

CARE AND FEEDING OF NEWBORN CHILD WHEN MOTHER UNABLE TO NURSE IT

(Going back earlier to when you were little and living with your grandparents-- your little brother was little tiny when your mother passed away--how do they take care of a newborn baby back then when its mother passes away?)

Let me tell you--here, now, they got to have milk for these kids. But the way my grandmother was--now there was another woman that had a baby. This Ebenezer was a baby at that time--Ebenezer Williams. And my grandmother used to take this woman and let this woman nurse this baby, too. And at night she used to have tea to feed my little brother. So he grew. That's the way they used to do. They didn't used to have bottles and milk. They just feed them with tea or some of them, they would feed their babies with sugar and water. They used to put sugar in the water and stir it up and they used to give it to them with a spoon. That's the way. Well, when my little brother got to where he was a little bigger, why this woman--she stayed right with us--she wasn't married. She just stayed right with us and she used to nurse both of them. I think she cared for my little brother more than she did her boy. Yeah. She sure did love my brother. Oh, he got all right, and then my grandmother used to make flour gravy and feed it. That's how we--

(What kind of tea did they give them?)

This--like that tea you give me--

(That Indian tea?)

Indian tea. That's what they used to use. (Lespedeza capitata) They used to boil it and then they would have a clean rag and they used to strain it. That what they used to feed them.

BREAST FEEDING VERSUS BOTTLE FEEDING

(Did they put any sugar in it?)

Just a little sugar in it. And here these young people, they always have about twelve or fifteen bottles! I never did nurse my kids from a bottle. Never.