to the spring — we had pots and we'd go down there and do our wash — so we wouldn't have to carry our water up the

hill. I put out a big wash, overalls and all, on the Saturday before Genelle was born.

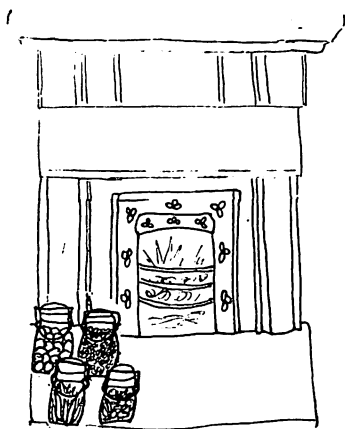
When you wash clothes on a rub board just wearin' things, bed clothes and towels and all of that for 9 children, you done done a lot of rubbin'. That used to be the awfullest load of little step-ins. Genelle's and Ida's and Virginia's and Dot's little step-ins hangin' out on the line made out 'a flour sacks or anything I could get to make 'em out of.

Bessie Revels, up on the hill here, her mother was real good to me. When she'd make Bessie a little dress, what she had left she would give it to me and I'd make Ida or Virginia a little dress out of it. At that time you could buy dollar bundles of cloth, just little remnants, and I'd scratch around and get a couple of them and I'd have them a new wardrobe before you'd know it. Miss Ann would give me the big white sacks she'd get her cow feed in and I'd wash 'em, get all them letters out. I've made Bill and Jake shirts outa' them things.

Now when you raise nine children you had to do a lot of hard work when you didn't have the conveniences then. We had a ice box; we didn't have no refrigerator. I didn't have no washin' machine until way after I moved up here. Francis Ramsey one day said, "Annie, why don't you get you a washin' machine. You're getting to old to do washin' in them tubs." I said, "I don't know if one of them things'd clean them clothes, Francis, dirty as they get." She said, "Oh, yes they will." So we finally got us one. Thought I'd done got rich.

Mr. Hyatt, Walt's Daddy, he was a big size man, and when his pants'd get so he didn't want to wear 'em she'd give 'em to me and I'd cut 'em up and make Bill or Jake a little pair of pants and hand 'em down to Jack and Fred. I done a heap o' things to try to keep us goin'.

I'd gather fruit, any kind of fruit or vegetables I could get a' hold of. I'd make soup. I'd put up green beans; I'd can 'em you know in glass jars. I canned part of the berries for pies or just take 'em out, put sugar on 'em and eat 'em, or I'd make jelly. Walt and I used to go up the creek and gather "hog" plums I believe they call 'em, and I'd make preserves outa' them. Now they were aggregatin' to seed, but the preserves taste just like cherry preserves. I made pickles, I done anything that had to be done. First time ever I canned stuff, I didn't know much about it. Well, I'd can it and I'd carry it - we was living in a little old 3 room house then - and I'd carry it and set it in the first room on the hearth. Well, my stuff begin



to kinda' spoil and somebody said, "Well, I tell you what you doing. You bring in that hot stuff and settin' it up against that stuff you've already canned and it's getting hot again, and thats where your trouble is." Well, I 'bout lost it all that time, but I never did that again and I didn't have any more trouble.

We used to have loonies. Well, on a Wednesday Walt would send somebody to get \$8.00 worth of loonies to give to me and they'd bring 'em to the house. With that \$8.00 I got in loonies, I could get a big piece of fat meat for a quarter and a peck of Iris' potatoes for about a quarter.

I'd write a order and some of 'em would take it to the store and that's what we'd live on. They'd take that order to Mr. Clarence Miller, he was in the store then, and if Sam (Featherstone) was there he'd bring it home for us. His wife was named Bessie. We'd play together and dip snuff up at the Hefley house. We'd go upstairs to dip our stuff and we'd spit it out top o' the house where my mother and her aunt wouldn't see her. We was about 7 or 8 years old.

