Jasper Raus Scott: Mm-hmm. And, see, right today, early and she could work for him five years and, you know, she working for the government going back and finding, and she found a lot of them still living back there in the woods. She had to park her car down and walk back there.

Jasper Raus Scott: I went there and lived down there three years and four months. And during that time try to find some of my people. And I found a few of them, but I found a lot of them ain't never even seen a train.

Sonya Ramsey: And where was your family located? Where was your family from?

Jasper Raus Scott: They lived back in the woods. They didn't even to come out.

Eddie Francis Jr.: But it was in Halifax County, right?

Sonya Ramsey: In this county?

Jasper Raus Scott: Yes, in Halifax County.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay.

Eddie Francis Jr.: They place called Hollister.

Jasper Raus Scott: Halifax and Warren County, that's where the Indians are.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah.

Kara Miles: What tribe Indians?

Jasper Raus Scott: Huh?

Kara Miles: What tribe?

Jasper Raus Scott: Haliwa.

Kara Miles: Okay.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: Haliwa and later on they identified with the Saponi. You see, they—

Eddie Francis Jr.: But Saponi was first, right?

Jasper Raus Scott: They just established. See, they didn't have a name. All they could tell is they were different. I tell them, I told the chief, I got his picture there, he gave me a book. I went down, I carried my daughters out of there. One of my daughters had to have something for her thesis and she wrote me a letter from Washington DC, asked me to write her a letter. And so I wrote her a letter, and she said, "Oh," she said, "They took that letter. That's exactly what they want." And I told the history of our people. And so, they weren't unorganized when my daddy was there. My daddy been dead—You don't remember Papa, do you?

Eddie Francis Jr.: No sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: You just knew of him. He been dead 60 years.

Eddie Francis Jr.: No, I'm only 50.

Louise Scott: Is this thing too hot?

Jasper Raus Scott: And I'm—Yeah, he been dead 60 years.

Louise Scott: I don't want it to be hot in here.

Sonya Ramsey: No, it's fine.

Jasper Raus Scott: But they didn't have name. They got scouted. When they had the death march and made them all go to Oklahoma, a lot of them hid out in the woods. And they out down there, but about 10 years ago, they didn't get federal recognition, and so they gave themselves, they had to give themselves a name. And so they gave Saponi; they gave Haliwa, I mean. Well Haliwa was, Hali was Halifax, W-A was Warren.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay, the different counties.

Jasper Raus Scott: Because, it crossed the line.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Two counties, yeah.

Jasper Raus Scott: So that's all that mean, Haliwa, when you said Haliwa Indian. Haliwa Indian. Well later on, they tried to identify with the Cherokees in western North Carolina, but the Cherokees wouldn't accept them.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Why not?

Jasper Raus Scott: They said they were too mixed. But Saponi accepted us. Saponi is the original. That's its original tribe. So now, they're known as Haliwa-Saponi. I got one of their books, I went to see a powwow [indistinct 00:02:39]. So that's why the Saponi come in. Saponi said the Lumbee wouldn't accept. Lumbee was Croatan. And they changed to Lumbee because they—most of them down [indistinct 00:02:48]. And I've been on two reservations. I've been on the 'Munkey reservation. She called it 'Munkey reservation, it's Pamunkey. P-A-M-U-N-K-E-Y. Pamunkey reservation in Virginia. I been out there, and I also been to the little Croatan, which is Lumbee now, down in Scotland County. I haven't been in Cherokee. I've been planning to go but, I never got out there yet.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Croatan.

Jasper Raus Scott: But that's right, that's the seat is Cherokees of North Carolina. Some years ago, they went and put a road through there. And they was going to put it through here by right at the end of the road there. When they searched up the record thing, they found they couldn't put it through there because the government didn't own the land. The government made some kind of treaty with them, but they were still holding the land, and so they couldn't put them through there until all of them signed.

Jasper Raus Scott: They couldn't put that road through there. And they held on as long as they want to, but they finally persuaded them to put it through there, knowing it'd be good for them. So now they makes their living off the tourists and things coming down. I guess you read about the Cherokee in Western North Carolina. That's out near Tennessee. Yeah.

Sonya Ramsey: Mm-hmm. And your grandfather was a Haliwa Indian?

Jasper Raus Scott: My grandfather, he was just a born of Indian parents.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: See, there was no tribe. They didn't have a tribal name. In other words, if one tell you say, "Well I'm not a Negro." They call them Negro, they go "Well I'm not Colored." They say, "I'm not Colored." They say, "Oh, What are you?" They say "We're different." And that's all they could tell you.

Jasper Raus Scott: And I told the chief about it, Mr. Robert Richardson; I got his picture right there. I told him about it and he didn't deny it, because he knew I was telling the truth. I said, "When I lived out here," I said, "y'all didn't have no name." He said, "No, we didn't." He said, "We had to be savage. Y'all named our group." He said, "But you got a name since I left here 50 years ago." Because I stayed out here three years and four months. No, I didn't know him. I knew his wife's daddy. I knew all the older people which were dead, but I didn't know him. He was a boy. He's about 73 years old, now.

Jasper Raus Scott: But they didn't have a name. They lost their identity. See when they made them all go away to Oklahoma, they hid out. And they didn't want to call themselves Indian.

Kara Miles: Oh, because they'd get in trouble?

Jasper Raus Scott: They'd get in trouble. Now, you correct. The first one I ever saw, I didn't know my daddy was one because my daddy didn't even tell people he was Indian. In other words, back when I was a kid, I don't know when Rube was a little kid, maybe his daddy was like this. But when I was a kid, people were really afraid of Indians. Indians, they could come right up there, right to the road here and set up a tent there and stay there three or four days, and nobody didn't bother them. People didn't bother them. They were actually afraid of them.

