

Oral Memoirs

of

Robert Hickey

An Interview Conducted by

Geoffrey Cravero

February 26, 2019

Regional Initiative for Collecting the History, Experiences, and Stories

(RICHES)

University of Central Florida RICHES

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Interview Histories

Interviewers: Geoffrey Cravero

Transcriber: Geoffrey Cravero

The recordings and transcripts of the interview were processed in the offices of RICHES, History Department, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida.

Project Detail

RICHES is an umbrella program housing interdisciplinary public history projects that bring together different departments at UCF with profit and non-profit sectors of the community.

Central Florida has often been associated with large-scale, commercial tourism and housing development. While those aspects of Central Florida are important to the economic growth of the region, much of its history has remained unnoticed and under researched. The Public History program at UCF links many projects under one initiative to promote the collection and preservation of Central Florida history. By facilitating research that records and presents the stories of communities, businesses, and institutions in Central Florida, RICHES seeks to provide the region with a deeper sense of its heritage. At the same time, the initiative connects the UCF students and faculty with the community and creates a foundation on which Central Floridians can build a better sense of their history.

Legal Status

Scholarly use of the recording and transcript of the interview with Robert Hickey is unrestricted. The interview agreement was signed on February 26, 2019.

Abstract

An oral history interview of Robert Hickey, a descendant of the Hickey family of Ocoee, Florida. The interview was conducted by Geoffrey Cravero at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida, on February 26, 2019. Some of the topics covered include the family history of the Hickeys, growing up with his grandparents, John and Lucy Hickey, in Apopka, how John Hickey became a prosperous landowner in Ocoee, learning about the Ocoee Massacre and the resettlement of his family from his grandmother, interviewing his grandmother as an adult and conducting his own research about his grandfather's landholdings, reflections on the Ocoee Massacre, working towards righting the injustice and honoring his grandparents, his closing remarks, the significance of his family dogs in his childhood, and carrying on his grandfather's legacy.

Robert Hickey

Oral History Memoir

Interview Number 1

Interviewed by Geoffrey Cravero

February 26, 2019

Orlando, Florida

0:00:00

The family history of the Hickeys

Cravero ...these here. Alright. So today is Tuesday, February the 26th, 2019. My name is Geoffrey Cravero and I am speaking with Mr. Robert Hickey in the conference room of Trevor Colbourn Hall at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.¹

Mr. Hickey, thank you for speaking with us today. Uh, if you would, let's begin with some of your biography. Could you please tell us a little about where you're originally from and your upbringing?

Hickey Okay. Uh, I'm originally from Apopka, Florida. That's where I was born in 1947. Uh, I was gonna speak a little to all of that by talking about my family in general.

Cravero Perfect.

Hickey Um, the Hickey Family. And I think that's basically why I'm here. To talk about my grandparents. And I'd like to start by first talking about them.

Uh, John Hickey². Uh, John Hickey was born March 1, 1871, in Moultrie, Georgia. Uh, my grandmother, Lucy, uh—Lucy Silonia Lott³, was born in April, uh—born April 3, 1884⁴, in Sneads, Florida. And, uh, she died in New York, uh, in June, uh—June 26th of 1990. And my grandfather died in—in Apopka at home in September 1, 1955.⁵ Um, both are currently buried at—at the Edgewood Cemetery in Apopka.

Um, it should be noted my grandfather both married previously—uh, he—I think he had some 23 years on my grandmother. And, uh, he was married, uh—I said previously. And their, uh, children from that previous marriage also in the Central Florida area.

Um, uh, my grandmother, uh, uh, had six children from my grandfather. Uh, John. And, uh, one of which was my mother, Dorothy. And, uh, Dorothy gave

¹ Josie Lemon Allen was also present for the interview.

² John Hickey (March 1, 1871 - September 5, 1955)

³ Lucy Silonia Lott (April 3, 1894 - June 26, 1990)

⁴ Lucy S. Hickey's headstone at Edgewood Cemetery lists the date of her birth as April 3, 1894.

⁵ John Hickey's headstone at Edgewood Cemetery lists the date of his death as September 5, 1955.

birth to me, as I said before, uh, January 9, 1947, in Apopka. Uh, soon after birth, my mother went to New York to, uh, make a living for herself. And I remained in Florida with my grandparents. And, uh, until I became—I guess until puberty. But during that time, my grandmother would always take me to New York to visit with my mother and other relatives and in-law.

