



RUSHIE RAMSEY: "I went to work in the mill when I was nine years old." (Photo courtesy of Vermell Wall)

Rushie Ramsey

My grandmother was Rushie Hinson on my father's side and my grandmother on my mother's side was Nancy Hilton. I never knowed my grandfather because he got killed in the war. My father was Crawford Hinson and my mother was Mary Williams Hinson. We first come to Lando in about 1909 or 1910, about the same time Mary Garrison Stephenson and them did. We come from Lancaster. My daddy had a heart condition and he never did work, but my brother had come to Lando and had married Janie Hinson and he wanted us to move to Lando and we moved there.

When we moved to Lando, we moved down in Happy Holler there for a while, and then we moved up on Benjamin. But we lived longer at that house right at the tank than we did anywhere. That's where we were at when my daddy died. Then we moved over there in that house where Lonnie Vinson and them's livin' now. It was just a 3-room house then. After my daddy died we didn't need that 4-room house anymore.

My mother sewed for the public. Mostly what I done was housework – wash dishes, make beds and things like that to help her. Bring in the wood, go to the well and get water.

Mrs. Romay Payne, she helped deliver babies and my mother went a lot too. She wasn't exactly a mid-wife, but she did it as a neighbor. But Mrs. Payne was a mid-wife.

My father did sell feather beds and feather pillows and things like that through the country. He bought all my shoes and he'd buy 'em too little and mother'd make me wear 'em to the mill and I'd get to the mill and pull 'em off. My mother was a real good Christian woman and if we didn't get up and go to Church, we didn't leave the house on Sunday.

I went to work in the mill when I was nine years old. I worked in the spinnin' room for 75 cents a day and my job was to doff and piece up and I went to work barefooted. Later I transferred to the weave room and I learnt to weave and I taken a set of looms.

We just mostly lived at home. Mama made lye soap and she

learnt me how to make it and I've made it too. That's all the kind of soap we had. She made it all the time. We didn't have a lot of fine clothes, but my mother was a fine seamstress and she made our clothes. We had nice clothes, but she made 'em.



We had a good life together. Sometimes it was real hard. You take my mother got real sick when we lived there where Ida Hyatt is a-livin' now. My brother was sick and had T. B. and my mother got sick and we had to take her to the hospital. Well, my brother died while she was in the hospital. We had a pretty hard time then cause we didn't have anybody to supervise things for us. My father, he did the best he could. And old Dr. Gaston was the best thing in the world to us. He carried my mother to the hospital in the car and he brought her back, and Dr. Finnel paid her hospital bill because we wasn't able to pay it, and that was a lot of help. And we had a insurance policy on my brother and we used that to bury him with. They carried him on a wagon and buried him over at Harmony.

When I was a child, the doctors come from Richburg. There was a Dr. Young and a Dr. Wylie and they had a doctor over at Rodman, but I've forgotten his name cause we never did have him. We always had Dr. Young or Dr. Wylie. And Dr. Gaston was up at Edgemoor and he was our doctor, too. When I was 12 years old, I had typhoid fever and Dr. Gaston was my doctor. To show you the difference in times then and the times now, he didn't give me a bite of nothin' for six weeks but water. I was the poorest little old thing you ever looked at. When he did give me something to eat, he give me one cracker. Why, he liked to starved me to death. If you didn't do what he told you to, he'd spank you good.

Back when I had typhoid fever, it was in the summertime and my brother and his wife Janie was livin' in the house with us and Stafford was the first child of theirs and they had watermelon that day. They had eat a watermelon in the kitchen and I was lying in the other room. When they got through, they just covered up the table and left a half of the watermelon on the table and my mother then went back to her sewin'! I couldn't walk so I crawled 'til I got to the kitchen. At that time everybody had benches to set on at the table. Well, I crawled up on that bench and got that piece of watermelon and I ate it. And my mother whipped Stafford and Naomi for it because she thought they had done it. And I had to let 'em take the whippin' cause I couldn't tell it. I knowed if I told it they'd send after the doctor and he'd spank me then. So I didn't tell it. But it didn't hurt me.

I remember what a good place Lando was and what good people it was there. I remember the people in the stores there-how nice they were and how cheap you could get things. It was so much better than what we had at Lancaster. I

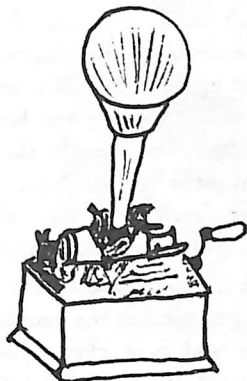
enjoyed my childhood there. We worked all the time durin' the week and we went to church on Sunday and we had ice cream parties and we just had nice clean fun.

