

R: up and I've heard my half-brother say it was a sixteen-foot whip. I don't know. I know it was a long one. I thought then it was a long one. But he would sit on old Lil and pop that cow whip and he could really make it pop. I think the only time he ever whipped me was one morning I was getting dressed for school and he was bringing, he was changing some cows around some way and he told me to open a gate and I was a little bit slow getting out there and cows got away and he had to go back and run them down. So it was too bad for me when he got the cows all situated. That's the only time I ever remember my father spanking me.

P: Giving you a whipping.

R: Yeah. (laughter)

P: Now, you said your father remembers hearing the guns at the battle of Olustee?

R: Yes. Uh huh.

P: Can you tell me about that?

R: He was in Lake City at that time. Heard the guns. He wasn't old enough to be in the regular army, but he was in the home guard and they drafted all of them to help take care of the widows and children and the wounded soldiers. They had a hospital in Lake City for the wounded soldiers. And these younger boys had to haul supplies to them and see that the women and children, as much as they could, had something to eat and were taken care of. And he was hauling supplies and there was some noise, a distraction of some kind and the horse jumped and ran away with him. He started to get in the wagon, had to spin up on the wheel and the horse jumped and it threw him down and dragged him and broke his leg and it really was never fixed or anything like it should have been fixed. Father didn't as long as he lived, I guess he should have. I don't know if he could have done anything about it or not, but I know it bothered him some 'cause he limped.

P: Did he ever talk about the Civil War?

R: Oh, yeah. I wish I had written down all the tales that he told us about it, but he talked a lots about that. Especially as he got older, he talked more and more about it.

P: Do you remember any stories that he told?

R: That's about the only one I remember any of them talking about him being there and hearing the guns and of course, they were all frightened.

P: Did he ever talk of slaves?