

Hampton: My mother and father were farmers he was a tenant farmer we raised tobacco, corn, our own vegetables, our own cattle.

Interviewer: Did you go to did you attend school when you were younger?

Hampton: Yes I did.

Interviewer: What level of school did you complete?

Hampton: Graduated from high school. Brown County High School 1949.

Interviewer: Tell us about school when you were in school and what

Hampton: School was liked to go to school our school was very we had several grades where we would have two grades in the same room because of the small number of children. We rode a school bus to school approximately 15 miles one way the school bus was very different from what it is today. We didn't have individual seats just wooden benches on each side of the bus.

Interviewer: Did how many classes did you take what all classes were there? Studies subjects like history and math.

Hampton: Okay history, English, geography, in high school we had typing, bookkeeping, chemistry, biology.

Interviewer: How many people were in your class do you remember?

Hampton: In our high school class there was probably our graduating class there was 38.

Interviewer: Thirty eight people okay. Did all of your siblings graduate from high school?

Hampton: No I was the only one.

Interviewer: Okay

Hampton: Out of the eight children. My older brothers and sisters went to school in a little country school a one room school for all grades. At that time just went up to the eighth grade.

Interviewer: Oh okay

Hampton: A little country school.

Interviewer: And then they went on and worked on the farm with your mom and dad?

Hampton: Right

Interviewer: Tell me a little bit about the farm. You mentioned that he was a tenant farmer from what you raised tobacco tell me about the process. Did you work on the farm with _____?

Hampton: Raising tobacco was much different than it is now a day. When he plowed his ground he used a horse that pulled the plow we normally set our tobacco. We pulled out plants out of the tobacco plants we put the plants in the case carried them on your arm and arm and drop them they would follow along behind. Set the tobacco if it was damp enough with a wooden peg then had these tobaccos they called the tobacco setters. They had handles on it and they'd drop it down in the ground and you put the plants down in there. They released the handle and it puts the plant in the ground.

Interviewer: That is different than what my dad has told me just a little bit different. How much how big was your farm do you remember?

Hampton: It was very small.

Interviewer: Small farm how close to you was your nearest neighbor? Was it two or three miles or was it less than a mile?

Hampton: No our neighbor was approximately I'd say a fourth of a mile.

Interviewer: A forth of a mile. Did you let's see how do I want to say this your means of communication did you have a telephone a radio or anything? Or what all did you have in your house what appliances did you have in your house back then?

Hampton: Appliances were very very few. We had the telephone that hung on the wall you turned a crank to get the operator. Then we eventually graduated to a rotary dial. We had a radio it was run by battery we listened to just very few programs on the radio. But we heard about the war we was listening to the radio when it come on about Pearl Harbor had been bombed.

Interviewer: How old were all of your siblings? How old were your older siblings in 1941 when Pearl Harbor happened? If you remember just a ballpark especially the boys that would have been drafted they were old enough for the draft.

Hampton: How I had one brother I don't remember his age but he was drafted.

Interviewer: Okay

Hampton: And he served in WWII.

Interviewer: Do you know what branch of the service he served?

Hampton: He was in the army.

Interviewer: He was in the army?

Hampton: Yeah in the infantry.

Interviewer: Okay did you realize or did your mom and dad realize when you heard about the news that there was a good chance that he would end up being drafted and have to go to war?

Hampton: Not really because he was married and had two children at the time.

Interviewer: Oh really

Hampton: And they didn't they really didn't think they thought he was safe. The oldest brother he didn't pass he was examined but he didn't pass.

Interviewer: Do you remember how come?

Hampton: Due to a breathing problem.

Interviewer: Oh okay

Hampton: And he didn't pass but then I had two brother-in-laws that went into service.

Interviewer: The one that was drafted the brother that was drafted where was he living at the time if you remember?

Hampton: He was living in Augusta and he and his wife were both working in the shoe factory at the time.

Interviewer: Okay going back a little bit to your childhood tell me about what transportation was like I mean did you to go town at all? Tell me about how you got around.

Hampton: We went to town very very seldom. Mom and Dad would go to town to buy supplies once a week. The first vehicle I remember them having was a Model T Ford. Very elaborate it had window blinds that pulled down. Then we graduated up to a Model A Ford it was better, we still didn't take many trips.

Interviewer: Right right

Hampton: And we had if there was some occasion that we had to come to Mazell which would be approximately oh I'd say between 20 and 25 miles we came on the train.

Interviewer: Really

Hampton: Yeah

Interviewer: How many people traveled by train back then if you remember?

Hampton: The trains would be it would be almost full.

Interviewer: Almost full how long did it take to get to there about 20 to 25 miles from your house?

Hampton: Oh approximately 35, 40 minutes around there.

