

Tape Log

Interviewee: Handy Campbell, his daughter Debra Coleman, and her fiance Paul Simmons

Interviewer: Hudson Vaughn

Interview Date: 13 December 2018

Location: Over the phone

Interview Processor: Erin Davenport

ID#: Unknown?

Comments: Interview conducted over phone and with a lot of difficulty. Others (daughter and daughter's fiance) are on the line encouraging Campbell to speak, but it is still hard to understand and very choppy

TAPE INDEX

Time Topic

1:27 "My father has to start telling you about his historical background", discussion of building houses, interruption and calls back on a different phone

3:07 Handy Campbell's father and how he grew up and learned how to be a mason from his father, Campbell's grandfather (Judge Campbell)

4:40 Learning how to be a bricklayer as a 6 year old by working alongside his father

5:30 Which projects did they work on, built churches, houses

9:13 Talks about building the bus station in Chapel Hill, the process

13:05 Talks about education levels in his family history and looking up to his father

14:00 The interviewer is living in one of the houses the interviewee built with his father when he was 10 years old, one of the stone houses, talk about features of the house like a star made out of stone

16:55 Discussion of preserving the other stone house on the corner

20:40 He built rock walls at UNC, some of the brick walls, a brick bridge

24:38 Talking about builder's signature is it carved into the stones?

26:40 Robeson Street Center

28:10 Mentions a tool he used to build houses, (parts are inaudible)

31:10 Talks about being commissioned to build a house for the Nevilles (sp.?)

34:15 Discusses the rocks and other materials used to build in the houses/walls he constructed

35:37 Mentions mentoring of Albert Washington

37:57 Talks about racial identity (part Cherokee)

39:49 Land ownership (about 50, 60 acres) by his family of the land with rocks that he would use as material for building

44:35 More discussion of Robeson Street Center

48:16 Earl Eversall (sp.?) was a Chapel Hill builder who was “like a father” to Campbell

53:20 Other people would offer to do work at a much cheaper price, but people would still hire Campbell, talks about passion for brickwork

55:28 Talks about going out on his own, independent from his father’s business, at 15 years old

56:30 Lost eyesight from cement (dust?) getting in his eyes over the years

57:00 Starts listing siblings with names, George Bill, Jake, and (Neal?) were his brothers, he talks about which ones were involved with stonework, sisters (Louise, Lee, Mary, Anne), there were 11-12 children, but his discussion of them is inaudible at parts

59:50 Grandchildren grew up with interviewee’s father on Graham Street

1:01:00 Mentions another sister, Callie, and tries to go through the family tree again verbally

1:04:57 What makes your and your father’s work unique?

1:09:10 Talks about collaborations with other masons in town

1:14:30 Talks about work done in Pittsboro

1:17:30 Talk about if Vance Thompson helped with building

1:19:30 Starts talking about relationship with Joe and Lucy Fearington, his former neighbors

1:23:30 Talks about working with someone named 'Smitty

1:26:00 Talks about how the stone house reminds him of his father

1:30:40 Mentions paternal grandfather, Judge Campbell

1:35:58 Talks about wife's aunt, and land ownership

1:38:00 Wells Laundry mentioned

1:40:00 Built over 100 houses in Chapel Hill

1:43:30 Son-in-law, Paul Simmons talks about Campbell's work, including round fireplaces

1:50:00 Son-in-law still talking about barbecue grills Campbell made

1:51:50 Son-in-law talks about how Campbell built a dream home for his daughter

1:54:20 Campbell mentions meeting a white man in Carrboro who offered to write a book about him

1:57:00 Son-in-law talks about Campbell getting a bank loan to build a house

1:59:00 Son-in-law talks about the pride Campbell took in his work

2:03:40 Campbell offers to drive interviewer around some day and show him buildings when Campbell visits North Carolina

2:06:02 END