

Below is a passage from an interview with Adeline Jackson, a former slave of John Mobley of South Carolina. This narrative, or story, was published in the book, Before Freedom: When I Just Can Remember, edited by Belinda Hurmence.

Adeline Jackson

Age 88, when interviewed by
W.W. Dixon, in Winnsboro, S.C.

I was born four miles southwest of where I is now, on the other side of Woodward Station. I was a slave of Old Marster John Mobley, the richest man, the largest landowner...

Slaves lived in quarters, a stretch of small houses off from the White House [often used in speaking of the master's house. Also Big House]. Patrollers often come to search for stray slaves, wouldn't take your word for it. They would search the house. If they catch one without a pass, they whipped him...

At certain time we worked long and hard, and you had to be particular. The only whipping I got was for chopping down a good cornstalk near a stump in a new ground. When farm work was not pressing, we got all of Saturday to clean up around the houses, and wash and iron our clothes...

After the war, a man came along on a red horse; he was dressed in a blue uniform and told us we was free...