

Pioneer Farming in Dania: An Oral History Interview with Minnie and Isidore Mizell*

CK = Cooper Kirk MM = Minnie Mizell
IM = Isidore Mizell EH = Ervean Hampton

conducted by Cooper Kirk, Ph.D.
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Dania pioneers Minnie and Isidore Mizell were interviewed by county historian Cooper Kirk in the summer of 1981 at their home in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. and Mrs. Mizell were born in Hamilton County, Florida, in 1882 and 1894, respectively. In 1910 they and their two sons, Von and Ivory, moved to Dania when it was known as Modello.

Twelve more children were born to this couple after they had settled in southern Broward which, at that time, was in the northern section of Dade County. The names of their other children are: Murray, Ethel Papy, Ervean Hampton, Bernice Peck, Taft, Earl, Zeal, Gwendolyn Mosby, Lorenza, Guilda Bryant, who was named by Mr. John Bryan after his wife, Jacquelyn Andrews, and Isidore, Jr. The three oldest sons are deceased.

CK: . . . that's fine. Now we've got that background. Mr. Mizell, what kind of work did you do when you came to Dania in 1910?

IM: I worked on the farm and raised tomatoes, and beans, . . .

MM: You're forgetting . . .

EH: What about the Pine Island grove where you worked for John Bryan first?

IM: We worked and stayed out there on the grove seven years.

And, then, we came from Mr. Bryan's grove to Dania and we lived there in Dania from then until 1963 when we moved to Fort Lauderdale. And we've been here ever since.

CK: How many years have you been retired from work? You're ninety-nine now.

IM: Well, I retired . . .

EH: He retired when Ivory took over the property and the business and such. He really retired when he had an accident about five years ago.

CK: So, you worked up till you were past ninety years of age? And what kind of work were you doing back then?

IM: I farmed and worked with carpenters. There was a bunch of carpenters working there, and I worked along with all of them until the time would come to farm and we'd go back to the farm.

CK: Whereabouts in Dania did you farm?

IM: We were staying there in Dania and we worked on the farm until the boll weevil came and shut the farming down in Dania. We couldn't raise any tomatoes; the blooms would drop off. So that's when I got to working with the carpenters, building houses and shacks here in Dania for about thirty years. And, then, in 1963 we came to Fort

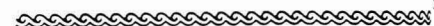
Lauderdale, and we've been here in Fort Lauderdale ever since. But I haven't been able to do anything, since. My working days are gone.

CK: Well you worked long enough. What do you remember about Mr. John Bryan?

IM: He was the finest man I ever worked with in my life. He was a nice man. I couldn't expect anybody to treat us as nice as he did. We stayed right there [c. 1917] until he decided to go to the range up there in Kissimmee. He left us in charge of every thing, the house he lived in, and all. They didn't move anything. They just left their stuff there in our charge. And they'd come back sometimes and spend a day or two, or a week, there and then they'd go back again to the range. But, Mr. John Bryan was a fine man. He was a good man. And, he treated us just as nice as he could. We don't want anybody to treat us any better than Mr. Bryan did.

CK: Did he work hard, himself?

IM: Mr. Bryan was a range man, he raised cattle. He brought a bunch of cattle down here but the cattle couldn't stay down here because



*See "Behind the Scenes," inside front cover.

these glades got under water; there weren't any canals down here. There was nothing to take the water away. And when the big rains came, all those rains we had, the cattle would get under water, and he had to carry the cattle back. He did come back, but they couldn't live here at that time. There weren't any canals here. And there wasn't any way to get the water away from here; you couldn't pump the water off because there was nowhere to pump it.

CK: You say he took the cattle off, what did he do with them, take them up to Kissimmee?

IM: Now, I don't know what he did with them, but he loaded them in box cars and carried them back to Kissimmee; and I imagine he put them out on the range; but, I didn't go up there. He didn't ever carry me to Kissimmee, where the cattle range was, with him. But when he'd come back here, sometimes he'd stay a week at a time.

CK: Well, did you work with him out here, with the cattle, or did you stay just on the grove?

IM: I just stayed on the grove. What time I worked for Mr. Bryan, I was on his grove.

CK: Was he here when you came?

IM: Yes, sir. They were living out on the grove at that time and they moved and went to Kissimmee on a ranch where they were raising cattle and left me and my wife out there on the grove and we took care of the grove and they were raising cattle up there at Kissimmee.

