

black. Really black. That's what they'd call coffee now.

(They'd put that in the coffee-pot. And put in on top of it. How long would they boil it?)

Just like coffee.

(How would that taste?)

Well, look like coffee?)

(Did it remind you of coffee?)

Uh-huh.

Mrs. Downing: Mama used to make it just like you're talking about.

(Did you seem to get--like coffee gives you kind of a lift, you know when you're down, now. Did it kind of give you a lift? I mean kind of wake you up, you know. Give you a little energy?)

Mrs. Downing: You did feel better.

Yeah, sure.

(You did?)

Mrs. Downing: You can put sugar in it if you want to you know.

Cream.

(And sweet potatoes? How did you all fix sweet potatoes and squash?)

#### EARLY SKILLET

Mrs. Downing: Well, then, they cook 'em in the--they had a pot.

Frying pan, you say, had legs that tall.

(Uh-huh)

Mrs. Downing: Had a heavy lid on top too.

Had a fire out there. They just set right there on top of the fire.

Mrs. Downing: We used to make bread like that too.

(You mean sort of like a skillet with legs on it. You put it outside?)

Used to be that big, that skillet.