Sonya Ramsey: Why were they afraid of them?

Jasper Raus Scott: They were afraid of them because you see the Indians, they didn't have anything and they would steal. In other words, I been raising chickens about all my life. There was a tribe of Indians right down, they didn't have anything to eat, they'd steal all my chickens. Even my hogs and all that. They were impoverished, didn't have anything. I know this to be true. Because some—

Kara Miles: They had something—

Jasper Raus Scott: —some pitched in our community. The first set pitched right where the cemetery is now and they stayed there three or four days.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Which cemetery?

Jasper Raus Scott: Huh?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Which cemetery?

Jasper Raus Scott: Down Chapel Cemetery.

Eddie Francis Jr.: You remember the church we came by, I told you my grandma—

Sonya Ramsey: Uh-huh.

Jasper Raus Scott: Where you all were buried out there, that was in Pine Woods.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh, yeah.

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh-huh. It was field right down there, right on before you crossed the bridge, coming from the church was a field back there, right by somebody. I don't know what they raised. Something planted down on that, but the rest of it was in the woods. And the Indians lived, they pitched a tent and stayed there three or four days. I don't know what they done, if they stealing chickens, or whatever. Some of

them come into Halifax several times, they made them leave. The law went down there and made them leave, people were raising, stealing some of their chickens.

Eddie Francis Jr.: But they was doing that out of survival.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right. Yeah, out of survival. And another thing why people was afraid of them, they were called savage. They wasn't recognizing these northern people, and people were actually afraid of them. Heard they were savage, they eat each other and all that, and that was far wrong. That was—Cannibalism didn't exist so far as my father knew. But he would never tell you he was Indian, because people would be afraid of him and they wouldn't want to recognize him. He just said he wasn't Negro, that's all he ever told his children.

Jasper Raus Scott: He lived 67 years and died. Without his—only thing he was a skilled medicine man. That's right, he got his training but he adopted into a family, about 15 of them I reckon. And he adopted in the family. His uncle Brady can tell you about it. Brady can you about a time he said he'd like to die and said [indistinct 00:07:11] die—Yeah, Brady tell that thing, he remember that.

Eddie Francis Jr.: His daddy was a doctor.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, that's right.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah he was a self-made doctor. He took that up in run with that. Though he had a—

Louise Scott: You like that chicken?

Jasper Raus Scott: —he wasn't ever licensed. He was under another, he got another doctor to let him practice under him. And this doctor told the druggers, all the druggers, said, "He writes a prescription," he said, "y'all fill it." So anyhow—

Eddie Francis Jr.: That was a White doctor?

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, a White doctor. Doctor Ferguson. So anyhow, before I was born, I'm the youngest of eight children.

Kara Miles: I'm a turn that fan off.

Jasper Raus Scott: And before I was born, people down there used to tell about the time they carried him to court. Mr. Francis knew about it, his grandfather. Time they carried him to court for practicing medicine without a license. He must have heard that and said he called a case. And he said, "Jackson, you are charged here with practicing medicine without a license." And he said, "Doctor Ferguson", he's a White doctor, went

down and spoke, said, "He don't need no license." He said, "He's a better doctor than I am, he doctors under me." And he recognized him, too.

Sonya Ramsey: You said he was a medicine—He learned how to be a doctor from the Indians?

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, that's right.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: That was the hand, but see they didn't call themselves doctor, they call themself Indian, medicine men.

Sonya Ramsey: Mm-hmm. And who were his patients he worked on? Black people? Did he work on White people?

Jasper Raus Scott: White people, Black and White people. A lot of White people. Because it was a settlement. They don't mind. At that time was a settlement.

Eddie Francis Jr.: That's where we just came from.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Reason I was laughing, Mr. Scott, was because I was telling them about Mr. Hawk operated on his brother.

Jasper Raus Scott: Correct. That was my cousin.

Eddie Francis Jr.: For appendicitis.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay. That's your cousin.

Jasper Raus Scott: They were all cousins.

Sonya Ramsey: It run in the family.

Jasper Raus Scott: They were all Indians [indistinct 00:09:14]. Tell you about it, but man named Hawkins was my mother's first cousin.

Sonya Ramsey: Can you tell us about that?

Jasper Raus Scott: Huh?

Sonya Ramsey: About the appendicitis?

Jasper Raus Scott: The appendicitis? Now that was before I was born, but he got it all right. Because I hear him telling—His brother's name was Kit. You didn't know him, did you?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes I did.

Jasper Raus Scott: You did?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, well he about the raggediest man you ever saw. You know that thing couldn't write. He had to put his hand right. He bought a boiler from Mrs. Chipman with how much that ring worth, and he wrote the contract. No, Mr. Terry William, a White man wrote the contract. And he put on his old glasses with some strings on it and made him change that contract. He made him rewrite it. And when he went out, Mr. Chetley, he was an old [indistinct 00:09:57] beard down here. I tell you right now, he goes, "That old Kit is out trying to make sense there. You don't fool him these kind of things."

Jasper Raus Scott: But he operated on his brother. Carried him to the doctor, the doctor said he had appendicitis and they carried him to the hospital. Oh, I reckon it was a hospital in Rocky Mount. I don't know. Anyway, he took him down to the Hawk and operated on him himself, and liked to die. But he pulled it off, he lived. And he—

Eddie Francis Jr.: Pondview Hospital.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, Pondview. Uh huh, I thought it was probably Pondview since it's right down there. Yeah.

Louise Scott: That you don't know, but yet you know it.

Kara Miles: Did he not trust the hospital? Is that why he operated on him himself? Or for his own brother, did he not want to take him to the hospital?

