

Created by: Beth Chetty, Reid School

Grade level: 4

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<http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/pageeb97.html?ID=13933&Current=001>.

Students were informed that this interview was taken in the 1930s with a former slave named Lucy Ann Warfield. The intent of the interview was to learn more about slavery. These questions were designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source.

Level I: Description

1. In what state was Lucy Ann and her family enslaved?
2. What was the name of the family who owned Lucy Ann when she was a slave?
3. What kind of work was Lucy Ann forced to do while she was a slave?

Level II: Interpretation

1. Why doesn't Lucy Ann know how old she is?
2. Lucy Ann describes being married by the time the war started? What war is Lucy Ann referring to?
3. Why would Lucy Ann's aunt have gone to Canada?

Level III: Analysis

1. What do you think Lucy Ann means when she explains that to white people, slaves were like chickens?
2. Think about where Lucy Ann's family lived. Who might have helped Lucy Ann's aunt escape?
3. According to Lucy Ann, fear kept slaves from escaping to freedom. What reasons did slaves have to be scared of running away?

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District #6
Clark County
Racial Group

19/3/270

LUCY ANN WARFIELD

Ex-slave, age said to be 117 years.

"Lordy, ohile, I'se been ole so long, dat de 'fliction of years mek me fergit lots en lots I mought tell you. I wuz bawn en Jess^a'min County, Keintucky, but I caint say what year, kaze white folks diden keep no 'count of dey slaves ages. Dey wuz jes' like chickens- like so many chichens."

"I knows I wuz er married 'oman when de wah come, en dey says I'se more'n a hundred, en Nannie she say I'se about 117. But I jes' doan know. Anyhow, I knows dat God's been awful good ter me."

"My mother wuz Betsy Hawkins, en my father wuz Milo Hawkins. How us come ter have de name of Hawkins, I caint say; kaze de on'y slave owners I knowed wuz Scotts en Perrys. Dey owned all our fam'ly, my grandmother, my mother en father, Mary, Fannie, Sophia, Marcie, Harvey, Charles en John - Jack dey called him. You see de Scott girl married en ter de Perry fam'ly, en dey jes give em er lot er slaves, en so all our fam'ly wuz dey property."

"Dey nebber did give me er whippin, but dey sho done wuk me hard. I done er man's wuk on de place; puttin' up stone fences en rail fences, splittin' rails, breakin' hemp, plowin' fiel's, doin' cawn plantin', en eny thing de men spose ter do, en I wuz sposed ter say nothin'. De good Lord an'y knows jes' what I'se been t'rough."

"I member when one of my mother's sisters run off en got safe en ter Canady. She wuz er fine 'oman en she diden keer fer nothin', on'y

ter be free. She done what more of em orter done - ma, too, kaze I wuz grown en size long time fore us wuz free- but dey wuz jes' fraid."

"I married to Gilbert Burns fore de w^{ax} broke out. He went off ter wah en done come baxk home safe. Us had one son, little Jesse, but he died when he wuz jes' er little feller."

"When folks got sick dey diden call doctors, cept onct en er while. T'aint no use nobuddy sayin' jes' cullud folks done use herbs, kaze I knows better. White folks done use em same as any buddy else. Dey use ter use catnip tea, horehound, en lots o' roots cut up en put en whiskey fer use en case of sickness."

"I diden go ter school, but I larnt ter read de Bible. I got me er license fer ter be er 'vangelist. God jes' give me song en words. I sho b'lieve en dat ole song, "Where You Go I'll Go With You; Open Your Mouth en I'll Speak Fer You," kaze dat's what He's done fer me. I'se been all roun' dese parts preachin' God's words."

"But, honey, back en dem days, when us diden go ter church much, en diden have much 'joyment, but I sho loved dancin', en dat wuz jes' bout all de 'joyment us had. But I larnt ter praise God harder den I larnt ter serve de debbil, en ef it wuz'nt fer His power I woa'nt be here right now."

"When I moved out here en dis part of town it wuz'nt nothin' but woods. Me en Mr. Warfiel' had er cabin jes' crost de street fum here. Its been tore down fer years, kaze I done live en dis house fer about fifty years. I wisht I cud member more, kaze I been t'rough er lot, abut I doan member nothin' much no more.

"I still sing, "I'm Clim'ing Jacob's Ladder," en I knows I'se goin' ter set down 'sides my Saviour some o' dese days.

LUCY ANN WARFIELD

Ex-slave, age said to be 117 years.

Interviewed at her residence:

On East side of South Limestone Street,
three doors north of Johnson Ave.

Editor's note:

Lucy Ann Warfield is allegedly 117 years old and very feeble from the infirmities of her great age. She is light brown in color, her eyes a faded grey, and her eyebrows and hair the color and texture of cotton. Unable because of her advanced age to do any of the actual housework in her home, she supervises its care and keeps it in clean and cheerful condition.