

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Donald Braxton

COLLECTION: 4700.2462

IDENTIFICATION: Raised in Mossville, Louisiana

INTERVIEWER: Jennifer Abraham Cramer

SERIES: Mossville History Project - Oral History Day

INTERVIEW DATES: January 24, 2015

FOCUS DATES: 1950s-present

ABSTRACT:

Tape 4398

Full name Donald Ray Braxton; born on March 6, 1951 in a Lake Charles hospital; spent his entire life in Mossville; lived off of the Old Spanish Trail; father was [Ollie?] Braxton; father's parents were Nolan and [Marcella?] Rigmaiden; father's sister was named [Luticia?] Rigmaiden younger brother named [L. C.?] Rigmaiden, and an older brother named Nolan Braxton; Braxton's great-grandfather was name [Augusta?] Braxton; memories of Mossville include catching crawfish in front of his aunt's house, teasing his sister, attending Mt. Zion Baptist Church, racing horses on the unpaved streets and attending the high school; born into a family of singers, his father was part of a vocal group and Braxton himself sings at Willow Springs Baptist Church, off of High Hope Road; participated in several school activities and sports, including band and track; family members owned several of the entertainment options in the area, including the Cowboy Inn; recalls a time when the community boycotted Rougeau's store because the white man who owned it slapped one of the local girls; says the people are what made Mossville great, and he wants the area to be remembered as an historical place; he wishes he could find another town just like it, except without the chemical problem.

TAPES: 1 (T4398)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 34 minutes

PAGES: 3 pages index; 25 pages transcript

PHOTOGRAPHS / PHOTOGRAPHER: Three photographs of Braxton taken during interview, with two including interviewer Cramer. Photographer Charlotte Willcox.

OTHER MATERIALS: Biographical data form; Interview questions (2 pgs); Correspondence

RESTRICTIONS: None