Jasper Raus Scott: Now, I never known exactly why it was, whether it was lack of money or whatnot, but he just figured he could do it.

Kara Miles: How did he learn how to do that? The surgery?

Jasper Raus Scott: I don't know. That was too far back, but evidently they done something like that before. Well, you take back in my day, young day, when a person went to the hospital, he just about dead. There were several people in the community that were doctors. My mother, she was a herbalist. My father said he never got to learn it, but my mother did. My mother was a healer and she was from White family, plus Indian.

Do you know Claude Healy?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Sure.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, Claude is my mother's brother. Claude Healy's granddad is my mother's brother, full brother. You had no idea.

Eddie Francis Jr.: I sure didn't.

Jasper Raus Scott: And I learned Claude was 60 some years before I learned it. I knew all her people that'll break [indistinct 00:11:40], but I ain't know who they were. So, I put in and decided to go and find some of them. Now, I made the trip out there and find them. And I identified myself right quick. I think Claude and Bunny Bo. Already know Bunny; Bunny lives out here and both of them joined the tribe, I think. [indistinct 00:12:02] because I was talking to Claude. I had a bunch of folks around and I was talking to Claude; that was some years ago. I was talking to him, telling him about background, his wife and all, and I told him I had just come from Hostings, so Claude asked me, "What you been doing? Are you exploring our background?" I said, "Yeah, I was." With that, maybe he joined them. I think he joined them.

Jasper Raus Scott: I know Bunny did. Bunny lives out there. His name is Joe, but if you call—

Eddie Francis Jr.: Joe Healy, I remember him.

Jasper Raus Scott: —him Joe, I went out there looking for him and called him Joe, ain't nobody know. I said Bunny, everybody knew that. You know him?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Sure.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah! Oh, yeah. That's my families.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Now, let's get back to Mr. Hawkins. Now that family was an unusual family.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Knowledge-wise, you know. Now, this is the man that operated on his brother. I mean, machinery that they never seen before and he's gifted the same way, Mr. Scott is.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay.

Eddie Francis Jr.: You know, it's a challenge to him and he's going to find out. In fact, he has a shoe shop right next door and one of the best, the greatest shoe maker that you will find, and he's known all over the country, all over North Carolina anyway, as a shoe maker. And some of the machines that you have out there in the shop, you made them yourself, didn't you?

Jasper Raus Scott: Right.

Eddie Francis Jr.: That's right.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, I built them.

Eddie Francis Jr.: And Mr. Hawkins, as I remember him, was the same way. The first man I knew that go around, taking pictures was Mr. Hawkins, when nobody even had a camera. He was coming around in a van, you remember that?

Jasper Raus Scott: Right.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Had a van made up, you could sit in it.

Jasper Raus Scott: Had a PDQ camera then, might've been.

Eddie Francis Jr.: That's right. People would line up to get in that van and take that picture, and I think he would charge like, a quarter for a picture at that time.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right, and he made good pictures.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Sure did.

Sonya Ramsey: What decade was this? About what time?

Eddie Francis Jr.: This was in the late '40s and early '50s, because he died somewhere in the early '50s, didn't he? Or maybe right about mid '50s, '57 or '58. Something like that.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, now I can take you back to his father. You don't remember him.

Eddie Francis Jr.: No, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: There was three of them, Jedda, Joe and Henry. The first I ever heard of Mohammad was uncle Henry, that was the third of my uncles. My mother was from the family. You heard of uncle Joe Hawkins, didn't you?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes, sir. Didn't know him>

Jasper Raus Scott: Your daddy bought that place down there, right down from the house, from the Joe Hawkins from the hired Jones, his daddy's house was down at the bottom.

Eddie Francis Jr.: You mean my granddaddy.

Jasper Raus Scott: Your granddaddy.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Right.

Jasper Raus Scott: And it was about 10 or 12 wells, they were caught in the sand.

Eddie Francis Jr.: I helped him fill them up.

Jasper Raus Scott: All right, you know what I'm talking about.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Right, there at the railroad.

Jasper Raus Scott: Uncle Joe, he dug holes all over the country. He slaved an awful lot. He was in the Civil War.

Sonya Ramsey: Okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: That was Joe Healy. And he believed, and he was the one that predicted World War number one when I was a baby. You heard all that.

Eddie Francis Jr.: I sure did.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, I'm a witness to it. I went out many a night with him and he'd say, "Ooh! Look at all this!" He said, "Come on, come on son! Come on." Be in the wind field. Said, "Look out there. Ooh! Look at them flying in the air! They're dropping bombs! Ooh!" And he'd just have a fit out there, mama would tell him, "Joe, come on in the house." She said, "Lord, [indistinct 00:15:35] are looking down." Said, "They're even shooting from under the water."

Jasper Raus Scott: And George actually joined and Johnny stayed and enjoyed the silver. Sit down many times and told her he predicted that they'd come just in over and fight, come just like he said.

Eddie Francis Jr.: And this was before aircraft, right?

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right.

Sonya Ramsey: He had a vision about it?

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right, that's right. He was a prophet and didn't know it. He predicted these things. He predicted, and just like he predicted, the war came. He died during that time. He died, he was about 93 years old. He was so old for some time, he drew all the affluent people up on a wagon, bring him wherever

he stayed at.

Sonya Ramsey: You said he was in the Civil War. Did he ever tell you about anything that happened to him during the Civil War?

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, yes he told us plenty that happened to him. He was in the Civil War, and about how he load the cannon, told us where the cannon ball was and how he shooting, and how folks was dying on the battlefield and he didn't never expect to get back. And was another man here, he was born in slavery. I'm just one that's living that actually talked to people that was born in slavery. Most of them are dead, but I've actually talked with him. Sit down and had a conversation with them, with people born in slavery.

