

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: Robert Rogers

July 31 & November 14, 2019

Mr. Rogers was born in 1922 in Fulshear, Texas. His entire family including siblings, parents and grandparents all were born and raised in Fulshear but later moved to Acres Homes in Houston. The family were sharecroppers and all worked on the farm. The interview centers on life on the farm before, during, and after the depression and WWII. Life was primitive without running water, in-door plumbing or toilet, electricity, telephone, radio, television, refrigerator or washer/dryer.

Robert attended a school for blacks in a 2-room building and completed 7th grade. He and his siblings walked to and from school regardless of the weather. Learn what Fulshear was like in the “old days” when people of all ethnicities lived and work together.

32 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Lorena Tillis – sister
 Clara Mae Sneed – sister
 Ozay Rogers – brother
 Zerlean James – cousin
 Dennis Rogers – father
 Emma Brantley – mother
 Frank Rogers – paternal grandfather
 Harriet Clark Rogers – paternal grandmother
 L.C. Rogers – brother
 Dennis Rogers, Jr. – brother
 Lily Rogers – sister
 Lula Rogers – sister
 Hunter Harris – landowner
 Dorothy Mae Gates – spouse
 B. Robert Woods – Uncle
 Ruby Flemings – 2nd grade teacher
 Ed & Mary Dozier – business owners
 Sam Banks – Pastor
 Sterling Rogers – son
 Aldine Frances Rogers – daughter
 Robert Carlton Rogers – son
 Iris Rogers – daughter

Places / Businesses

Fulshear
 Simonton
 Houston
 New York City
 England
 France
 Acres Homes
 Greater Zion Church
 Hunter Harris Farm

Events

Robert is 98 years old at the time of this interview. His grandfather lived to be 105. He and his siblings reside in the same subdivision in Houston for 70 years – Acres Homes.

He talks about his grandparents, parents and siblings working as sharecroppers on Hunter Harris Farm between Fulshear and Simonton. They did not enjoy any of the modern conveniences but never went hungry.

Robert served in the US Army in Europe during WWII. Upon return, he worked and retired from Sinclair Oil Company after 33 years.

Robert and Dorothy Mae were married 72 years before she died in 2015. They raised 5 children.

Today, he enjoys time with his siblings, children and grandchildren.