

Scott Mitchell
BREATHITT CO
Interviewed by Margaret Bishop

Scott Mitchell, claims his age as somewhere in the 70's but his wool is white on the top of his head. Negroes don't whiten near as quickly as white people, evidently he is nearly 90, or there-a-bouts.

Yes, I remember the Civil War, because I was living in Christian County where I was born, right with my master and mistress, Captain Hester and his wife. I was raised on a farm right with the, then I left there.

Yes, Captain Hester traded my mother and my sister, 'twas in 1861, he sent them to Mississippi. When they were away from him about two years, he bought them back. Yes, he was good to us. I was my mistress' boy. I looked after her, and she made all of my clothes, and she knitted my socks, because I was her niggah.

Yes, I was twenty years old when I was married.

I remember I was a boy when they had the Civil War. I remember there was a brick office where they hanged colored folks. Yes, the blood was a-streaming down. Sometimes they hung them by their feet, sometimes they hung them by their thumbs.

I came to Kentucky coal mines when I was about twenty years old. I worked for Mister Jenkins. I worked right here at the Davis, the R.T. Davis coal mine, and at the Bailey mine; that was afore Mister Bailey died.

When I worked for Mister Davis he provided a house in the Cut-Off, that's over where the mine is. We worked from 7 o'clock in the morning till 6 'o'clock at night. Yes, I sure liked to work for Mister Davis. I tended furnaces some, too. I sure was sorry when Mister Davis died.