We never planned to have a big family. They just happened, just nine little ones. We had hard times and we had good times. I tell you, when it begin to get late, I knew where my children were and they had better get in the house. They didn't get out and run around over the hill at night everywhere. Mildred's Aunt Jane Sanders used to say, "I've never seen children that you could take and go to somebody's house and they'd sit down and behave themself." And she'd say, "When Annie comes, them children sit down and don't ramble in stuff." I said, "They know not to. They've been taught not to bother other people's stuff. What wasn't ours, not to bother it." Because I knew it could grow on 'em, and when they got older they could get worse.

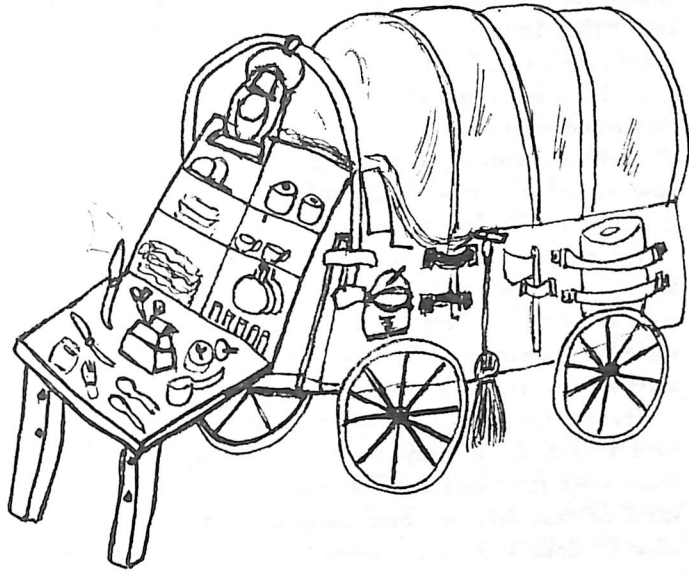
Christmas morning then was just wonderful. I don't know how we did it, but we really had 'em a nice Christmas. The girls'd have their dolls or tea sets, and the boys their air rifles or red wagons. And sometimes we'd manage some kind of a little piece of clothes for 'em. We'd go out in the woods and get a cedar tree for 'em. I can remember, I think we did have some little ornaments. You could get a whole box of 'em for maybe a quarter, but now that was a heap o' money.

Ida was the best child I had to help. She's always been a hard worker. Ida'd always do the cleaning especially the living room when they were datin' and when it'd come time to iron Ida'd do that--iron all them shirts and things. I don't know what I'd done without her when I was pregnant with Genelle, because I was so deathly sick. One time we was all discussin' what they could do to help and somebody said that Ida was the smartest one of 'em; that the others didn't do nothing! And Pete said, "I know we do. Why Virginia makes the whip cream and cuts the cake on Sunday!" She had a big job once a week.

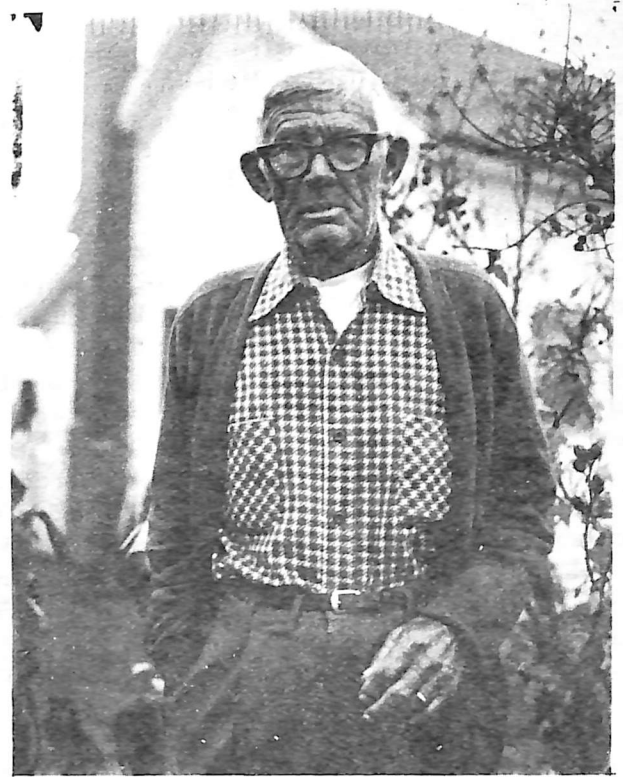
One day a Mrs. Kee used to sell, you know, lipstick and all kinda' stuff 'round the hill. She lived over in the country. Somebody'd bring her and put her out and she'd go from place to place trying to sell that stuff and then somebody'd come get her. She'd give the girls a little sample of lipstick and they'd have them lips so red. But they taken care of it 'cause they knowed I wasn't gonna buy none, couldn't.

