

[Charles Gant]

GGD:L.L. [?] [?] [?] [Dry?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 S. 20th

DATE Nov. 30, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant. Charles Gent 336 N. 23rd
2. Date and time of interview. Nov. 30, 1938. 1:30 - 4:p.m.
3. Place of interview. Restaurant
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. Personal acquaintance.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. None.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Interview took place in a small restaurant which informant is proprietor of; Small table lined on each side of the room. Small counter at back end which separates kitchen from dining room. C15[??]

FORM B Personal History of Informant.

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 S. 20th

DATE November 30, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Charles Gant, 336 N. 23rd.

Library of Congress

1. Ancestry. Negro
2. Place and date of birth. Fort Scott Kans. 1878
3. Family. Two.
4. Place and date of birth. Moved to Springfield Ill, when quite young, and remained there until forty years ago; moved to Lincoln in 1898 remained till 1938.
5. Education, with dates. None
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Restaurant proprietor for twenty odd years.
7. Special skills and interests. Chef cook and caterrer.
8. Community and religious activities. Methodist.
9. Description of informant. Heavily built, brown complexioned.
10. Other points gained in interview. Ardent cigar smoker, never seems to be without one sticking out of the side of his mouth unlighted.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20

DATE Nov. 30, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS Of INFORMANT 336 N. 23rd

Library of Congress

"I was born in Fort Scott Kansas, but during, all my early years I lived at Springfield Illinois; that was the home of Abraham Lincoln you know. I have seen the home where he resided many times.

I dont believe there was any section of this country that put on an August the first celebration like we colored folks did in Springfield. People come from miles around and we picnicked for four days.

Barbecued ribs, fried chicken, chiterlings, corn-bread and ash biscuits were the menu of the day—yes and there was always moonshine floatin' around, generally too much.

In the evenings there would be a festival with prominent speakers on program. I recall on one occasion Booker T. Washington spoke to us. The last celebration that I was at Lena Mason a prominent white lady spoke to the crowd.

I learned the cooking game when I was seventeen from an old time cook who had been brought to America in the days of slavery. One of the receipts he taught me was a dish that he made famous in New Orleans. He said when he member of his tribe in Africa this was one of their favorite dishes. Of course it had to be come what altered to satisfy the taste of Americans.

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I won't tell you the exact portions used in this dish because I dont like to give away my important recipes, and some day I am going to feature it on my bill of fare. Anyhow I call it the: African Dish One half of cocoanut is the base for a filling composed of diced chicken, pork, and beef. This in properly seasoned and grated cocoanut is sprinkled over the top. Then it is ready for the oven.

It's a delicious dish and pretty popular among the folks down round New Orleans."