Jasper Raus Scott: Now, his great-grandmother, Aunt Nancy was born in slavery. You don't remember her.

Eddie Francis Jr.: No sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: I do.

Eddie Francis Jr.: The name is, you know, but—

Jasper Raus Scott: I remember many times I been to her house. She had a grape vine there. She ain't allow nobody go to the grape vine without asking. She stayed in the house, she never cracked the door but that wide when she come to the door. She'd see me coming, she'd crack that door. "Hey there, boy. Don't tell me, I don't want y'all squirting my grape vine now." As a little boy, I remember that thing just good as anything in the world.

Jasper Raus Scott: Then there was a Mr. Harberry that born here. Now his wife was named Matilda and they were very prominent people. In other words, she operated the café here. And she published the first—I can't remember the name of the paper. She published the first paper that was published in Halifax, newspaper.

Sonya Ramsey: For Black people or the White people?

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, it was in general. Mostly were news, but she covered, she published that paper.

Eddie Francis Jr.: She was White .

Jasper Raus Scott: Her name was Matilda Harberry. All of her children is dead now. She was born in slavery. Well, I, once a year, made it my business to go see old people, mostly born in slavery. Want to sit down and talk to them. I'd go to Ms. Harberry, I'd go to Ms. Richardson, I'd go to Mrs. Cook lived right down there. They was people who were here, born in slavery, and who were the next born.

Jasper Raus Scott: Anyhow, that's Ms. Mary Jones, she's still living. She's 93 and I told her that Mrs. Harberry went to Shaw University, I think she told me she went to Shaw University. And Ms. Mary tells me that she

didn't go. She didn't ever go to college, but here's what Ms. Harberry told me and I believe exactly what she said. She died in Buckworth [indistinct 00:18:57]. Ms. Harberry said, "My daddy was White and my mother was Black." She told me that more than one time. I sitting down, talking to her, herself.

Jasper Raus Scott: She said, "My mother died, and so I stayed in a log house with my father." She said, "He was good, my White father." She said, "He had a lot of land and is one of these slaves had him boss, looking after everything." And said, "He told me, he said, 'Matilda, I got to go away.' He say, 'I'm going to leave you with,' whatever the name was. And he said, 'You'll be taken care of.'" So she say, "I understand that he had to go away to war, Civil War. So he told me, he said, 'I got to go to war. You pack up all your clothes, I'm a carry you [indistinct 00:20:02].'"

Jasper Raus Scott: Said, "He left me up there, took me that morning and daddy helped there," said, "I was 12 years old. And he told him, he said, 'Listen. Here's her money.' He said, 'I want you to finish school here. I want y'all to send her to college.'" And said he did, but Ms. Mary to the best of her recollection, she said Ms. Harberry never went to college. And Ms. Harberry told me that more than one time.

Jasper Raus Scott: So I asked her husband; her husband used to [indistinct 00:20:12] the whole thing. And he had the reputation, inside of them was them barrels, and molasses was in barrels. And he had the reputation of being, and he was, he was about the strongest man you'd ever see in your life. And he could pick up a barrel of molasses and throw it in the wagon. Carry it to the store or wherever they want it to go. So, I was talking to him one day and he was in his 90s too. And I was talking to him one day, and he was telling me about the war and he was up here at Petersburg, the battlefield. I been up to see those battlefields. And he says, I was telling him, asking him how he got down here. He was born in Pennsylvania, I believe.

Jasper Raus Scott: Anyway, I said, "How did you get out here?" He said, "Well, I'll tell you. I was going with a girl and she was a pretty girl." And he said, "I fed the general's horses." And he said, "One day, she stood out until I got through feeding the horse and I started walking along." He said, "A cannonball hit her and tore that whole side off." And he said, "It killed her right there on the spot." He said, "So I didn't have another girlfriend, didn't know nobody. Soon, the war was over." And he said, "I heard that down south, they was paying 25 cents a 100 for picking cotton." He said, "I began to travel. I ended up down here in Terry, North Carolina."

Jasper Raus Scott: And he said, "I could pick 300 pounds of cotton a day, 75 cents." He said, "I tell you, that was some money!" And then he'd bring her [indistinct 00:21:59]. And I went as long as he lived and was able to. He finally got so blind, they carried him back to Pennsylvania and he died. So, he was one.

Jasper Raus Scott: Then my uncle; there's three of them. Uncle William, and Jackson, which was daddy. My daddy was a doctor, but I didn't know him til after he was dead. He was a doctor in the—Did you know he was a doctor?

Eddie Francis Jr.: No, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: He was a doctor [indistinct 00:22:24].

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh, no.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah. My uncle William told me one time, he said, "I don't know whether Jackson is our half-brother or step-brother. Ma and them wouldn't tell us," and said, "She raised him without ever knowing except for he's not our brother." So she brought him there, but somewhere how she got him, I don't know.

Jasper Raus Scott: So somebody had told one of my sister-in-laws, she died a few years ago in May. Somebody had gone around and told them, and told several more. And my uncle William told me that. His name says Jared Prichett Richardson was his name. Was his daddy, let me get it right. And he told me who his daddy was. And he said, "Ma brought—" Well at that time, sometimes they adopted a child; that child would grow and sometimes never did know who it was. Because they had it out when their baby was born and said mama find more stump holes, the midwife find the stump hole and go out there and cook then. That was the way we had it. Did you know that—

Louise Scott: Lord, you used that?

Jasper Raus Scott: Oh, yeah. That was the way—

Louise Scott: Brought it in a cup to you?