CK: What made you come to Dania, to Modello, from Hamilton County?

IM: I had some friends who told me that you could raise a thousand dollars worth of tomatoes on one acre of land. And they said this was the best tomato land. They'd plant them in seven foot rows and they'd fill them rows up with tomatoes, just as pretty as you want to see. And you just set your bucket down and filled it up. They were

the prettiest tomatoes I had ever seen in my life. And Livingston Blue was the name of the tomato seed that we were using at that time. And, from then on, Mr. [John B.] Gregory got to raising seed right there in Dania. And he'd have a bunch of tomato seed, and they called them Gregory seed.

CK: Did you know J.M. Holding?

MM: Yes.

IM: Sure. Yes, sir, he was one of the old citizens there in Dania. When I came there, there weren't but seven old citizens there: Mr. Roper, Mr. Holding, Mr. Frost, and Mr. Tubbs, and . . .

CK: You mean there were only seven families there when you came?

IM: Seven families, and it was Modello then; it wasn't Dania, it was Modello.

CK: What do you remember about Mr. [A.C.] Frost, the old man . . .

IM: Mr. Frost, the father, was running the store, and he had Mr. Martin Frost and Mr. Greg Frost clerking in it. And Mr. Willis had a store on the other side of the street. There were only two stores in Dania when I came here, and Mr. Frost was running one of them.

CK: Now, what kind of man was Mr. Frost, the old man? How was he to get along with?

IM: I didn't deal too much with the old man, but Mr. Martin C. Frost was a nice man to get along with. We rented a lot of land from Mr. Martin Frost, to farm on, and so I think the best acquaintances I had in Dania were Mr. Frost, Mr. Edge, and Mr. John Gregory. They were the best men whom I knew to help me out. They treated me very nice. They'd let me have land anywhere they had it to lend.

CK: How much would you pay in rent for an acre of land?

IM: Sometimes they'd charge us ten dollars, but they never did charge too much for the rent. Seven, and eight, and ten dollars per acre.

CK: Per year?

IM: Yes. The highest I know of was fifty dollars for five acres. That's the highest rent I ever paid.

CK: Who'd you pay that to?

IM: Mr. Martin Frost.

CK: Was it good land for raising tomatoes?

IM: The east side [east side of present Federal Highway] over there would make the best tomaotes that you'd want to raise.

CK: Do you remember when, in 1918, the canals were dug to drain the land? Or, do you remember any ditches over there?

IM: The first canal cut through there was in 1917 when they cut that little Dania Cut-off Canal. That's two years after we sent seven men to Tallahassee to get Broward County. They got up there and got them to divide some land off Dade County and some off Palm Beach County, and made Broward in 1915.

CK: You remember who those seven men were?

IM: I know some of them. Mr. [S.M.] Alsobrook was one from Dania. Mr. Martin Frost was another.

CK: How about Tom Bryan?

IM: Well, Tom Bryan wasn't a Dania man, so far as I knew . . .

CK: He was from Fort Lauderdale.

IM: Yes, sir, that's right.

CK: Do you mean that there were seven who went from Dania, or seven that went up there altogether?

IM: Well, sir, they had to be in Dania for me to be acquainted with them because we didn't get around too much. Nobody had any automobiles at that time. And then, Mr. Bryan had an automobile, one of about three. And Mr. Mulligan had one.

CK: That's when the county was formed?

IM: Yes, I don't think anybody else owned an automobile. There

were about three automobiles there in Dania.

CK: What do you know about Mr. Holding [first Broward County Superintendent of Public Schools]?
IM: Well he had a grove not too far from Mr. Bryan's grove. And he came out there sometimes with some tangerines. Mr. Bryan didn't have any. And he'd give me a box full. And I thought that was mighty nice of him. I never did get too well acquainted with him, never did work for him, never had many dealings with him. Mr. Frost and Mr. Edge and Mr. John Gregory and Mr.

Tubbs . . . there was a man who I was well acquainted with.

CK: Mr. Harry Tubbs was the mayor of Dania in 1925. Now, do you remember when there was a lot of building in Dania in 1925, 1926?

IM: Yes, sir, I remember those houses they built and . . .

CK: Do you remember the Dania Beach Hotel? The president of the company that built it was A.J. Ryan from Chicago. And several of the people were from Chicago. Do you remember A.J. Ryan?

