

Mary Jane Taylor - continued.

of the younser children goes to school sometimes, but none of them don't go regular. The school house is a right smart piece off, and my daddy says the children don't learn much but ^a mennis, and he don't encourage them much to go, so they don't bother unless they happens to just want to go. Most of us older ones can read print and write a little, but that is about all we can manage. We lives in a tolerable big frame house without no paint on it. It belongs to my father's brother that lives near by. My father dōde most of the building and his brother just lets him live there and make what he can on the place. He done quit raising tobacco a long time ago. Now he just raises wheat and corn and hay and things we can eat.

Aunt Barbara, that is my daddy's oldest sister, is mighty nigh eighty years old, but she is powerful peart, and can set around better'n some twist as young. She always comes around and tells him what to do, advising him like bout how to manage and raise the children. She's the one that told him to let me come up here and live with Miss Mary. Her cook had done got sick and she needed somebody bad to help her. Aunt Barbara had done been knowin^g her folks a long time, and she lowed they was the right sort, and would be good to me, and he had plenty of children at home and I could be spared. I am right glad I come. I like to stay here. I can go to the pictures and sometimes I go to a dance, too. My folks aint never thought it was no harm to dance like some does. I takes the children to the movies on Saturdays when they has the Wild West shows, and sometimes we stays to see the pictures through twist. I couldn't go much before I come to town, on account of

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it bein' so far off. I don't go to church much. I has to get dinner on Sundays. and our folks never was much hands to go to preaching nohow. Aunt Barbara thinks we are going straight to the bad place on account of not goin'. She goes all the time, and is a powerful hand to shout.

When I first come to town I used to go right smart to a dance place on the end of town. but one night they had a cutting scrape out there, and the gentleman I works for told me I better not go no more as I might get mixed up in some of them scrapes. He is a fine lawyer, and I lowed I better take his word for it, and I aint been no more. I stays here in their house at night. I got a nice room and a place I can have company if I wants to. They got conveniences here, too. I done learned to cook on a lectric stove, and wash clothes with a lectic^h washer, and iron with a lectric iron. It is handier than heating big heavy irons on the fire place like Aunt Barbara has to do. but with all that I aint never got clothes to look white and smooth like hers when she gets 'em ready to take home

Aunt Barbara, she is allers talking about her white folks. Seems like her pa was what she calls a body servant to his ole master, and went with him to the war, and brought him back home after he was killed, and they allers thought a lot of him and all his chillun. My pa was the youngest. The land his brother has was give to his pa by will of the fambly. Most of them folks has moved away and lives way out west somewhere, but they comes here sometimes in great big automobiles, and when they does they just is loads Aunt Barbara down with all kinds of things, and gives her money, too. She is sure proud when she hears they is coming.

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I gives my daddy most all I makes on account of not needing much here. I gets most of my clothes give to me, and I has all the good things I wants to eat, so there aint much left to spend for, and the money helps at home, caase there aint much cash laying around on a farm, no matter how much other things you got there.

I aint never had no occasion to read none 'till I come here, and now I has to read to the children most every day. They has lots of nice books, and I likes to sit down and read them what is in them, and look at the pictures , too.

I aint never thought about what I would like to do if I could do what I wanted to. If I could make clothes look like them Aunt Barbara washes, and could cook like that special cook we had when we had the house party here. an' fix things up pretty like she did may be I would be satisfised. Or even if I could manage like my ma . She is busy all the time, and yet she never looks like she was doing nothing, and work just naturally slips out from under her hands.

We aint never had no sickness to amount to nothing in our fambly. Course we had whooping cough and measles and things like that, but none of them awful diseases that you have to go to hospitals for. There aint never nothing exciting happened to none of us, and we are thankful, caase awful things can happen to folks, and has happened to plenty of them that we knows about, and some that we do not. "

SURVEY OF URBAN NEGRO YOUTH -- out of school -- 16-24 years of age
made by the Virginia Writers' Project

Enumerator Essie W. Smith Schedule Number _____

Date Feb. 20, 1940 City Rocky Mt. Neighborhood _____

1. IDENTIFICATION:

a. Name Mary Jane Taylor b. Sex Female
c. Address Taylor's Store, Va. d. Born: (1) Mo. Feb (2) Year 1918
e. Place born: (1) County Franklin (2) State Virginia f. (1) Single
(2) Mar. _____ (3) Sep. _____ (4) Div. _____ g. Age at marriage _____ h. No. of children _____
i. Living with (1) Own family (2) Parental family _____ (3) Other _____
j. Size of household 13 k. Home: (1) Owned _____ (2) Rented
l. No. years in present community 21 m. Name of place last lived in _____
n. (1) Name of informant, if youth not interviewed _____
(2) Address _____ (3) Relation to youth _____

2. PARENTAL FAMILY:

a. Father: a. Name James Taylor b. Living
c. Present home address Taylor's Store, Va. d. Age 60
e. Birthplace Franklin Co. Va. f. Education None
g. Occupation Farmer h. If farmer, is he tenant or owner Tenant
i. What are his interests: (1) Home _____ (2) Church _____ (3) Community _____
b. Mother: a. Birthplace Franklin Co. b. Living c. Age 49
d. Living with husband e. Remarried _____ f. Education None
g. Occupation before marriage None
h. Occupation since marriage, if any outside home housewife
i. What are her interests: (1) Home _____ (2) Church _____ (3) Community _____
c. Family: a. No. years in present community 40 b. No. moves in last five years 0
c. No. children living, including self: (1) Male 6 (2) Female 5
d. No. children (1) at home 7 (2) Under 16 5 e. Cash income group about \$500.00

