

Frank Tellington

Early Settlers' Personal History Questionnaire, WPA
Interviewed by Arthur R. Hill Hempstead County, Ark. March 24, 1941.

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

1. Early settler's name
Frank T[F?]ellington colored
2. Address
908 North Hazel St.
3. Present occupation (most of the old timers are now retired).
Janitor cotton office McDar?itt & Strickland
4. Previous occupation or occupations.
Wood hauler
5. Date of birth.
May 7, 1861
6. Place of birth.
Clinton, n.c.
7. Married? To whom? When? Where?
Jane Herrin
8. If an immigrant give particulars. City and country of derivation, name of ship on which arrived, etc.
Came on a train
9. How long has the individual resided in Arkansas?
47 years
10. If not a native tell of the voyage to Arkansas. Boat? Wagon train? etc.
Came on train
11. Why did the individual come to Arkansas?
Left North Carolina on acct of death of wife & children
12. 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.)
Chimneys built with clay & pine boards had riven
13. What form of lighting was used in the early days? Pine knots? Tallow dips?
Candles poured at home? Oil or fat lamps? etc.
Brass oil lamps (small) & pine knots
14. When were electric lights first used in your community?
Lights 1894
15. 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 & pine knots
16. 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 game, farm produce, turkey, gray squirrel[sic], possum & fish of all kind
17. What kinds of clothes were worn and how manufactured?
 Woven jeans cloth, woven on spinning wheel
 18. Were there any interesting customs or incidents connected with early courtships? Was bundling ever practiced? (It is highly improbable but possible.) Were charivaries (usually pronounced 'shivaree' in Arkansas and the lower Mississippi Valley territory) frequent?
 Met girls at church. Horse & wagon, ox cart & wagon, horse & buggy. No bundling ever practiced. Serenades were frequent & common to newly married couples
 19. 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.)
 Flour in barrell[sic] \$10.00 barrell[sic].
 20. What were some of the incidents pertaining to the sharing of food and other supplies in times of common need?
 Food borrowed from neighbors also feed for stock till crop could be made. [new?] corn & rice beaten by hand in mortar.
 21. 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, corn, peas, wheat, rye, oats, and corn.
 22. What were early farm implements? Any homemade? If purchased, where? Prices?
 Cast plow, paints, shovels, Bull tongues, Georgia stocks, & twister turning plows,
 23. What were early industries in the community?
 Water mills, gins & horse power cotton press.
 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.)
 Polk salad, wild onions, mayhaws.
 25. 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.
 Log rolling, corn huskings, farming & wood cutting.
 26. Tell of early methods of combating forest fires, town or building fires.
 Cut ditches 5 feet wide & canal 8 feet wide
 27. Get origin of place and thing names such as hills, valleys, rivers, soughs, bayous, plants, animals, etc.
 Big Caharee South River, Black River & Fair River. Near Wilmington, N.C.
 28. Tell of early taverns, hotels, boarding houses, stagecoach stations, boat landings, etc.

- Taverns hotel style, names not known, very few and far apart.
29. Tell of early schools.
Most schools in Raleigh, N.C. & big towns
 30. Location of school? Late?
Clinton, N.C.
 31. Name of teacher?
[no answer]
 32. How were funds provided? Tuition? How much? Was payment made in kind?
Paid by tuition – good pay to teachers.
 33. School books used? Title? Author? (Many of the old plantations maintained tutors either for individual families or groups of families. Sometimes ‘school’ was conducted on the premises for darkies’[sic] youngsters. Check on such information.)
Blue back speller, Primmer, McGuffys 1st Reader
 34. What constituted the reading matter of the early settlers? Books? Magazines? Newspapers? Get titles and authors.
Newspapers weekly and almanacs (don’t remember names)
 35. Where was the first telegraph station in the community? When established?
Clinton, N.C.
 36. Tell of the early “Horse cars.’ When were trolley cars substituted? When buses?
Street cars pulled by Spanish mules, Raleigh, N.C.
 37. When and where was the first automobile seen?
T. R. King – Hope, Ark.
 38. When and where was the first train seen?
Wilmington, N.C. Coaches painted black.
 39. When and where was the first airplane seen?
Hot Springs – Dirigible – 1916
 40. When did automotive busses begin interurban operation? (Give descriptions on the five foregoing.)
Don’t know
 41. Early theatrical performances? Local people? Traveling stock companies?
John Robison Circus – 1866 – Clinton, N.C.
 42. Tell of any important local celebration in memory of any individual or event.
none
 43. Does the individual recall any early historical character such as Sam Houston, Co. James Bowie, former President Zachery Taylor, the James boys, etc.?
none
 44. Tell of any duels. Where were they fought? By whom? Why?
none
 45. Tell of any feuds. Who was involved? Where? Why?
River Fishermen Feud. “Toage Crumpler” & fishermen on river.
 46. Tell of any early tombstone inscriptions. Where?
none
 47. Tell of any bank robberies, stage holdups, executions of horse thieves or other impromptu executions, including lynchings. Give details.
Shot horse thieves–Bank robbers fled to Indian Territory.
 48. Tell of Civil War days, giving the fullest detail possible.
Civil War days conditions were bad for everybody.
 49. Tell of any battles, skirmishes, forays, etc., witnessed.
none

50. Tell of Reconstruction, the Carpetbaggers, scalawags, etc.
Carpetbaggers came as peddlers. Tried to deceive people.
51. Get all information possible regarding the original Ku Klux Klan or similar organizations.
Ku Klux Klan organized to stop carpetbaggers.
52. Tell of any participation in the establishment of any religious or fraternal organizations.
Baptist churches
53. Tell of any military affiliations.
none
54. Tell of any Indian mounds, cliff dwellings, caves, etc., that may be recalled. Get as accurate information as possible regarding artifacts, particularly such things as calendar stones, mortars, pottery, baskets, etc.
Indian Mounds, Clinton, N. C. Sampson County.
55. Tell of any other historic sites.
none
56. What is total number of descendants?
10 children – 2 wives
57. What are names and addresses of sons and daughters?
Hope, Ark – 1 daughter only living.
58. Name some of the grandchildren and greatgrandchildren, if any.
none
59. Tell of any books, diaries, journals, sketches, or newspaper articles the individual has written. Give details.
none