Jasper Raus Scott: So they brought him there. She died [indistinct 00:23:14]. But this man, he had a club foot. One of his feet was turned bottom up, just like that and he walked with a stick all his life.

Louise Scott: Jasper know a lot of stuff. He told me lots since I been married to him. He sure have.

Jasper Raus Scott: This man brought him there. What I never could find out and I can't find out from nobody; all the old folks are dead. Mr. Richardson told me, he said, "Well, only thing I can tell you, if he's a Richardson, he's kin to us because all we Richardsons are kin." But he couldn't trace back that name, Jared Prichett Richardson. They got a Jerry Richardson, but that wasn't him. Because my daddy supposed to been born in 1858.

Jasper Raus Scott: So anyhow, my aunt Priss, which is my grandmother. I didn't know her, she died before I was born. She was a doctor woman. They had doctor women all in the country. Didn't have doctors like you got there, just had women or men that did doctoring. Some of them were witch doctors and some of them were root doctors.

Sonya Ramsey: What's a witch doctor? What's a root doctor? What's the difference between a witch doctor and a root doctor?

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, a witch doctor, he use such signs. In other words, if I couldn't get along with my wife, we go to a witch doctor; she could straighten us out. Now, Morris—What's his name? There was two, I know them but I can't remember their names. They were Morris. There was two, they lived between Wilson. See, I knew the Wilson's, and they had a trade as sure as you born.

Jasper Raus Scott: Now, they were witch doctors. They were called witch doctors. She don't remember, but she went when the lady down there. The lady went down and she helped, she met Mr. Morris. Let me get it right. One of them was a witch doctor and the other one was a root doctor. Now, a root doctor, he doctored just like any doctor; roots, herbs, berries and balms.

Sonya Ramsey: Oh, okay. Okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: But now, the witch doctor, boy I tell you this incident. A man went to—Morris Bond was one of them's names. Forgot the other name, but they were twins. But a man's wife had gone away so he went to Mr. Morris Bond, the witch doctor. I know the man, I can't remember his name yet. He went down there and told him, say, "Mr. Bond, my wife is gone and I want her back home. Can you get her back?" He said, "Oh, yeah."

Jasper Raus Scott: He asked him what he'd charge him, and I don't know. They say he didn't charge, says he would just give him whatever. So he gave him a half a gallon jug with something in it. He said, "You put this at the foot of her bed and you count the days, 49 days out, she'll be in the bed." Told him, "All right." Went on and sure enough, that happened. So he was a witch doctor at the time. And he even had it, they could take a knife and a fork and do something to a chair that if you sat down, you'd have trouble getting up. And you see, that worked. Now I ain't actually talked to anybody, but I talked to this man.

Jasper Raus Scott: And there's another incident that I talk a man—What was that? Oh, yeah. That was the other one, though. The one other doctor. He went to him and they give him something to take. And he said, "I can't swallow that." He said, "Watch me," and he took it. He said, "Go on home, you'll be all right." And that man went home and for a day he was bad off, and then he got just as well as anything. So he went back to him and told him, say, "It worked."

Jasper Raus Scott: So it's a miracle. Now they were, see the old people now, they can tell you. You might run across someone else who was a real old people in that era, can tell you. But they were known in Halifax County and everywhere. So the difference was the root doctor performed tricks and the herb doctor, the other doctor, he doctored by some herbs. Now, it was a root doctor down there, his granddaddy must've killed him because they ain't never seen him. Or grand step-daddy. Uncle William. You know about him? He'd know Watkins, don't you? You heard about that, about busting Watkins' head?

Eddie Francis Jr.: No, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, I knew Watkins and Coleman too. Knew both of them, and so he was going about charging people a quarter. You got to kill his chicken and cook him and save him the gizzards. So, William

put out that he wasn't doing nothing in the world, but just robbing folks out of the money. And Watkins got hold of him. Samuel was with him; Samuel was a little boy with him. You remember Samuel?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Samuel Silver?

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, Samuel Scott.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Scott, I mean yeah. No, I don't remember. I only remember the name.

Jasper Raus Scott: Oh, well he was with him, a little boy. And so, Watkins got hold of him and uncle Williams put out that he wasn't nothing but robbing folks. So Watkins got hold of him and one day he went up into the woods, every where you live and every where I live, just full of woods. Just tend the crop here and yonder. And if you went from your house to mine, you went through the woods. You understand?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Right.

Jasper Raus Scott: So, Watkins got hold of him and run up there with him one day. And he says, "William." They called him Bill, too. Said, "Tell me that you been around here putting out some news on me." And he said, "If you fool with me, I'll put a spell on you." And uncle William said, "If you mess with me—" Uncle William walked with a stick. You remember William?

Eddie Francis Jr.: No, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: No? You heard of him?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: That was your step-granddaddy.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Right.

Jasper Raus Scott: And uncle William told him, said, "I'll put this stick upside your head." He said, "Ah!" And he performed some kind of miracle. Went around like that and uncle William said, "Don't you come close to me. Don't you come close to me with that mess!" And William was scared of him. So when he got a little too close to Watkins. Watkins been around here right three or four years. He got a little too close to uncle William and William cracked him with that stick. And he come at guy again, he cracked him again. Watkins left during that night, don't know what become. Nobody's never heard from him since. You've never heard of him, have you?

Eddie Francis Jr.: I heard it before, yes sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh huh, well that's true. Watkins, he never came back anymore. And he had been around

there all—Well, Mr. Francis, I was here down in the barn with Horace Jones. He doctored on him before he cut his leg off. Remember one-legged Horace Jones?

Eddie Francis Jr.: I remember, yes sir. I remember him.

