

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Joseph Renwick Randon**

Mr. Randon was born and raised north of downtown Fulshear. His ancestors moved to this part of Fort Bend County shortly after the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1865. They were sharecroppers and owned a large portion of the land between Fulshear and Simonton in the areas called Big Prayer and Little Prayer.

Today, Joseph is bringing that history alive by creating an interactive museum to preserve and showcase black history, its stories and its artifacts.

10 Pages

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

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Ellen Cockrell Adams – grandmother  
 Rosina Adams – mother  
 Stephen F. Austin – empresario  
 James Cockrell – great grandfather  
 George Gordon – great-great-grandfather  
 Rose Gordon – great-great-grandmother  
 Grandpa Hackney – great grandfather  
 Coach & Doris Hatton – surrogate parents  
 Cornelius Randon – grandfather

### Places / Businesses

Places / Businesses  
 B F Terry High School  
 Big Prayer, Texas  
 Big Prayer NAAIM Museum  
 Club Vandome, South Beach Florida  
 Little Prayer, Texas  
 Fulshear, Texas  
 Richmond State School  
 Simonton/Masonic Cemetery  
 Simonton, Texas  
 University of Miami

### Events

Born in the Fulshear area in 1969, Joseph was the youngest of 9 children.

He graduated from the University of Miami on a basketball scholarship with a degree in social science and communication.

After graduation, Mr. Randon had the opportunity to model in New York City. Later, he appeared on several TV shows while living in California.

After quite a bit of traveling around the world, Joseph came back to his roots to save and share his family's history and artifacts, and that of black families that lived in the area, through his museum.

He and his family even created a family tree.

Progress ... one step at a time.