

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Kentucky Folklife Program

*Rural Heritage Development Initiative Central Kentucky Cultural Survey
in partnership with the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology at
Western Kentucky University*

Field Notes

County: Boyle

Interviewee's name: Teresa Martin

Date: 11.2.2007

Location: Outside of Danville, Boyle County, KY

Interviewer's name: Meredith Martin

Interviewer's email and phone number: Meredith.martin466@wku.edu; 479-957-0551

Archival code for audio: RHDI.Boyle.11.2.2007.Martin1-4.mp3

Archival code for photos (if applicable): RHDI.Boyle.11.2.2007.Martin.jpeg 1-38

Additional Notes:

I arranged to meet Teresa Martin a week before after hearing about her from Bev Cox who heard about her from the County Extension Agent. She is a fiber artist and enters her work in both the County and State Fair. She said she also raises goats and chickens and her and her husband are renovating a 220 year old brick home outside of Danville.

I arranged to meet Teresa Martin at her home at 10:00 on Friday morning. I was already in Danville after having done two interviews in the area the day before. Although I had detailed directions, I was unsure how far her house was located down the road outside of town. From speaking with her, I knew their home was one of the oldest brick

houses in the region, and as soon as I saw the tall brick I-House sitting on a hill, I knew that had to be the place. The house is a beautiful old structure. Old cars and found objects decorated the yard. As I got out of the car I could hear the sound of roosters and a barking dog.

Teresa Martin met me outside and led me into the house, which is very much under construction and has been for the past six years, she says. When they first purchased the house, it was totally abandoned with cows and other not so-tame creatures living in the bottom floor. The house was not for sale at the time, but she fell in love with it and finally convinced the owner to sell. It is amazing to see what all they have done to renovate the house. Although I did not get to tour the house, from what little I saw, it is an amazing house with an amazing collection of antiques scattered throughout the house. The outside is equally interesting with old cars in the yard, which they are also renovating. I took pictures of the front of the house and parts of the outside. Teresa encouraged me to come back at Christmas and take pictures because she covers the place with Christmas trees.

Although I originally intended to interview Teresa Martin about her textiles, our interview ended up covering a variety of subjects from her grandmother who taught her to sew in eastern Kentucky, to her family's relationship to Loretta Lynn, to her love for animals. I feel like I should have perhaps asked more questions about her textile work, but we did discuss raising animals at length. It was clearly a subject she loves to discuss (and me too I guess). Throughout the interview her dog barked from the next room. I am not sure if he was in the other room because he is super friendly or not friendly at all. For a while her son sat at the table with us and played what I think was Dungeons and Dragons. We conducted the interview at the sewing table in the front room where she was working

when I came in, and we spoke about some of the projects she was working on. It appears that she sews all day and most of the night. She is highly prolific. She is also very gregarious and fun to talk to.

After we did the interview in the kitchen area we went outside to see the goats and chickens. Teresa Martin clearly loves her animals very much and dotes on them. I took many pictures of her with her animals, especially with the roosters she loves so much. The interview went very well and it felt like we had known each other for some time. Teresa also knew several of the people I had already interviewed already and we had a good time talking about the diversity of sewing styles in the area. By the time our interview was over and we had visited with the goats and chickens, it was time to go visit with Mrs. Marthetta Clark.