LEFT: Left to right, Von, Ivory, Minnie and baby Murray, and Isidore Mizell. (C. 1914.)

BOTTOM LEFT: Front row, left to right, Moylend DeLoche, T.H. Hampton, Lottie DeLoche, Roslyn Papy, Minnie Mizell, Trudy Marzo, Guilda Bryant, Lonnie Peck. Back row, left to right, Ethel Papy, Bernice Peck, Maisie Mizell, Ervean Hampton, Don Mizell, Lorenza Mizell, Greg Mizell, Myrtis Mizell, Loraine Mizell, Isidore, Jr. (C. 1950.)

BOTTOM RIGHT: Minnie and Isidore Mizell. (C. 1940.) (Courtesy of the Mizell family.)



IM:A.J. Ryan sold real estate. He was one of the Dania citizens, too. Mr. Labree was a bicycle man. He rented bicycles and I used to rent bicycles from him sometimes to go on a little trip. Mr. Labree was a nice man, too. I don't think he had anything but a little truck; I don't believe he had a car.

CK: Do you remember when Tiger-tail Road was built?

IM: I remember when they finished it. They had a little dike filled up there to go through on, but they finished that.

EH: Yes, it did have that. It used to go over like a little bridge.

CK: Did it cross a canal, was that it?

EH: Yes. It's right between Griffin Road and Stirling Road.

CK: Do you remember Lercy Bryan?

EH: [laughter] Excuse me, he raised Lercy Bryan.

IM: Now, Lercy Bryan was one of Mr. Bryan's boys.

CK: How many boys did he have?

MM: Two.

IM: Murray was the oldest boy.

CK: I knew Lercy; I used to play ball against him. He's a tough little cookie. Let me ask you, what person did more for Dania than anyone else, to build it up, to improve it?

IM: If I were to give you the best of my knowledge, it was Mr. Martin Frost. He sold the Dania



people all the lots they had in Dania. They divided the tract of land that their old man [A.C.] Frost had there, on the west side of the railroad, and they laid that off for the colored people. Well, they never squared them lots up, they ran them right by the railroad. One lot is nine feet longer on one end than it is on the other. The lots are not square in colored town. Mr. Frost is the man who owned the property and he sold them for little or next to nothing. Some paid ten dollars for a lot. And Mr. Frost would give them five years to pay it. And they needed every bit of it.

CK: Sounded like some poor people back in those days.

EH: That's right.

IM: And that's the way we bought the lots in Dania. We bought them from Mr. Martin Frost.

CK: Do you wish you had bought more land?

IM: Well, I'll tell you, I had a chance to buy forty and fifty acres of land, but I thought there'd come a day when I'd be sorry I bought it; that I'd be tax poor. Mr. Alsobrook owned a lot of land and he was tax poor. Mr. [Joseph W.] Young came down there and bought [Mr. Alsobrook's] land and built Hollywood. Now, Mr. Alsobrook had got to where he couldn't pay his taxes.

CK: Well, Mr. Alsobrook owned that land where Hollywood is now, is that right?

IM: That's right. He owned that land and sold it to Mr. Young. Mr. Young gave him a hundred twenty thousand dollars for that whole tract of land back in there. And Mr. Alsobrook came to me and asked me what will he do with all that money. Mr. Alsobrook was surprised, he was so happy. He had one boy and the boy had one eye. And Mr. Alsobrook bought that land and sold that land to Mr. Young.

CK: Who owned the land where the two million dollar banyan tree was located? Was it [P.H.] Roper?

Where Brooks came in later, around the curve, there.

IM: Mr. [George B.] Hinkley.

CK: Right. He put in a lot of different kinds of shrubbery there. He had a nursery.

EH: Did any colored people own any of the land on the east side?

IM: Not that I knew of. If any did, I didn't know it.

CK: According to the newspaper accounts, Mr. Holding owned more land over there than anybody else.

EH: I thought the Frost's did.

CK: Not according to the newspapers. But, Frost owned a lot. So, you would say that Mr. Martin C. Frost did the most for the people of Dania. Do you know his daughter, Mrs. Jeanette Eby?

MM: Oh, yes . . .

IM: Yes, I know Mr. Frost, his family, all of them.

CK: Do you remember I.T. Parker?

IM: I.T. Parker passed on to his sweet beyond. He's gone but I've been told that his brother [William S.] is living somewhere. Ervean, where's his brother?