3. EDUCATION:

a. Age (1) Started school 7 (2) Left school 10 b. Last grade completed 3d
c. Grades (1) Repeated _____ (2) Skipped _____
d. Reasons for leaving school:
____ graduated Needed at home _____ Parental attitude _____ Got job _____
____ Disliked teacher _____ Poor health _____ Disliked subject _____ Other _____
____ Failure in school _____ Got married _____ Lack of money _____
e. Vocational training: Yrs. taken : Desired f. (1) Are you satisfied with your education no (2) Why or why not _____
(1) Home economics _____ : _____
(2) Commercial _____ : _____
(3) Agricultural _____ : _____
(4) Other _____ : _____
g. Subjects studied most _____
h. Subjects liked most _____
i. Activities or studies you would like to see developed in local school _____
j. Plans for future (1) Educational None
(2) Vocational _____

4. EMPLOYMENT:

a. Employed: (1) None _____ (2) Partly _____ (3) Fully
b. No. weeks worked during past year (1) at home _____ (2) Away 1-2
c. How did you get your present (or last) job Told by Aunt

FEB 26 1940

d. Cash income during past year:
 Youth: Family
 None _____
 \$1-49 _____
 50-99 _____
 100-249 _____
 250-499 _____
 500-749 _____
 750-999 _____
 1000-1499 _____
 1500-2499 _____
 2500-over _____

e. How much did you save during last year:
 (1)Cash \$ _____ (2)Property \$ _____

f. (1)If at home, are you needed there _____
 (2)Why _____
 (3)What arrangements for pay or spending money:
 (a)None _____ (b)wages _____ (c)Partnership _____
 (d)allowance _____ (e)Other _____

g. To what extent are you self-supporting:
 (1)Completely _____ (2)Partially _____ (3)Not at all _____

h. (1)Are you satisfied with present situation _____
 (2)Why or why not _____

i. Contribution to parental family \$ _____
 (1)Hours of work _____ (2)To whom responsible _____

j. Occupational description: (3)Holidays _____ k. Have you any voice in arrangement of your work _____

l. How much training necessary for present job _____

m. (1)Did your school work prepare you for present job in any way _____
 (2)How _____

n. What other previous experiences helped prepare you _____

o. Record:

| Occupation | Weekly wages | Date begun | Date ended | Duration |
|------------|--------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

p. Responsible for: Full : Part
 Preparing meals _____ : _____
 Care of children _____ : _____
 Care of house _____ : _____
 Laundry _____ : _____
 Other _____ : _____

q. Aid received by youth from: Now : Past
 Home econ. teacher _____ N.Y.A. _____ : _____
 Public health dept. _____ C.C.C. _____ : _____
 Employment service _____ W.P.A. _____ : _____
 Home agent _____ Relief _____ : _____
 Free hospital clinic _____ Other _____ : _____

5. DATA FROM MIGRANT YOUTH:

a. Reasons that influenced your coming to city: (1)Family living here _____
 (2)Friends living here _____ (3)Letter from employer _____ (4)Advertisements _____
 (5)Other reasons _____

b. Did you grow up in (1)City _____ (2)Town _____ (3)Village _____ (5)Size _____ pop.
 (6)Name _____ (7)State _____ c. Did you grow up on (1)farm _____
 (2)Open country non-farm _____ (3)Where _____

d. Length of time in city before getting first job _____

e. How often do you return home _____ f. Do you plan ever to go for good _____

g. (1)Do you ever send money home _____ (2)How often _____ (3)How much _____

h. Would you advise a friend to come to the city _____ i. Why _____

6. LIVING CONDITIONS:

a. Conveniences and facilities where youth lives:
 Electric lights _____ Refrigerator _____ Telephone _____ auto _____ Elec. cleaner _____
 Electric iron _____ Running water _____ Screens _____ Radio _____ Elec. stove _____
 Washing machine _____ House painted _____ Furnace _____ Bath _____ Gas stove _____
 b. No. rooms in home _____ c. Socio-economic group _____ d. Family score _____
 e. Weekly use of wages: (1)Room _____ (2)Food _____ (3)Clothes _____
 (4)Savings _____ (5)Helping members of your family _____ (6)Other _____
 f. When you are sick, what do you do _____

7 LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES:

- a. Three or more activities, besides work, at which you spent most time during last year: (1) visiting (2) movies (3) dancing (4) _____ (5) _____ (6) _____
- b. How many times have you gone to the movies in last month 2 (2) Last year 12
- c. Do parents object to visits of friends of (1) Same sex no (2) Other sex no
- d. Do you have satisfactory place to (1) Entertain company in your home yes (2) Study _____
- e. How often do you have friends in home to visit quite often
- f. What do you do usually in the evening sit around
- g. How often do you go to (1) Parties _____ (2) Dances 1 a month
- h. (1) Do you enjoy managing other people _____ (2) How _____
- i. If 21 years of age or over, are you qualified to vote (1) Poll tax paid no (2) Registered _____
- j. Have you ever voted _____
- k. List of magazines and papers in home _____
- l. Number of books read during past year _____
- m. Names of a few a few children's books read to the children of the family -

8. ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

| Organization (name) | Member: | Times attended last year | Holds office (specify) | Held office (specify) |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Church | : | : | : | : |
| b. Sunday School | : | : | : | : |
| c. Young Peoples Christian Society | : | : | : | : |
| d. Athletic club | : | : | : | : |
| e. Any Dem. group | : | : | : | : |
| f. Any Repub. group | : | : | : | : |
| g. Others | : | : | : | : |
| h. | : | : | : | : |
| i. | : | : | : | : |

9. PLANS FOR FUTURE:

None

10. COMMENTS:

There are many large families like this in the surrounding county. But this family is above the average in morals and manners. They earn a fair living, have a decent home, and are raising a family of nice, industrious children, although not much attention is being given to their education.