

Wallace Quarterman, b. 1844

FW: After they said you could go free, then what did you do? Did you run on off the plantation that day? Did you leave the plantation that day after they told you to go free?

WQ: Well, the master had promise' to, to give we forty dollars a month in pay. Well, lots silly boys say they ain't want it. They rather go free, you know. Well, of course, why I up here, you understand', I get along with him you know. [unintelligible] the big boss, you know. An' uh, after they, after this they throwed down, throwed down, they just make them throwed down, an' they just get on the sword an' squash them down. You go in Hawkinsville an' you see all the swords down now in the groun'. An' after the swords was down, the tension in the South, tension. An' after the South tension then they play. Yeah play. [begins to sing while playing the washtub base]

“One foot one way, one foot the other way,
One foot all aroun'.

So big that he couldn't cut a figure
An' he couldn' go a half way roun'.”

“Ole master, run away, and set them darky free
For you mus' be think
Thy kingdom a-comin'
The hour of Jubilee.”

So we had a big breaking up right there, you know, after it, that's right.