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh huh, well he doctored on that. That was one of his patients. That was the first place I met him. When he come, you always had to cook chicken and save him the gizzards.

Kara Miles: Why did they save the gizzard for?

Jasper Raus Scott: I don't know. I don't know.

Louise Scott: That's what he wanted. You know, it's big for somebody that don't know what the baby's for.

Jasper Raus Scott: But they had all such tricks like that. In other words, they'll take a dog's liver and dry it out, and put it in a bag and carry it with them. No dog would bite them. They say you get some dirt off a graveyard, but I don't know about that.

Eddie Francis Jr.: It does what?

Jasper Raus Scott: Get dirt off by a dead person born. Get some dirt off that and put it in a bag. Something like a little flower or tobacco bag. People used to—One of those cigarettes first days, you had to roll your own. You take a little tobacco bag, put it in there. A lot of them carry that because all them old dogs then mostly would bite.

Jasper Raus Scott: But these new doctors, they had a thing, they carried a dried dog's liver in a bag. And they tell me—I don't know it to be true, but they tell me the dog wouldn't bite them. I don't think it bite Mr. Coleman. I don't remember enough about him to talk about him, but I remember Watkins all right. That actually happened during my daytime.

Jasper Raus Scott: But going back to tell you about—Well, I told you though, about Mr. [indistinct 00:30:53]. I told you about that. So I've actually talked in a lot of these stories and things. I kept a lot of them and a lot of them, you know, just drifted away. I even made a record of a whole lot of things. My daughters came down a few years ago and was cleaning up, and destroyed the records of some things I done had for over 50 years.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh my goodness.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right, and I don't have a worldly recording.

Eddie Francis Jr.: One of the things I was telling them about was the [indistinct 00:31:17] community and how those men came together and bought that entire community. That was the largest purchase of land by Blacks in those days, recorded. And he know the people who did it. He know every one of them.

Kara Miles: How did they go about doing that?

Jasper Raus Scott: My father wrote deeds, married couples, he was a licensed minister.

Kara Miles: Okay, and a doctor.

Jasper Raus Scott: He wrote deeds and married couples. Practiced medicine. He had a large store right near where the home place is now.

Eddie Francis Jr.: We went down there.

Jasper Raus Scott: And I set up there many days. His father, the first tractor I ever saw, he bought the first tractor in that community.

Eddie Francis Jr.: My grandfather.

Jasper Raus Scott: Your grandfather. The tractor had lights, so he'd go out there and plow a lot.

Louise Scott: He taught me a lot.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right. We had all our land. And really there's something else, I been able to tell the historical. Right down there's a railroad, where you cross the railroad? About 400—I don't know how many feet, but anyway, to the left before you cross it, it's a iron rock called [indistinct 00:32:38]. It's that big.

Eddie Francis Jr.: It used to be there.

Jasper Raus Scott: Is it gone?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well you know, I used to go down there and get the mail and Mr. Francis buried that. He buried that.

Louise Scott: He sure did, I remember.

Jasper Raus Scott: And I went down and looked at it. And he buried some old iron stuff with him. It was so big, couldn't move it. So he dug a whole and buried it. And since then, it's gone.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Mm-hmm, yes sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, good.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Those same wells that you say the man dug, he used to cover the wells with.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right. Oh, he did?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Right.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, he buried it, he dug it up then. He buried it because it was so big, he couldn't move it.

Eddie Francis Jr.: That's exactly right.

Jasper Raus Scott: A lot of that.

Eddie Francis Jr.: I helped them do it.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, yeah? Is that so?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yeah.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, I'll be darned. Well, that was years ago when he buried it because when I was quite a boy. I used to, I'd sit on it. Yes, sirree. But I don't want anybody to know about it. I say, "I'm going to get to there," because that might still be there and I think it's a historical value.

Kara Miles: Right, right.

Eddie Francis Jr.: It's sitting right out in the middle of the field.

Jasper Raus Scott: Huh?

Eddie Francis Jr.: It was sitting right out in the middle of the field. It was near where that meal was.

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh huh. Well, that was Gaston Company. That was before Delmar Company come there.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh yeah?

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Mm-hmm.

Jasper Raus Scott: The rock I'm talking about was sitting there before Delmar come there. Delmar Company in about 1916. This was about 19—I remember when they first come there.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh, yeah?

Jasper Raus Scott: Yep. Because that 1916, they loaded the last boiler. 1926, I helped load it. The last piece of equipment, I helped load it. Every one that worked there dead to me. Now, way to help you, I came from Wilson. Worked out, helped loading all that stuff.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh yeah?

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh huh, sure did. And that was 1926. When Mr. Morris left, everything left. Left the post office to Daniel Silver. He run the post office for a while and everybody gone, nobody's getting no mail, so they come own and they close the post office down.

Eddie Francis Jr.: That's right.

Kara Miles: That's in Delmar?

Jasper Raus Scott: That was in Delmar.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Right down where we went to the railroad?

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Now, this man that he was just talking about, Mr. Silver, he was a Black man. He was a postmaster. In those days, that's in 1926.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right.

Kara Miles: So when did they close the post office?

Jasper Raus Scott: Closed the post office.

Kara Miles: In 1926?

Jasper Raus Scott: And the post office is—A lot of people even post master's now, but they know I'm right. Post master was Lawn, on account of [indistinct 00:35:02].

Eddie Francis Jr.: That's right the name of the town was Log.

Jasper Raus Scott: Did I ever tell you how he got his name?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: Okay.

Eddie Francis Jr.: When the men got off the train, they didn't see nothing but logs.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, you see that used to be before I was born, that used to be Reed's Crossing, how you cross the railroad up further was Buck's Crossing, if I ever heard of Buck's Crossing.

