

George Washington

Early Settlers' Personal History Questionnaire, WPA
Interviewed by Silas E. Webster Lonoke County, Ark. August 6, 1941 .

Transcribed by Andrea E. Cantrell, University of Arkansas Libraries, 2003. [See transcriber's notes](#)

[*Note: Numbering of the answers on this questionnaire do not match the numbering of questions on the master form, form J prepared by the Arkansas HRS office. For example, on this questionnaire, there is no #8 or #9, but the question for the #10 here is the same as question number 9 on the master form. Also, questions 19, 25, 30-35 were skipped on this questionnaire. The numbers for subsequent questions on this questionnaire continue to be inconsistent with the numbering of questions on the master form. I have matched the answers with questions as correctly as possible given the information available and used this answer sheet's numbers.]

1. Early settler's name
Geo Washington <Colored>
2. Address
Lonoke, Ark
3. Present occupation (most of the old timers are now retired).
Janitor for Walls
4. Previous occupation or occupations.
Farming
5. Date of birth.
1858
6. Place of birth.
Shelby, Tenn.
7. Married? To whom? When? Where?
Mattie Dennis in 1883 Lonoke, Ark.
- 10.* How long has the individual resided in Arkansas?
About 70 years.
11. If not a native tell of the voyage to Arkansas. Boat? Wagon train? etc.
In an ox wagon
12. Why did the individual come to Arkansas?
My mother brought me to Ark.

13. Get details of construction of early homes. (In the southern and southeastern parts of the state chimneys were frequently built of clay and split wood or trimmed branches due to the scarcity of stone and the lack of brick kilns. Some of the more pretentious houses were built with brick imported up the rivers. In the northwestern part of the state stone houses occurred much more frequently. Pay particular attention to these and similar regional differences.)
Log houses – stick and dirt chimneys
14. What form of lighting was used in the early days? Pine knots? Tallow dips? Candles poured at home? Oil or fat lamps? etc.
Candles poured at home
15. When were electric lights first used in your community?
In 1901, Lonoke, Ark.
16. What kind of fuel was used? (This was wood in most parts of the state, of course, because it was plentiful and convenient, but in some of the western counties coal may have appeared early.)
Wood was used altogether for cooking & heat.
17. What kinds of food did the early settlers have? Were fish and game depended upon for the meat supply? Was game plentiful? What kinds?
Wild meat and fish – game was plentiful
18. What kinds of clothes were worn and how manufactured?
All home made clothes.
19. [skipped]
20. Compare some early food, clothing, etc. prices with those of today. (Since staples were usually bought in barrels, hogsheads, bushels, and similar large units, present prices will have to be quoted on the same basis.)
Food cheaper then than now
21. What were some of the incidents pertaining to the sharing of food and other supplies in times of common need?
Loaned food stuff to the neighbors to be paid in Fall [or Full?]
22. What were some early cultivated crops? Domesticated animals? (For instance, when did tomatoes cease to be known as 'Love Apples,' regarded as poisonous? When moved from the flower garden to the vegetable garden?)
Cotton and corn principal crops
23. What were early farm implements? Any homemade? If purchased, where? Prices?
Farm implements made at home

24. What were some native wild plants used as food or for flower gardens? (For example: mullein, sassafras roots, sweet gum resin, sun-flower seed, paw-paws, sumac berries, poke salad-- or salet, or salud. There are stories told of various food substitutes used during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. These might supply interesting sidelight.)
Poke salad and tongue grass as greens
25. [skipped]
26. Relate interesting incidents of the early days. Tell of childhood impressions and memories. Tell of group activities such as house raisings and warmings, quilting bees, corn huskings, brush arbor meetings, dances, games, socials, hunts and game drives, hog killing, sorghum making, play parties, and the like. Compare early farm and town life with that of today. Tell any experiences relating to the Indians, their customs and habits.
House raisings, hog killings, sorghum milling, play parties & dance at night.
- 27-28. [skipped]
29. Tell of early taverns, hotels, boarding houses, stagecoach stations, boat landings, etc.
Nearest boat landings at Little Rock, Ark.
- 30-35. [skipped]
36. Where was the first telegraph station in the community? When established?
Lonoke, Ark
37. [skipped]
38. When and where was the first train seen?
Lonoke
39. When and where was the first airplane seen?
Lonoke in 1873
40. When did automotive busses begin interurban operation? (Give descriptions on the five foregoing.)
Lonoke 1917
- 41-60. <Uncle George as he is called doesnt[sic] know enough about questions 41 to 60 to answer any of them>