EH: He's in a nursing home in Hollywood. Both of them were bankers . . .

IM: I.T. [Parker] is the one who started the bank. He started that bank in 1912 and there was none in Dania before that.

CK: Did you come up to Fort Lauderdale often?

IM: No, sir, about once a year.

CK: Up to the courthouse?

IM: After they made this Broward County I had to come to Lauderdale about once a year to pay my taxes. I stayed in Dania from 1915, the time when they made Broward County, until 1963, when I came to live up here in Lauderdale.

CK: How did you get money to send your children to college, like Dr. Von Mizell? Did he work his way through?

MM: We worked and helped him.

IM: Well I'm going to tell you, the colleges weren't like they are now. You could send a child to college for forty-five dollars a month, at that time; and I could get up forty-five dollars to pay one's board and keep one in school all the time. There was plenty of work there that I could get enough to get up to forty-five dollars. But, if you had a child now and you wanted to send him to college, you'd have to go somewhere else.

CK: Well what were you doing when you sent Von to college?

IM: I'd farm in the winter, up until the last of April. Then, I would go out and catch little jobs here and yonder, building and helping people to build things.

CK: How much would you get per hour, carpentering?

IM: We got a dollar and a quarter an hour.

CK: That's ten dollars a day. That was pretty good money back in those days.

IM: I thought I'd rather do that than to farm.

CK: What about the mosquitoes, what did you do when the mosquito season was here; how did you fight the mosquitoes?

IM: We had mosquito nets. We'd put a mosquito net over the bed we slept in. And, in fact, we had to fight mosquitoes all the time.

CK: What did you do when you were out working?

IM: The mosquitoes wouldn't bother you too much when you were working. I never saw mosquitoes when we were working. But at night, when you laid down to rest, they'd come in; they'd be so thick you could just catch a handful of them.

CK: Did you ever have smudge pots?

MM: Yes, sir. That's right, we had smudge pots. We would burn insect powder, too. Sometimes we'd just make a smoke out of rags.

CK: How about the churches? Did

you go to church?

IM: Yes, sir, we went to church; we were Missionary Baptists. We went to St. Ruth's Church every Sunday.

EH: Tell him that you built St. Ruth's Church.

IM: Oh, I built the church, I built it three different times. The storm blew it down one time and I built it back. Then they decided that they wanted a block building. That church is still there. I built that church from the ground up. I poured the foundation and went on up to the top.

EH: It might be interesting to know that he and another man [Joe Sidney] built the first black school. Mr. Martin Frost gave the land.

CK: Do you remember what year or about when it would be?

EH: It must have been . . . Attucks was built in '26 and six years before that . . .

CK: About 1920. I know it was being renovated in 1925, I got the school board records. And the colored school building in Dania was being renovated in 1925 when James S. Rickards was the county superintendent of the schools. Mr. Holding went out in about 1915 and Mr. Rickards came in and stayed in until 1928. Mr. Bennett came in in 1931 and stayed until 1952 . . . Do you know where Dania got its name?

IM: Well, it was named Modello before. They changed the name to Dania after they found out that the Danes were the first people to come here.

RIGHT: Ervean Hampton, Isidore Mizell. (C. 1981.)

FAR RIGHT: Minnie Mizell. (C. 1981.)

CK: The Frosts were Danish. A.C. Frost, the father, came from Denmark to Illinois in the 1870s. Did you know Monty Smith? He wasn't an old-timer. He was a policeman, a police chief on the sheriff's department. I played ball with him for years and years.

IM: Well, I remember him.

CK: Were there any paved roads in Dania when you came [in 1910]? Or, were they all sand roads?

IM: No, they had rock roads.

CK: Incidentally, did you come down by train when you came in 1910?

MM: Came down by train.

CK: Where did you stay when you first came down?

MM: Mr. Bryan had a little house that we stayed in.

CK: So, the first work that you did was in Mr. Bryan's grove and you stayed with Mr. Bryan for seven years . . .

MM: Right.

CK: And you went into farming for yourself in about 1917. Did you ever go to the beach when you were young, back in those days?

MM: We'd go sometimes.

IM: We'd go down there sometimes when the church would have a meeting and they'd want to go down to the beach and then picnic. We'd baptize people in the ocean.

CK: You had to have a boat to get across the canal, didn't you? There was no bridge back then.

IM: We had a bridge.

CK: Did you go to the beach regularly?

MM: No, just went on occasions.

