

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Annie Bell Davison Sherman**

Born in 1933 and living most of her life in Fort Bend County, Ms Sherman, along with her daughter, Evelyn, provide some detailed accounts of life as a black person growing up in a segregated world. Life was hard but rewarding due to a close knit community, family, friends and most of all, church. Annie and Evelyn are very active members of their church and community. In fact, Evelyn is an ordained Evangelist.

From farm life, driving a truck at age 9 to living in the city, Annie shares her hardships, heartaches and joys.

33 Pages

∥ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ∥

## Interview Summary

### People (in alphabetical order)

Caroline Davis – godmother  
 Dan Davis – godfather  
 Olivia Murphy Davis – grandmother  
 Ophelia Davis – great aunt  
 Clifton Davison – brother  
 Evelyn Phillips Davison – mother  
 Harvey Ellis Davison – brother  
 Ivory Edwards Davison – brother  
 John E. Davison – father  
 Arizona Fleming – civil rights activist  
 Isom Ford – evangelist  
 A. P. George – rancher  
 Ned Gibson – teacher  
 Octavia Laws – first African American female  
 Eldress in Richmond, Texas  
 Father Madden – Catholic priest  
 William Melton – civil rights activist  
 Dr. Nichols – local physician  
 Rev. Payne – minister  
 Evelyn Phillips – mother  
 Johnnie Mae Sanford – teacher  
 Sidney Sanford – grocery store owner  
 Albert Herbert Sherman – spouse  
 Angelin (Ann) Sherman – daughter  
 Clara Margaret Caroline Sherman – daughter  
 Elder Jenkins – pastor from Temple, Texas  
 Evelyn Sherman – daughter  
 Mary Somerville – private pre-school teacher  
 Mother Magdalena Lewis Tate – female  
 minister

A. T. Thomas – owner of rent houses  
 Reverend Thomas – officiated wedding  
 Dr. Stanley Thompson – local physician  
 Lester Van Slyke – lawyer  
 Nellie Bell Washington and Laberta  
 Thomas – friends, parishioners

### Places / Businesses

Autumn Hills Health Care (now  
 Richmond Health Care)  
 California  
 Church of the Living God, the Pillar and  
 Ground of the Truth, Richmond, Texas  
 Expanded Nutrition Program, Texas  
 A&M  
 Freedman's Town, Richmond, Texas  
 Fulshear, Texas  
 George Foundation  
 Houston, Texas  
 Jackson High School  
 Katy, Texas  
 Needville, Texas  
 Office of Early Childhood Development,  
 Rosenberg, Texas  
 Polly Ryon Hospital  
 Richmond, Texas  
 Richmond Colored School  
 Rosenberg, Texas  
 Sand Town  
 Sugar Land, Texas  
 Temple, Texas  
 Texas A&M

## Events

Born in 1933 in Fort Bend County during the height of segregation, Annie lived and worked on her family farm. She was driving a truck at the age of 9 counting sacks of potatoes at the pick-up stands around the farm.

She was raised by her godmother in Richmond while attending school but did not graduate from high school. Instead, she married Albert Sherman when she was 18 years old and had three daughters.

Life was hard during segregation. Signs were everywhere directing “Colored” people where to sit and where to eat. She had to ride in the back of a bus, sit in the balcony of a movie theater and arrive at the back door of a restaurant to be served.

Schools were segregated: Blacks, Hispanics and Whites all attended separate schools. It was not until the mid-1960’s that the federal government ordered desegregation based on the US Supreme Court decision in 1954.

Church and community provided hope and joy to Annie, her family and her friends. She and Evelyn provide many stories about life around church, church music & singing and church dinners.