

(Continuation of Side A)

(The first 35 feet of this tape is not clear and part of it is blank.)

WAS NINE YEARS OLD BEFORE HE SAW A WHITE MAN

Mr. Shoals is speaking: I always lived among colored folks, before I ever seen a white man. I guess I was about that size.

(Really? Maybe eight or nine years old?)

Yes, Mam--before I first seen a white man. Yes. I was--we had big oat patch down back there, you know. And oats was green and growed up about that high. I seen two white men coming, walking down back over there, you know. And I squatted down in there and oat stems high, you know. So, when they got there they said "We see you." (Laughter) I guess they had seen me when I run and squat down. And then I hide myself, all right, 'cause oats about that high.

Voice in background: You thought they couldn't see you.

Yeah. I thought I was hiding. Too close to them to make a run, you know. One of them said, "I could have shot you for a rabbit."

Yes sir. Yes, was a long time before I seen white folks.

(And I bet they were funny looking when you first saw them.)

They sure were. They were the first white men I'd seen. And we lived on this farm back here. They just walked up here. I looked up and they were coming.

VERY FEW FREEDMEN KEPT THEIR ALLOTMENTS

(There are very few, like you, who have kept your land?)

Yes. Well, I'll tell you. I always kept it in my mind that I wanted a home. I didn't want to get rid of my home unless I