

Selling Turnips and Greens

When I was about 10 to 12 years old, I got to stay with my Paw and Ma Little for a week or two in the summer. Everyone had to work on their farm. We would hoe, weed, and water the crops. We had to haul water from the spring or branch down in the valley from the fields. We did this in a groundslide made of logs, pulled by a mule. It had no wheels.

Some times in early summer we would pull turnips and greens. (Paw grew very good ones.) Then we washed them, tied them in large bunches and loaded them in an old Ford Model T touring car to take up to the house. There we would load them into the back of a Model A Ford, with the back seat removed and take them to Birmingham, Alabama Farmers Market. We sometimes would try to sell them for 10 cents a bunch and not sell but a few. We would stay all night with no more sales.

We would start back home to Mt. Olive and stop on U.S. Highway 31 North at Fultondale, Alabama at a bridge where there was a large settlement of poor black people living in mining shacks. We would put the rest of the produce on the side of the road for them to get for their supper. We did this with any kind of produce we had left. That way it didn't go to waste.ⁱ

ⁱ H.H. "Coot" Little told this story as part of the Vincent Family genealogy themed Cousin Camp in April 2003.