

[Octavia Green]

[??] [?] [?] [?] Dup

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert [?] ADDRESS [? So. 90th City?]

DATE October 3, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Octavia Green, Carvereth home, 22nd & "S" street.
2. Date and time of interview Oct. 3, 1938, 10:30-12 a.m. 2:00-3:45 p.m.
3. Place of interview Carvereth Nurs. Home, 22nd and T St.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Personal acquaintance
5. Name and address of person, if any accompanying you None
6. Description of room, house surroundings, etc. Sleep dormitory: Accomodations for two patients. Two white iron beds, two rockers, two straight chairs and small table. [??]

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert [Buris?] ADDRESS 239 So. 20th, City

DATE October 3, [1936?] SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT [Careverth?] Home

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1. Ancestry Negro
2. Place and date of birth Buchanan County, Missouri
3. Family Three
4. Places lived in, with dates Buchanan Co., 1859-1878, Lincoln, 1878-1938 Lincoln, Nebr.
5. Education, with dates 5th Grade
6. Occupation and accomplishments, with dates Housewife
7. Special skills and interests Canning
8. Community and religious activities Methodist
9. Description of informant Frail, mulatto. Remembers very clearly events of the past—mind [uite?] active.
10. Other points gained in interview Remembered the worker when his family brought him to Lincoln thirty years ago as a youngster. Just old enough to be sold when the Civil War started. Father stored her and mother from their masters and took them to Buchanan county, Missouri.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 S0. 20th

DATE October 3, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT [Carereth?] Nursing Home

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“When I came to Lincoln in 1878 there was just an hand-full of us negroes here. But we had a lot of fun, picnicking, holdin' ‘square dances’, and where do you think we used to dance! Well, it was in the old City Hall at 10th and O St. Lots of times white folks would come to dance too.”

Then a lot of time we would have socials and play games. One of our favorites was, “Ladies Garden.” We would all get on our hands and knees in a circle on the parlor carpet. Either a boy or girl would get inside of the circle. And then we would all say: “King William was King Jame's son from the Royal [??], On his breast he wore a star pointing away to the east so far, Go choose your east, go choose your west, If shes' not here to share your part, Choose another with all your heart, On this carpet you must kneel Sure as the grass grows in the field, Salute your bride, kiss her sweet, And then you may arise Upon your feet.”

Often we'd go buggy riding on Sunday after church services. [?] [chapel?] used to be on 10th and F street then. We didn't have a regular preacher at first, but later we got one and he was kind of a [?]. His name came to me the other day but I can't think just what it is now.

My memory don't serve me like it used to. There was a whole lot more Christians spirit shown in services in those days; we didn't have any choir, we just all sang together. Our opening hymn was the Shadow of the [Rock?] In the shadow of the [rock?], In the shadow of the [rock?], We will soon be waitin' In the shadow of the [rock?] Here I raise my [?], Hither by thy help I come, And I hope by thy good, pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.

Note: (She explained the meaning of the song.)

[?] was a big rock, an alter that was a resting place for weary travelers. Abraham raised the stone in memory to God, as God was leading him out of Canan.

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Later on we get a minister named Rev. Finley and he was here for a good many years. No, this generation don't have the good times we had and they are so wild today. I never cared much for dancing but I liked to watch them. I'm afraid something terrible is going to happen to the world.

If you notice that rose bush in the yard you will see a large cob web on it. On September thirteenth I was sitting on the front porch and I happened to see this web. It looked like a pillar or a white cloud. In it I could see the words W - A - R in big letters. It is a warning and a miracle.

(During the course of our conversation she recited to me her favorite poem that she learned when she was ten years old. The poem: Boy asking questions of father; asking about Alexander the Great. "How big was Alexander Pa" The people call him great, Was he like old Goliath Tall as a spear and strong as one hundred weight, Was he so large that he could stand, Like some great steeple high, And while his feet were on the ground, His hands could touch the sky." Oh, no my son, about as large as I or Uncle James, It was not his stature made him great, It was the greatness of his name. His name so great! I know its longer but easy quite to spell, More than half a year ago I knew it very well. I mean my child, his actions were so great he got a name, Everybody speaks with praise that talks about his fame. Well, what great actions did he do, I want to know it all. It was he that conquered all [Troy?] And leveled down her walls, And thousands of her people slew, And then the Persia went, And fire and sword on every hand, Through many legions sent. Did killing people make him great, Then why was Abdul Young who killed his neighbor training day, Put in a jail and hung, I never heard them call him great. Why no, it was not in war, And he that kills his neighbors all [abher?]. Well then, If I should kill a man, I'd kill one hundred more, I'd be great and not get hung like Abdul Young before. You know my child the bible says, that you must always do To other people as you wish, That they should do to you. Well Pa, did Alexander wish, That some strong man would come, And burn his house and do as he had done. You know my child the bible says, that we must all be kind,

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And praise all that is good and fine, And do to others as you wish, That they should do to you.