

FILENAME: T-014-LortonStanley-1999-10-27

INTERVIEWEE: Stanley Lorton (SL)

DATE INTERVIEWED: Wednesday, October 27, 1999

WHERE INTERVIEWED: Lorton home, Buffalo Mountain Road, Willis, Virginia

INTERVIEWERS: Frederick Marion (FM); Julian Alleyne (JA)

TRANSCRIBERS: Frederick Marion (FM); Julian Alleyne (JA)

DATA CHECKERS: Amanda Burroughs, Kathleen Ingoldsby, Catherine Pauley

AUDIO TOTAL TIME: 115:48 minutes

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SL: . . . But one thing that came to mind, when you was talking about wool, was the old woolen mill that used to be up the creek, but it was tore down years ago. Just tore it down. I'd been over here just a few years, and they tore it down. And they used the wool, they made blankets mostly, but the man that run it, I talked to him. Of course he hadn't run it for years, but he was still wearing wool shirts. And the wool was manufactured into the material, and you know the sheep made the wool, but they manufactured it into the material. And he would have to take a wagon, a horse and wagon, and go all the way to Fries, if you know where Fries is at? Galax, other side of Galax, on New River. Fries was a mill that in the process made these warps, like they make cloth and stuff out of warps, that he used his wool to make blanket materials, woolen materials out of that. Had his warps and they had spinned this wool. I don't know exactly, I never did see it in operation, but I used to weave in a weaving mill. Of course, it wasn't wool.

But they would spin this wool and put it on the bobbins and put these bobbins in a shuttle; and this shuttle going to go back and forth through the warp with the threads that's coming off this warp, and these harnesses goes up and down, you know, and this shuttle goes back and forth, that's got this wool in it. It's pulling the wool thread every time it goes through. It's pulling the wool thread and the harness goes up and down, makes that thread go in a different place each time, and that's lined up with the blankets or whatever. And they have a pattern and that can make these harness work different ways, to make different patterns, you know. And but they used to, yes, used to be a woolen mill up there, factory they called it. A feller by the name of Tom Dunn had the mill. Some of the local women and people worked there at times. But that's going way back, you know. And you have water, there's power from the creek, water-power, maybe turbines, I don't know, a raceway that run down the creek there for about a quarter or a half mile. And the creek dammed up, and this raceway, and the water run into this turbine some way and it got more power than with a mill wheel, you know. And then the power got supplied off that turbine.