CK: Did you ever go hunting?

IM: Why, racoon and 'possum would come up all around our house. And rabbits, you'd catch all of them roaming around the grove, there. We had rabbits and 'coons and 'possums.

CK: Were there any wild turkeys?

MM: A few.

CK: Did you have any contact with the Indians?

MM: I didn't. They would come by and ask to pick oranges sometimes.

CK: Ever go fishing?

IM: We went fishing quite often. We'd go striking at night and kill all the fish that we wanted with a striking iron. The glades were all full of water and nice big warm perch would be out there. We had a torch that we'd hold up over the



water and you could see the fish down there just as plain as if it was wide open daytime.

CK: So, it was clear water, then?

IM: That's right. They'd be down here. And there was one lady here, Mrs. Blount, a widow woman, who'd go striking, too. Lot of nights she'd be down there striking, carrying us some feed, and we'd be down there and we'd kill all kinds of fish, these would bite, you know, what they called a pike fish.

CK: I've heard of it.

IM: They lay right on top of the water. You could see them, easy. But, the mudfish and the catfish would be down in the deep water.

CK: Did you consider yourself, in relation to the other blacks in Dania, well-off, or average, or below average? How did you think about yourself? We all think about ourselves and, you know, how we fit in. Were you any better situated than most other blacks in Dania or, what do you think about it?

MM: I didn't think much about it. I felt very comfortable. It was families, the [Leola C.] Chambers family, Miss [Mary] Chambers, and Mr. Collins' wife whom we associated with and . . .

CK: Well, did you think of yourself as being rich?

MM: No, always felt poor, very poor.

CK: Who were some of the blacks down there besides the Collins family?

MM: There were the Chambers and the Mac Smiths. There was Miss Lottie Taylor, a black in Dania; he's very intelligent, and Mr. and Mrs. Perkins.

CK: Were most of these people farmers?

MM: Yes, though, of the wives, Mrs. Collins ran a store and Mrs. Perkins was a maid. Mrs. Chambers was a midwife, a granny.

CK: So, you didn't go to a hospital;

you had the granny, a midwife, here. How much would the midwife charge?

MM: I think the charge was three dollars. And it went up to ten.

CK: She finally went up to ten dollars. That was really an outrageous charge, ten dollars.

MM: That was terrible.

CK: Did the blacks ever get together and have a community picnic, or something like that?

MM: Yes, we had picnics. We would go to the beach sometimes and have a group picnic. Maybe one church would get together.

CK: But, did you have any group outside the church?

MM: Well, yes, if they'd want to come they'd be welcome. All they had to do was to bring their baskets of food.

CK: Did you have a baseball team?

MM: Well, we didn't have a regular team in Dania. The boys played ball.

CK: Your children grew up in Dania, of course. How old was Von when you came down here?

MM: He was about three years old.

CK: So, he got all his schooling down here, then.

MM: That's right.

CK: He must have been in one of the first schools that they had in Dania.

MM: Well, I reckon so. They had four months of school there. They started in July, I think it was. That's all.

CK: He must have done some studying at home, then. Did you encourage him to be a medical doctor?

MM: Well, we did.

CK: Where did he go to college?

MM: Morehouse, in Atlanta. First he went to Florida Normal, a high school, in St. Augustine.

CK: Florida Normal has been made into a college, Florida Memorial College, down in Miami. Of course

you had to pay for that, too, when he attended Florida Normal.

MM: Oh, yes.

CK: Where did he go to medical school?

MM: Meharry, in Nashville.

CK: So he went from here to St. Augustine, to Atlanta, to Nashville, and then he came back here to practice. Do you ever go to this big center [the Dr. Von D. Mizell building] down here, about three blocks away, that's named in his memory?

MM: Well, I've been crippled; we had a bad wreck about five years ago. I was there for the dedication, but didn't go inside the building.

EH: All the school children went to the dedication . . .

CK: Did you have a car down in Dania when you were young, say, in the 1920s when the boom time came?

MM: I think we did. I think in the boom time we had a car . . . when did we get the first car that we owned?

IM: I don't remember, Minnie, the year we did get that car . . . it was a Ford. We used to drive that Ford up to Jasper, the county where we were raised, and . . . we never had too much trouble with that Ford car. I believe they were built better then, than they are now. I believe they were good cars, the Ford cars. Do you know one thing, the President of the United States, Mr. James Carter, wrote us a congratulations when we were married seventy years and I didn't even know he knew that we were in the world.