Eddie Francis Jr.: That's right.

Jasper Raus Scott: So, gas and lumber company, my father said came down. They wanted the post office but didn't naming the Gaston, but they couldn't do that because that gas was right overt river here. They couldn't name it Delmar because it was another place that had a place named Delmar so that was hooked. And the place was growing about 300 people who had assembled there, that come there.

Jasper Raus Scott: And so, they sent a delegation there on the train, of White men, to see if they could find a name. And Mr. Silver and my daddy, the man we tell about who owned the land, and probably your daddy. I don't know, but I know Mr. Silver and my uncle Dave, and papa all met down there.

Louise Scott: Is that the book?

Jasper Raus Scott: No, that's her book.

Louise Scott: Huh? That's hers?

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh huh. The shoe fly into the train and it stopped there 10:30 in the morning, you had a flagger. And it stayed in the evening, and that was the train. So, they could have a train station, but they couldn't have a post office in Delmar. So this man came up there and they suggested different names. Dad looked at the list and said, "We already got that in North Carolina."

Jasper Raus Scott: So one of the men, now I wasn't there, but that was the story. So it's very true; it come from all of them, all them old folks. So one of the men looked across and they had about five acres of logs. When they brought logs in on train, [indistinct 00:36:51] was there in there. He brought logs and they dumped the surface logs right on the ground, and they'd pick them up as they need them. So from here, I would say there was houses all around us. [indistinct 00:37:12] houses or a stereo company. The Carolina stereo company. So one of the men said, "Well, I don't see nothing here but a bunch of buildings and a bunch of logs."

Jasper Raus Scott: He said, "Well, how about let's name it Log?" And so the name is Log. Now I got many letter—I thought I had a letter from Virginia that was wrote for me a long time ago—

Eddie Francis Jr.: I want one of those letters.

Jasper Raus Scott: —out of Log, North Carolina, but there's some here, one here somewhere. But I looked at it and saw it had moved to Imfield. May the 10th, 1926, I left Delmar for good.

Louise Scott: Come to my house.

Jasper Raus Scott: This girl, she wrote me a letter. She wrote me a card, she wrote it at Imfield because I told her—

Louise Scott: Took me from another fellow.

Jasper Raus Scott: —I thought it was Log, but it weren't. But I got one from someone here or another, and I can tell some of the past masters now, and they don't know nothing about it. They get through looking at me. I told two post masters here, and they looked up and said, "You're right."

Eddie Francis Jr.: You showed it to me.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, there you go.

Kara Miles: How many people lived in Delmar?

Jasper Raus Scott: It was about 300 people worked there. Yeah, I never known how many houses they built for those people, but it was a bunch of those houses.

Eddie Francis Jr.: I remember the last one they tore down. I helped my grandfather tear them down. It was up there where Elijah Silver used to live.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, I worked there six months tearing down a house.

Eddie Francis Jr.: You know, one thing I remember about that? The toilets were all built over a ditch.

Louise Scott: Let me get that old door from behind you.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Do you remember?

Jasper Raus Scott: Built over a ditch?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Over a ditch.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, I never heard of that. Ain't heard that before.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: I know how all of them was built, alright now, but I didn't know it was built over a ditch. Well, what they call that place back there, now? Where the Colored folks live.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Where?

Jasper Raus Scott: You remember you go straight across and had the houses on both sides and you go down and then you made a L turn, but they were pointing that way.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Across the railroad?

Jasper Raus Scott: No, the house in Delmar. Do you remember the houses in Delmar? You don't remember how they were situated, do you?

Eddie Francis Jr.: No, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: Oh, no. That's too far back.

Eddie Francis Jr.: I remember the ones on this side of the railroad where the rock was, you was speaking of. Because I helped my grandfather clear that land off.

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh huh.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Anything across the railroad, I don't remember anything about it.

Jasper Raus Scott: Well, all of them was across the failed road. Wasn't nothing across this side, but the mill. The mill was this side. Weren't no houses on this side.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Mm-hmm. Mr. Dan Silver's house was on this side.

Jasper Raus Scott: Daniel Silver's house was way back up. Yeah, that's right.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yeah, near the woods coming down. Right.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's correct, that's right.

Eddie Francis Jr.: That was the last one we tore down.

Jasper Raus Scott: But you see the stage mill and the storage room and all that stuff was on this side.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Other side? Yeah.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, on the side next to Mr. Francis. But there weren't no houses nobody lived. No houses, I know that. All the houses on the other side and where the Colored people live, they call it the Alley.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh yeah?

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh huh, that was called The Alley. It was somewhere up about, right about 40 houses on each side. You go down, never was paved or nothing. Just straight down and you get down there, you make a turn, go the other way. I know so well because I sold fish and beef and all that stuff in the wagon. When they killed a cow I had to go down and carry them all, sell them all beef. Fish at that time wasn't sold by the pound. It was sold by the string.

Kara Miles: When, "by the string", what does that mean? How—

Jasper Raus Scott: That's right.

Kara Miles: —many fish are on the string?

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah. Depending on the size.

Kara Miles: Oh, okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: They were 10, 15 cents a bunch. Sold many of them.

Kara Miles: Now, Black and White people both lived in Delmar then? When the Black people owned it?

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, that's right. The White people lived up on the hill because it was on the other side, but it was up. They lived on the front. Colored folks lived back in the Alley, called it the Alley.

Eddie Francis Jr.: And then when the mill moved away—

Kara Miles: Oh, that's where they worked as well.

Eddie Francis Jr.: —that's when the Blacks bought it all.

Kara Miles: Oh, okay.