Interviewer: Okay when your mom and dad would go and get supplies what were the supplies? I mean do you remember what they would go in to get?

Hampton: They would be mostly coffee, flour, corn meal thing that they could not grow on the farm.

Interviewer: Do you remember what any of those things cost? What the average price of a thing of coffee would be.

Hampton: Oh no I don't I don't know.

Interviewer: That's fine that's fine I just didn't know I had somebody tell me that they could buy a gallon of milk for like a quarter and that was just kind of fascinating the difference in the prices between now and then.

Hampton: I do know that a spool of thread back in those days cost five cents a spool of thread. I found a roll here the other day that they had bought.

Interviewer: Oh did you really.

Hampton: And the spool of thread was five cents and kerosene was fifteen cents a gallon.

Interviewer: Fifteen cents a gallon lord a lot more than that now.

Hampton: Yeah

Interviewer: When the rations started during the war tell me a little about how your family dealt with that. And were they affected by it did it hurt them or did they still get by?

Hampton: Really we were lucky because our mother always made her own butter with the cows. And she would make her own butter she would make her own cottage cheese. They had their own hogs for pork they had beef cattle. The sugar was quite a problem because she used quite a bit of sugar. But otherwise the tires and the gasoline because we went very very seldom they got along fine with it.

Interviewer: Okay you mentioned the sugar and how your mom would use a lot of sugar. I've heard stories about different neighbors working together and like if you had ample supply of say milk or what have you just for an example that you could trade with your neighbors your milk for some sugar. Did your family do any of that swapping and sharing?

Hampton: No all of our neighbors were farmers they all had their own milk they all had their own livestock that they would butcher and process for meat.

Interviewer: Okay so it was kind of the same situation you were all right there together. Your siblings your brother ended up being drafted. Did any of your family members get jobs as a result of the war effort? Part of the war movement that you remember factory jobs?

Hampton: No they didn't no.

Interviewer: Let me see the rationing we talked about that. Do you remember like saving up anything aluminum or anything like that? Your mom and dad taking them back to the city to be reused was there any of that?

Hampton: No

Interviewer: Any area farmers that you knew?

Hampton: We had no supplies that would be in the aluminum

Interviewer: Right did you receive newspapers during the war?

Hampton: A weekly newspaper.

Interviewer: Weekly newspaper

Hampton: That was published out of Augusta.

Interviewer: Out of Augusta. Do you remember anything in the newspaper reading about it or overhearing your mom and dad talking about what was going on and their thoughts about things? Or even your own thoughts that you might have had.

Hampton: No not really because they really didn't discuss it that much. It was just that in the whole newspaper it would be half news about the service men from our local area and if any of them were wounded or killed in action it was always in the newspaper with pictures. No there was very little discussion about it.

Interviewer: Did you talk about it in any of your class in school?

Hampton: In school no we didn't.

Interviewer: Really because I know now if something happens current event was it is very open usually very openly talked about. I didn't know if it was a difference between now and then or if they discussed that or not. What was it like when the soldiers came back home? Were there parades and celebrations and those things?

Hampton: Yes there would be.

Interviewer: Would you go to any of those parades or anything?

Hampton: Yes we were we were lucky because my brother came home and he was in the parade. And then like I said I had two brother-in-laws that was in there and when they came home there was a celebration for them. And the families would get together and celebrate.

Interviewer: I'm sorry I didn't ask you earlier what was your father's name? Just for the record what was your father's name.

Hampton: Robert Lipard.

Interviewer: Robert Lipard okay. Where were the parades held?

Hampton: In Augusta.

Interviewer: In Augusta.

Hampton: Down on the main street in Augusta.

Interviewer: Is there anything in particular that kind of sticks out in your mind at that time period? Something that makes you feel awful proud that you were able to do during that time or anything like that?

Hampton: Really when my one brother-in-law went in his wife and young son, he was tow at the time, they moved in with us. And it was very hard on the young boy to realize why his father wouldn't come home. We all pitched in to help take care of him to make sure that he was that we could keep him comfortable and not miss his father as much as a young child like that would.

Interviewer: And when his father came home what was that like?

Hampton: He had gotten used to the idea of his father being gone. And more or less my dad had almost taken the place of his father because he was with him all the time. When he would go out to work the little guy would trot along.

Interviewer: Really

Hampton: And he'd ride along with him. And he got accustomed to his dad being gone. Of course as he grew older then he was able to understand you know that's why his father was gone.

Interviewer: How long was his dad gone for do you remember?

Hampton: Four years

Interviewer: Four years so he was six when he came back?

Hampton: Yeah

Interviewer: That was all I had was that alright?

Hampton: Yeah

Interviewer: It wasn't too bad was it?

Hampton: No

Tape ended