The mill stopped off a whole lot at that time because it was run by water and there was a place in the upper part of the weave room that didn't have any machinery at all. When the mill would stop, they wouldn't let us go home so we'd have skip-to-my-lou parties in that part of the weave room. Bill Dawkins played the harp and we had a lot of fun. Sometimes we'd skip-to-my-lou for a hour at a time. Mary Stephenson and Myrt and I run together. After church we'd always go for a walk in the country. There were a place back over there they called the Cool Springs. We'd go over there – just the girls and boys to get together and have nice clean fun. We'd take a lot of pictures. There was Myrt and Molly and Zeula and Mabel Miller and there was a family lived there at that time – Johnsons – he was a overseer at the mill and they had a girl named Iris and she joined our party. Vernon Hough, Lewis Miller, Clarence Irby, Walt Hyatt and all those boys'd be with us.



RUSHIE RAMSEY: "We'd go over to the Cool Springs . . . just the girls and boys to get together . . ." (Photo courtesy of Myrt Long)

We had a school teacher. She was Miss Hollis at that time, but she's Mrs. Hicklin now, and she was teachin' us to square dance up there at Mrs. Carriker's, Dora Carter's mother on Benjamin Street. She had one of these old timey "graffaphones" and had it playin' and we were learnin' to square



dance – gettin' along just fine. Mary was there and Margaret Garrison and Zeulah and Molly and Mabel Miller – All us girls that run together was there. Mrs. Garrison come in there and she run us off and went and told our parents on us. We never had no more square dancin'. She just didn't believe in dancin'.

When we courted, we'd take a walk on Sunday with our boyfriend. We'd get back in about 4:30 or somethin' like that. Then our boyfriend would come back and go to church with us. We'd sit in the church together and he'd take us home and that was it. And we'd have ice cream suppers and oyster suppers and box suppers.



RUSHIE RAMSEY: "When we courted, we'd take a walk on Sunday with our boyfriend." (Photo courtesy of Myrt Long)

When Mr. Farr was superintendent and Mrs. Farr was in the hospital, St. Phillip's Hospital, he asked us if we didn't want to go with him that day to see her and we told him yes. It was Myrt, Lib, Margaret and myself. Well, Myrt had just bought her a crepe de shean dress from Wylie & Company in Chester and it was light blue. It was real pretty. And my mother had just made me a new one. It was green taffeta with Georgette sleeves and I had a white Panama hat and she put a band around it of the material of my dress. Margaret, she had good sense, she wore a white embroidered dress. It was cotton. Well, we went to Rock Hill and it come up a thunderstorm and the top of Mr. Farr's car was tore all to pieces. The nurse give us a rubber sheet when we was leavin' and we wrapped up in it. Well, the rain got so hard one time we had to stop and we were just as wet as we could be, but we got to singing and Mr. Farr said he thought we were alright since we were singing. When we got down there at the store he let us off by that big 'lectric light that was down there. When we got out, Myrt's pretty crepe-de-sheen dress was way up to her knees and her petticoat was down below her knees. My Panama hat had done gone to seed. It was stickin' straight up. Now Margaret, she could go home and wash her dress and iron it and it was alright, but Myrt was just sick, and the back of my dress had turned just as white as it could be. But my mother had some material left and she took the back out and put a new one in and my dress was alright. But my hat was ruint. We all laughed about it. Myrt's pretty dress was ruint, too.

One Sunday morning, Mr. Cook, he was overseer of the clothroom, his daughter Minnie and Lottie Alley and I was going to go spend the day with Lula Adams. She lived up here at Mount Holly. Mr. Cook let us have his horse and buggy and little ole' mule. We got in there and we left early that morning and we got up to Lula's house just at dinner time, so, we ate our dinner and we had to start back. And the mule would go a piece and it would stop and we'd have the awfulest time in the world gettin' him started. Well, we got up here to Edgemoor and Dr. Gaston was livin' in Edgemoor in that big house with that round porch and he had company that Sunday, the porch was just full. Well, that mule got right in front of his house and stopped and we couldn't get him started. So, I got me a stick and I punched that mule in the rump and it tore out and you never seen such runnin in all your life. Dr. Gaston told it everywhere. We come in just at dark and we got down here at the tank and there was Lottie's mother and daddy and Minnie Cook's father and mine was all out in the road a-wantin' somebody to go hunt us. I never whipped a mule so much in my whole life. And it took us all day to go up to Mount Holly.

We had a community church — they was Methodist - Baptists and everthing and it didn't matter about a denomination then. It wasn't such a thing, we had it, but we didn't make nothin' out of it. We all worked together.

Me and Dewey married in that three room house that was where the Vinsons live now. We lived there then with my mother 'til we moved to Chester. My oldest boy was born in Lando, but Vermell and Fred was born in Chester. We moved back to Lando when Vermell was a baby. Then we lived there for about a couple of years then we moved to Rock Hill, then back to Chester, then back down here. We moved around a lot. They'd just got started when we first moved here and they didn't have too many looms in the mill, but they had a

good many spinnin' frames and cardin' and things. Later though they got more looms. Zeb Grey was the spinnin' room boss overseer and Will Morgan was the weave room overseer.

We did have a hard time really. We didn't make much money, but we worked together and we enjoyed each other more and we had time to visit and it seemed like everybody was closer then than they are now. It was a plain, good simple life and I enjoyed it so much. ■



RUSHIE RAMSEY: "It was a plain, good, simple life and I enjoyed it so much."



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