Jasper Raus Scott: When the work went away, the people left. They came there from vessels and they had a cotton contract experiment. And they cut the contract out, all the men left and people then moved. Sometimes, if you talk with a man today and the next day, he's gone. Never see it. I saw some of them.

Jasper Raus Scott: There's a man living in Terry now. He lived there, Willis Wesley's step-son. I met him

about two years ago. He's the only one. I went to Lewis some years ago and all the names I called, this man was a minister and he was a cab driver. And all the men that I called, I saw the mill and everything, they come to Delmar. But all the names that I called, the people were dead. Uh huh, that's right.

Kara Miles: What year did the mill leave? When did the mill leave?

Eddie Francis Jr.: '26.

Jasper Raus Scott: The mill?

Kara Miles: That was '26?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yeah.

Jasper Raus Scott: Started in 1916 and then—

Kara Miles: Okay, and then that's when all the Black people bought all the land?

Jasper Raus Scott: No. Black people bought land way before my day. The Black people bought land, I can't remember. I used to remember who bought it. I remember who did a lot of surveying when they was cutting it up. Mr. Carr, his grandchildren is dead now, anyhow. And another man from [indistinct 00:42:05] City. I carried the line many days for civilians, the different plots of land in there. They were surveyors. I was a little boy, and I can't remember the names, but my father wrote most of the deeds.

Jasper Raus Scott: But he's dead too, and he was, my father got in kind of bad health and I wrote the, where aunt Velma live, I wrote that deed. Out on the Wallace Francis track. All the Francis track.

Louise Scott: Where Velma lived?

Jasper Raus Scott: Uh huh, right along in there was a house, right side of our store.

Louise Scott: That's right.

Jasper Raus Scott: Yeah, I'm right. I wrote the deed. Papa dictated and I wrote it. And so, when they got ready to sell it to Mr. Francis, I helped him get it. Got ready to sell it to Mr. Francis, Wallace sent me the deed and that's my handwriting.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh yeah?

Jasper Raus Scott: I did it with my handwriting. I told him then that Papa dictated and I did the writing. So, you had to, I had to go before a notary republic because Papa was dead. And I had to swear that that was my handwriting, and then they had to send out to Roy before he delegated deed. And Roy [indistinct 00:43:00]

got it straightened out, but I wrote that deed. And Mary had a sister, Parker, to call. You remember her?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes, sir. Mm-hmm.

Jasper Raus Scott: That was the first marriage I was over and I signed her marriage license. Uh huh.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Because they left and moved to Terry, too.

Jasper Raus Scott: That's correct, that's right. Yeah.

Kara Miles: You talk about your father being a minister. Did he get—where did he get to go to school? Did he get to go to school, and where did he go?

Jasper Raus Scott: He was self-educated. I had his hand—What do they call that? I had one of his cards he signed. I got to look for that.

Louise Scott: I don't know. I think you put it up.

Jasper Raus Scott: He went to school at base, so he don't told them but his brother folks. [indistinct 00:43:50] because they had a club foot, children laughed at him and never forget it. No, he was self-educated. He had a beautiful handwriting. I wish I—You remember this guy? I'm a show it to you. I got his handwriting?

Eddie Francis Jr.: The what?

Jasper Raus Scott: Papa's hand writing.

Eddie Francis Jr.: No, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: I got it here. He had professional handwriting, and could write faster than I can.

Eddie Francis Jr.: Oh yeah?

Jasper Raus Scott: Oh, yeah.

Kara Miles: Where was your mother from?

Jasper Raus Scott: Bankerville. Father was from Harrison and mother's from Bankerville. They got down there following the lumber company. He started his own lumber company, but with having a club foot, they started him towards the war. If you had a group of men, they usually have it. That's where the word water boy came from. You hire a boy. If he had a bunch of men working out in the field. They hire some boy and they didn't have wells like that. Most the time it's springs all over the country. And he'd bring them water,

you understand?

Jasper Raus Scott: That's where the word water boy come from. And so, he started with this company, Montgomery Lumber Company, as a water boy. And if anybody got hurt or got sick on the job, he was skilled with medicine. And most people, as I said, doctored with herbs and whatnot, but he told me about different people that did doctor with herbs and he said he didn't do witchcraft. He didn't believe in witchcraft. He definitely didn't, no. I repeat what he said. He said if you believe in the Bible, you don't believe in witchcraft.

Jasper Raus Scott: And another thing, he said, "Nobody can hurt me." He said, "They'll try." Said, "Nobody can hurt me because I don't believe in it." Said, "If you don't believe in it, they can't hurt you unless they put something on you or in you." And he lived with that philosophy, as long as he lived.

Louise Scott: I think he got the truth there.

Eddie Francis Jr.: That's my philosophy.

Jasper Raus Scott: But uncle William, his step-granddaddy, he believed in it. We were going to prayer meeting one night and got along up there by where Nate [indistinct 00:45:44] house. You remember that house, that house was built for Nate [indistinct 00:45:46]?

Eddie Francis Jr.: Yes, sir.

Jasper Raus Scott: Got up there and a Black cat run across the road, going to the left, and he turned all around the road and made a circle. And then went on.

Kara Miles: Why did he do that?

Jasper Raus Scott: Said that was bad luck, Black cats. He had to make a circle. And I known him many times after he and aunt Josie busted up, he wouldn't go anywhere without sprinkling sulfur all the way around the doorstep. Did you know that?

Eddie Francis Jr.: I heard of it, yeah.

Jasper Raus Scott: I was a witness. Sprinkle sulfur. He going anywhere, sprinkle some. Scared Josie was going to put out himself and hurt him, his wife. Yeah, so he believed in it, but papa didn't.