

MARGIE LEE LACY BYRD

Interview 241a

August 27, 2005, at 1012 Kurth Drive, Lufkin, Texas

Self Interview

Patsy Colbert, Transcriber

ABSTRACT: In this short self-interview, Margie Lee Lacy Byrd reminisces about taking the train from Lufkin, stopping in the Lacy settlement, which was named for her great-grandfather, Elmer Lacy. She also describes the process to flag down the train so it would stop in Lacy for passengers. Her grandfather, Elmer Lacy, Jr. and her father, Raymond Lacy, both worked for the railroad.

(This recording is mostly unintelligible, but the transcriber was able to transcribe parts of the self interview. The tape seems to have been recorded over itself by the subject. This story is also printed in the book, "Trinity County: A legend of its own", page 237.)

Margie Lee Lacy Byrd: I am trying to record the history of Trinity County concerning my great-grandfather, Elmer Lacy, Sr. Years ago this story was told to me by my grandfather, Elmer Lacy, Jr. Some of the history here is what some of it is. This community is named Lacy. It's named for my great-grandfather who came here from Georgia after slavery and settled here and this community was named Lacy. It is a lot of communities in this county that is named for some Ligon's.

He traveled all the way from Georgia to this territory which is now Angelina County. Years ago we had a passenger train that ran from Lufkin to Groveton and back that I used to ride on as a little girl. I had a free pass because my father worked on the railroad track. His name was Raymond Lacy. This little train used to stop at Lacy, at the road crossing, and the way people would catch it is my grandfather, Amos Lacy, would flag it and if the train came down across Caney Creek he would blow his whistle to let my grandfather know he was coming and if he looked out and saw the red handkerchief waving he would give a signal that he saw him and he would stop and pick up passengers. If he didn't see my grandfather when he started blowing he would let the whistle blow until he passed by the houses, when he stopped blowing, because we lived real close to the railroad track.

My grandfather, Amos Lacy, Jr. told me about that travel and how they got there to that place.

TAPE STOPPED

[Transcriber's note: Mrs. Byrd stopped the tape at this point and began recording again, partially over her previous recording. This accounts for the inaudibility of parts of the recording and the repetition of the story.]

TAPE STARTED

I hope this recording is a little better and a little plainer. I was testing the other one. I didn't really know exactly what I was doing, but this is the story of Lacy, Texas the community of Lacy.

I'm Margie Lacy Byrd. My great-grandfather settled there after slavery. He traveled all the way from Georgia. I didn't get this story from him because I didn't get to see him, but my grandfather, who is Amos Lacy, Jr. told me about that travel and how they got there to that place. It is a lot of little places in Trinity County that are named for Ligon. My great grandfather was a Ligon, Amos Lacy, Sr.

Some of this I witnessed myself. I remember when we used to have a passenger train that went from Groveton to Lufkin and back in a day, and one of the little places to get onboard that train was a crossroad in Lacy, not far from where my grandfather's home was. I spent a great deal of time there and to get on the train, to get that train to stop, my grandfather was the flag man. Anybody that wanted to catch the train, they always came by and my grandfather would carry them down to the crossroad because when the train started coming out of Groveton it would get to Caney Creek [and then] it would blow the whistle and if they saw my grandfather out there with that red pocket handkerchief flagging, they always had a little signal that they give him when they saw him they would stop and pick up passengers and if he didn't see my grandfather when he crossed that creek and started going, he would stay on that whistle clean until he got past our house 'cause we lived real close to the railroad track. It was always a joy for me to hear and see that passenger train and I rode it a great deal in my childhood because me and my mother had a pass on it for free because my father worked on the railroad track. My father was named Raymond Lacy.

That is a part of history that I hope will be put in the book and maybe the ones that is writing it can word it better than I'm wording it but, that is my story just like I remember it and like I saw it. I hope it makes the book. Thank you.

TAPE STOPPED
END OF INTERVIEW