

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Rosie Lee Dogan Beal**

Born June 24, 1932 in Sugar Land, one of 12 children, Rosie spent her youth helping her parents pick cotton and work their tenant farm. Her father owned his own farming equipment, so he received three-fourths of the proceeds each year at harvest.

She married Lloyd Beal in 1950, moved to Simonton to work on his family farm, raising corn, cotton and hay. They too received three-fourths of the harvest proceeds. Rosie and her husband have 12 children and were the only “black” family in the area for many years.

Rosie shares stories about life on the farm, rations during WWII, raising 12 children in Simonton, attending church and traveling to Houston on a short train, “the Dinky,” to shop. She worked as an aide in a nursing home in Brookshire from 1975-1990. Later, Rosie was able to travel including a trip to Japan where one of her daughters husband was stationed in the Navy. Until recently, she was a foster grandparent for a few years.

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## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Tommy Dogan – paternal grandfather  
 Celester Dogan – paternal grandmother  
 Herman Dogan – father  
 Addie Lee Wade – mother  
 Luevenia Furrer Wade – maternal grandmother  
 Ike Wade – maternal grandfather  
 Clara Wade – Aunt  
 Aaron Wade – Uncle  
 Albert Wade – Uncle  
 Earthy Wade – Uncle  
 Samuel Dogan – brother  
 Charles Dogan – brother  
 Herman Dogan – brother  
 Edward Dogan – brother  
 Roy Dogan – brother  
 Anthony Dogan – brother  
 Katherine Dogan – sister  
 Celeste Dogan – sister  
 Delores Dogan – sister  
 Ruth Dogan – sister  
 Hattie Dogan – sister  
 Bonnie Beal – daughter  
 Barbara Beal – daughter  
 Anita Beal – daughter  
 Sylvia Beal – daughter  
 Pat Beal – daughter  
 Amy Beal – daughter  
 Cathy Beal – daughter  
 Kim Beal – daughter  
 Gerald Beal – daughter

Johnny Beal – son

David Beal – son

Lloyd Beal, Jr – son

Bobby Miles – store owner

DJ Beal – grandson

Janie Hackett – daughter's classmate

Rev Calvin Walton – Pastor

### Places / Businesses

Fort Bend County, Texas

Sugar Land, Texas

Clodine, Texas

Richmond, Texas

Austin/Giddings, Texas

Four Corners

Simonton, Texas

Houston, Texas

Woolworth (five-and-dime store)

Wallis, Texas

Bailey's Pecan Barn, Simonton

Bergman Grocery Store, Simonton

Dailey's Grocery Store & Post Office,  
 Simonton

Diamond M Acres Ranch, Simonton

Pecan Grove

Kakuska Japan

World War II

A. W. Jackson school

Rosenberg, Texas

Lamar Consolidated school

Fulshear, Texas

Valley Lodge

Four Corners school

Peasant Green Missionary Baptist Church

Friendship Church

BYPU (Baptist Young Peoples Union

4-H Club

## Events

Rosie was born June 24, 1932, in Sugar Land, and lived on a farm most of her life.

Her grandparents grew watermelons in the Sugar Land/Clodine area.

Rosie came from a large family, the fourth of 12 children. She and her husband, also had 12 children that were all raised on a farm in Simonton.

Her father owned his own farm equipment, so he received three-fourths of proceeds from his crops as a tenant farmer. The same was true with Rosie and her husband.

Children as young as age 7 worked in the fields picking cotton.

On Saturday, everyone dressed up and went shopping in Sugar Land or took the Dinky train into downtown Houston. Sunday, you dressed up for church.

In the early days, men learned to make and repair anything and everything. It was necessary to survive on a farm.

In 1974, her home burned down and she lost everything – no insurance.

Rosie stayed at home for 23 years caring for her 12 children. In 1975 she went to work as an aide at a Brookshire nursing home. She remained there for 15 years before retiring. Later she became a foster grandparent.