CK: When were you married? It had to be before you got here in 1910.

IM: Me and my wife left Hamilton County, and came all the way down here. We came from Genoa, Florida, to Palatka and crossed over there on the other side of the river and got on the [Florida] East Coast train, and when we got off, we got

off in Dania. We didn't know anybody in Dania when we got off there. But, there was a fellow there they called Joe Young. We went to his house and asked if there were any boarding houses or any place where we could stay at night. And he said, "Come on in. You can stay right here." And we stayed there with him that night and, the next morning, I asked him how much did we owe him. He said, "nothing but due respect." And, we didn't have to pay him one penny, and we'd never seen the man before.

CK: Did you see him after that?

IM: Yes, I saw him several times, about two years after that.

CK: What kind of food did you have to eat?

MM: Plenty of green vegetables.

CK: Was your garden by your house or out where you farmed tomatoes?

MM: Out where we farmed tomatoes sometimes.

CK: What kind of stoves did you have?

MM: Wood stoves.

CK: Did you ever own a coal-oil stove, where you had burners on it?

MM: Yes, but I never really liked it.

CK: You liked the wood stove the best?

MM: Oh, yes.

CK: What did you do for air-conditioning?

MM: We didn't have anything like that.

CK: What did you use, a fan?

MM: No.

CK: Keep the windows open?

MM: Well, when we had mosquitoes so bad, you couldn't keep the windows open.

CK: You ever have much cold weather then?

MM: Oh, no, we wouldn't ordinarily get the cold.

CK: But you still got cold enough

that you had to make a fire at times, didn't you?

MM: Not much.

IM: We used to put a chimney into every house we built. And, we'd have a fireplace in there. But, mosquitoes, after so long a time they got the mosquitoes killed off, they'd just come and spray the whole home and get rid of those mosqui-

toes. Got rid of them, quick. Now, you won't find too many mosquitoes, here. You might find a few, but you won't find too many.

CK: What thing helped you most when you were in Dania in the early days, say in 1910, 1915? What helped you the most to keep going? It was a hard life. What kept you going? Was it faith in God?

MM: Oh yes, I've always been a practicing Christian.

CK: In other words, as a Christian you had hope that God was in control of things, that He was watching out for you.

MM: Yes.

CK: Did you think about life getting better, that: "Someday, if we keep saving our money we can buy some land; maybe sometime we can retire!" Did you ever think like that?

MM: I never felt as though I would ever be able to sit down. But, I just prayed and asked for good health so I could be able to take care of myself.

CK: Did you have good health?

MM: Good health, both of us, always.

CK: If you had to change your life, in just one way, what would that change be?

MM: The only change that I have made in my life that I'm not too satisfied with, although I've accepted it, was moving from Dania up here to Fort Lauderdale. I had good friends. I didn't give it much thought when I was moving. I had GOOD friends there, and I got along well with them. But, I'm up here in this area, and I haven't been

able to make the friends here that I had there. I'm just not able to go out and do it. You know, people will meet you half way probably but you've got to do something for yourself. And I'm not able to do this, and he is not able; so we just sit here on the porch.

CK: So, you miss your friends that you lived with for so long in Dania you miss them more than anything else. . .

MM: Right. I miss the white and the colored. I had a good white friend there that I thought a lot of . . .

CK: Tell me about your father?

IM: Well, he was a good family man, a good provider, and he raised ten head of children right there in Hamilton County.

CK: Where'd he come from?

IM: They brought him to Georgia to the sale block, and sold him to Mizell, and Mizell brought him to Florida . . . We got the name from Mizell who bought him off the sale block in Traders Hill, Georgia, and brought him here. There are a lot of Mizells here, now. They're scattered all over the United States. But, my father and his brother were the only Mizells brought from Traders Hill, Georgia. My grandmother came from Africa. When Mizell bought him off the sale block in Georgia, that was in '59.

CK: How old was your father then?

IM: He was twelve years old when FREEDOM came.

CK: If he was sold as a slave in 1859, then he was six years old when he was bought. Did your father live to be an old man?

IM: Seventy-eight.

CK: You've out raced him twenty one years, so far.

IM: Yes, sir.

CK: Well, this has been a very delightful time talking to you and getting this information. I know it's hard to recall things over such a long period, from around 1900 up to the present time. Thank you very much.