

## [Corena Mays]

Negro Folklore [S260?] >NEG DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert J. Burks ADDRESS 239 South 20th. City

DATE October 6, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant [Corena Mays, 2227?] "O" St., City
2. Date and time of interview Oct. 6, 1938, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 1:05 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
3. Place of interview At residence
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Acquaintance
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Parlor, shabbily furnished with sewing machine in corner of room, two rockers and library table, Upstairs apartment.

FORM B Persona History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 South 20th. Cty

DATE October 6, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT [Corena Hays, 2227?] "O" St., City

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1. Ancestry Negro
2. Place and date of birth [Overton,?] Nebr., June 11, 1871
3. Family
4. Places lived in, with dates Overton, Nebr. until 1913 to 1938, Lincoln, Nebraska
5. Education, with dates [Common?] school
6. Occupations and accomplishment, with dates Mid-wife
7. Special skills and interests Canning
8. Community and religious activities Methodist
9. Description of informant Slender-white-haired [mulatto?].
10. Other points gained in interview As a child lived in a sod house. Father drove ox team between Overton and [Kearney?]. Seen Indians on war-path come to Overton and kill a number of cow-boys and [section?] hands. She says they spared the life of one because he had red hair.

### FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

“For a good number of years I have been a mid-wife. I can honestly say that I have never lost a child or its mother through any fault of mine. Sometimes, when I lived in the country, I would go along with a doctor when he was goin’ to deliver a babe, but many times by myself, then it was up to me to see that the baby was delivered normally if it was possible.

“I remember one night when I was living at Overton, a man came after me, and said his wife was in awful misery. It was a cold winter night in the [80's?]. I'll never forget the time ‘cause it was durin’ the seven year famine. Everything had burned up the past summer

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and we didn't have much to eat in the house. You talk about hard times now; well, I've seen my dad go to the county seat for 'aid' and stay all day, and at night come back with a little piece of salt pork and 'bout a pound of beans and two pounds of meal for a family of five.

"Anyhow as I was sayin', this man comes and I go with him. Its bout four miles and they live in a little sod-house. It sure was cold, When we got there the mother is layin' on the floor groaning' and moanin'. We got he in bed right away and I have him to put some water on.

The mother is labourin' hard — that means painin' and I start timin' her labors on the clock. You see the labourin' pains will start on the hour, and as time gets near [for?] the mother to deliver, they'll be five minutes apart, just about.

She was in pretty much misery but there is nothin' for us to do but wait. Little after midnight she begins to have hemorrhages, but that is to be expected, so I [?] [her?] with strips of cloth and have her husband to put two big blocks [of?] wood under the foot of the bed to prop the feet up. There's nothin' to do then, but let nature take its course. Shortly after midnight twins are born, one of them is dead, but there's plenty of life in the other, and the mother's doin' fine. Today he is a pretty big man and well-known. I see him whenever I go down home.

Yes his mother often told [him?] 'bout me, he knows [me?] well."