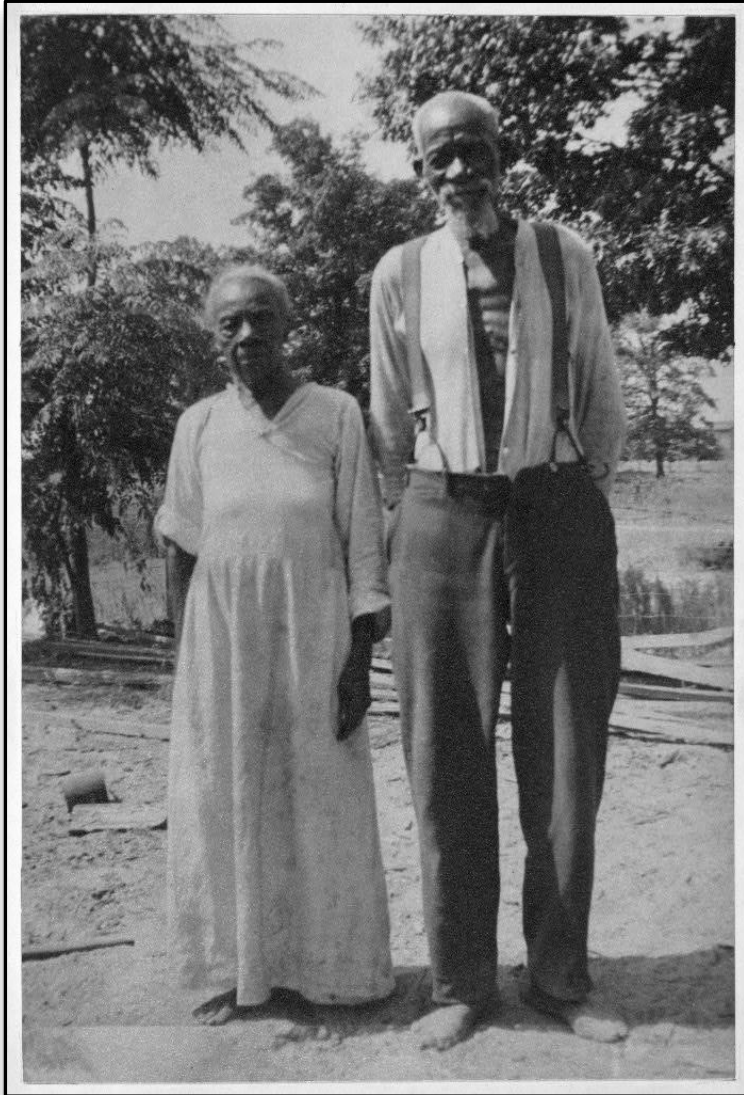


Mr. Douglas was interviewed twice. The first time by Mrs. Mildred Thompson in 1936. The second time he and wife, Mrs. Sarah Douglas, were interviewed by Mrs. Carol Graham in 1938.



Tom and Sarah Douglas, ages 82 and 89. Photo taken in 1936. On the original image, "Tom" is written above "Sam" in pencil in the title.

Uncle Tom Douglas—Yas'm, ah members da wah. Ah wuz fo'teen when de wah began an eighteen when hit closed. Mah marster wuz B. B. Thomas, Union Parish, Louisiana, near Marion, Louisiana. Ah saw de fust soldiers go an saw young marster go. When young marster come back at de close of de wah he brought back a big piece of mule meat ter show us niggers what he done have ter eat while he wuz in de army.

Ah nevah wuz sold but lots of marster's slaves wuz sold. They wuz sold jes like stock. Ah members one fambly. De man wuz a blacksmith, de woman a cook, an one of their chillun wuz waitin boy. They wuz put on de block an sold an a diffunt man bought each one an they went ter diffunt part of de country ter live an nevah did see one nother no moah. They wuz sole jes like cows an horses. No'm, ah didn't like slavery days. Ah'd rather be free an hungry,

SOURCE: *Federal Writers' Project: Slave Narrative Project, Vol. 2, Arkansas, Part 2, Cannon-Evans*. 1936. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mesn022/>

A Note on Language of the WPA Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938

These oral histories reflect both the experiences of formerly enslaved people and the historical moment in which the interviews were recorded. Interviewers often tried to record the interviewee's spoken language as they heard it. But this process was not as straightforward as it seems. Historians recognize that "what most interviewers assumed to be 'the usual' patterns of speech of their informants' speech was unavoidably influenced by preconceptions and stereotypes."

For more information: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/articles-and-essays/note-on-the-language-of-the-narratives/>