Ida would sweep, sweep, sweep. One day Ida came home from school and Mrs. Kee and I were sittin' on the porch. Well, she was sittin' right in front of the door, and I knowed that Ida was gonna do it, I just knew it. And she went in and got the broom and she swept all in there and come right out with it, right under Mrs. Kee's chair. That embarrassed me to death. "I could just tear you up," I told Ida. She said, "She oughtn'a been setting in the front of that door. She knowed I had to sweep."

People been comin' through here sellin' stuff as long as I can remember. I remember when we was over at my grandmother's how the covered wagons use to come down from the mountains. They'd park there in Grandmama's yard and give Grandma maybe apples, cabbage or just anything they had to let 'em stay there overnight and let 'em water their horses. I just loved to see them wagons comin'. Them wagons was the prettiest things ever I did see. They mostly just had dried apples and cabbage, onions and potatoes, turnips and things like that. Oh, my grandmother had plenty of turnips and all kind 'o vegetables. But they would give her them apples. She had a orchard or two over there at the Hefley house. But we was just glad to see them wagons. I think the ugliest person I ever seen in my life was on one of them wagons. That was the awfulest looking man I have ever seen. He'd be nice, but he was solid ugly!



A lot of good memories, but you begin to wonder about your house when you get about our age. Dot talked to Mr. Harry Heath and he told 'em, "You don't worry 'bout your Mama and Daddy. Long as I'm livin' they'll have a place." You see Pete is here and he works. So I don't know if he would ever take a notion to get married and move out, whether Allen now would say anything about it. But I doubt it. But you do wonder. Somebody could say, "I want that house up there where Walt Hyatt's got." They might come here and say, "Well, y'all move out." Long time ago they'd a sent you packin' outa' here in a wagon right fast like. You do wonder.



WALT HYATT: "People think they have it hard now. Back in them times it was really hard." (Photo by Susan Meiselas)

Walt Hyatt

I was a fixer on the lower end in the card room. I guess I was 18 or 19 years old. When the machines'd break down I had to go there and fix it where it would run. And I kept 'em shuttered, and I'd grind that wire on there with a emory wheel, and then I'd put it back up and start it up. I just taken it up. I worked in there for a fellow Truslow; he's the one that learnt me. If I'd have a breakdown and couldn't do it myself, I'd go ask him to show me and he'd say, "That's what I'm paying you for." So that's the way I learned — just kept worryin' with it 'til I got it to run. I just had a gift to it I reckon. My daddy was thata' way. I've learnt several boys down there myself. I learnt Calvin Black, Cecil Polk and Eddie Williams. My tools that I used to work on the machines are in my tool box on the porch right now.

I needed a hammer, a screwdriver, a pair of pliers, a wire puller and a gauge to set them with. You'd get them little rolls to them big rolls about 24 to a hundred and that's what carded that cotton. You'd take a big chunk of cotton and put it in there and it'd come out just a web. I had to work sometimes in the night until I got that machine runnin'. I'd work on Saturdays and Sundays 'til I got it runnin'. When all the machines was runnin', I didn't have nothing to do.

I was about 74 when I retired. I wouldn't a quit then, but me and the boss man fell out, and I didn't wanna have no trouble with him. He said something I didn't like and one word led to another. He told me, "You make me sick." I says, "If