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## **Interview, Georgia Love, Interview with an Ex-slave who is Reputed to Have the Power to Remove Pains with Her Hands, circa 1936**

Georgia Love

Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Florida

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Interview with an ex-slave who is reputed to have the  
power to remove pains with her hands.

Georgia Love-1015 Kettle Ave, Lakeland, Florida.

Georgia lives in a dilapidated house with heavy foliage in front of the house which shuts off the view from the street. There is a large grape harbor in the front yard and the running vines cover nearly all of the front yard.

In reaching the porch you have to be very careful in walking so as not to shake it. There are pieces of lumber just hanging, that look like as if they will fall on you any time. There is lots of old rubbish stacked on the end of the porch.

Georgia was found sitting in a chair. On greeting her she said, " Do now" " Bless Gawd" " Do Jesus , where did you come from". Then she bursted out in a hearty laugh. Georgia is blind but she knew the voice of the interviewer. She said, " Lawdy man you must have dropped out of the sky. Come here ohild and let me hug you. While embracing me she rubbed<sup>my</sup>Head and said, " You old bald head rasca! you wouldn't forget Aunty."

The interviewer asked Georgia to give him some facts about the power that <sup>she</sup> was suppose to have . She laughted and said again, " Do Jesus". You are working for Uncle Sam and I ain't going going to get messed up in that thing. After a little coaking , she started to talking.

She said, " shucks, you come here to talk niggerism. The interviewer wanted to know what " niggerism" was. She said that they were full of "ism", studying lots of foolishness, something with no sence in it, folks that are mean to other folks, lots of mess that ain't good -for-nothing.

Georgia said that she was a prophet before she became blind, saying that she could look at any body and tell what would happen to them, and also tell their fortune with playing cards. This is known to be true- due to the large clientele she had before becoming afflicted in her eyesight. This she said was a gift of God. But she said she could still remove pains from any part of her body.

She stated that, just last week she removed a pain from her old man's leg, he had so much pain it went into her wrist and she said that it never left her hand and wrist until the next day. Explaining that the pain goes into her hand and arms and in order to move it she has to shake her hand. Georgia was asked if she said anything while moving the pain, she replied that she could always feel the pain moving about from one part of the body to the other. She keeps feeling until she reaches the seat of the trouble, then at that point she begins to concentrate. She said that she has cured people's limbs pop like a pistol.

Georgia laughingly said that people are bigger fools today about signs than they were in older times. She recalled during her slave days when they worked in the field, there would come around the slaves a flock of blue birds singing, and suddenly they alighted near them. This was a sign that the master of the slaves was near by and would be around soon. And sure nuff she said, " he came to the spot where they were working.

The interviewers asked Georgia if she ever handled Jo-no's. She said, " Lakeland was full of "Jo-no believers " and I don't fool with that sect, but I can tell you how to fix them.

You pick out a chapter from the bible that fits the case you are working on. Write it or have it printed on paper. Roll it up in a small ball, and wrap cloth around it until it reaches the size of a hickory nut. The outer piece of cloth sew it together. You next dress it with whiskey or boysen cologne, this treatment to the Jo-mo has to be repeated often to keep it active, so to keep the evil spirits away and to have good luck your self. Georgia said some time they bury them under under the house to run people away.

This being a very hot day, and the heat was telling on Georgia so she quietly fell asleep. While she was having her powerful slumber her husband returned home. He is known to all as "Uncle Love" he too is an ex-slave and is very jovial. He was asked about Georgia, a wonderful power. He said "that old lady was a wizard in her days and she just removed a pain from my legs a few nights ago. He wanted to know if she was moving a pain for the interviewer- the response was no. Just calling to talk with her about her life in general.

Through this conversation with "Uncle Love" Georgia woke up, and wanted to know what we were talking about. Then she began to talk about signs and nostrum. She said if you could buy holy oil and rub it on your head it would bring bad hair to your head. I felt like she was talking about me, because I am bald headed. I don't believe in signs but I took that advice in for what it was worth.

At this point Georgia began to hum an old time song. The tune was repeated over and over. After she had finished the inter-

asked for the name and words of the song that she was singing. Georgia said all she remembered was the words. as follows:

Ole Moses live twel he got ole- where shall Ah be?  
Haried in the mount'ns so we tole- where shall Ah be?

Chorus:

"Where will Ah be when the fus' trumpet sounds?  
Oh where will Ah be when hit sounds?  
Hit soun' so loud twel hit wake up to daid,  
Oh where will Ah be when it sounds?

Gawl showed Noah by de rainbow sign- where shall Ah be?  
No more watter but de fish next time- where shall Ah be?

Cho-

Ah never shall fergit dat day- where shall Ah be?  
Then Jesus wash my sins away- where shall Ah be?

Cho-

Sunday mo'nin bright and fair- wher shall Ah be?  
Go' in to hitch on my wings en try de air- where shall Ah be?

Cho-

One day ez Ah was walking 'roun- wher shall Ah be?  
The ellemints open en de love come down- where shall Ah be?

Cho-

Georgia voice<sup>is</sup> was screechy, but she sangin the spirit of the song.

Uncle Love was back in the kitchen preparing food for Georgia and himself. He called her to the table and the interview ended.