And eventually, I wind up living with my uncle. My mother's brother, David. And, uh, he put me through school. All the way through high school. And after I graduate from high school, I joined the army. And I served in both Vietnam and Germany as a helicopter crew chief. So, uh...

Allen [coughs].

Hickey ...and, uh, after that time spent in the military, uh, I came home and I attended state university in New York at Stony Brook [University]. And, uh, that's where I got a degree in education. And I was—served as an educator for like the next 25, 30 years. And I'm currently retired and reside in Queens, New York.

And, uh, I'd also like to mention at this time that I have a sister that's the mayor, uh, in Framingham, Massachusetts. So just need to say that. So all this from the Hickey stock. So that generally speaks to the Hickey Family as a whole. Any questions you have about them other than that, I'd be more than happy to address.

0:03:39 Growing up with his grandparents, John and Lucy Hickey, in Apopka

Cravero Um, what was it like growing up with your grandparents? With John and Lucy?

Hickey Um, it was, um, a very warming experience. Of course, I didn't understand it as much then. Uh, you know, um, it was just the two of them and myself. No television. Uh, uh, uh, just a typical evening would be spent, uh, with my grandparents listening to the radio. Usually Oral Roberts⁶ or someone like that. Maybe some hillbilly music, uh, out of the Ozarks. And, uh, eating oranges and looking at the fireplace. And, uh, I would sit and listen to these two old souls talk back and forth. And, uh, I—I really appreciate that now. I think that's the foundation for some of my, uh, learning and wisdom. Uh, you know? I think it helps me to, uh, see things differently. So I—I really appreciate the time I spent with my grandparents. And so I was with them until I said—until about twelve years old. When I came north to live with my uncle. My uncle, who put me through school.

So—but, uh, that foundation never left me. Uh, I was very happy as a kid with my grandparents. My best friends were my dogs. Had about five to six dogs usually. And th—they were my playmates. So—I mean I was happy. Yeah. So,

⁶ Granville Oral Roberts (January 24, 1918 - December 15, 2009)

uh, that's basically about my — my relationship with my grandparents. It was — it was a good relationship. And I'm grateful.

0:05:33 How John Hickey became a prosperous landowner in Ocoee

Cravero Um, what was the Hickey Family like, um, back in — when John and Lucy were younger from — from their stories? Before that — the Election Day.

Hickey Okay. Well, um [*clears throat*], from the things my grandmother told me, and some of the friends of the family that was familiar with the situation, and from some of the research I've done, um, they were prosperous. As were most of the people in Ocoee from what I can tell. Uh, my grandmother, uh — grandfather was very industrious. He, uh, had a lot of property. Uh, property which they sold. I've seen a lot of copies of contracts where they sold stuff. Um, he also was in the lumbering business. He distilled turpentine because he had this huge pine forest, uh, p — a lot of pine trees on his property. So he would sell the lumber and he'd make turpentine out of the sap. And, uh, he also ran a liberty — livery — delivery business. He had an automobile and he had — did some delivery — delivery services. So he, like — like most of the people in the area were very prosperous. And, uh, they did well.

0:07:12 Learning about the Ocoee Massacre and the resettlement of his family from his grandmother

Cravero Um, so what — did your parents — did your grandparents, uh, discuss, um, the events leading up to the — that Election Day, November 2nd, 1920? Um, what the — what the overall community, uh, sentiment was like. And — and m — maybe the — the months or year or so leading up to that.

Hickey Well, later in life, you know, uh, a — as I got older, more so towards high school age, when my grandma would come to New York to spend some time with us, she would utter certain things. But I had no idea of the gravity of it all. Uh, you know, I heard them mention Ocoee here, there. And, um, it was said, but it was like, you know, not a whole lot. So — but she spent a lot — she's told most of what I know about it.

She told me about the time that the Ku Klux Klan and all of 'em rode through the community, burning down the homes and, uh, shooting up the place. And how they hid out in the swamps in stump holes until, uh, it was over. And, uh, when they came out of the s — swam — out of the swamps, uh, everything was gone. Everything was burnt up. And, um, my grandfather, you know, some of his livestock were still in place. So he did hook up the wagon to — with the mules and stuff. And, uh, at night he sent — the next night I think or so, he sent her and the children through some of the back roads to Apopka, where they had friends to stay with. And, uh, he didn't want to be with them. He thought they would

stand a better chance if they were stopped. And, uh, my grandma did say they were stopped by some white men on horses. But they let 'em go.

So he, uh—in the next day or two at night, he would travel through the woods and the swamps and stuff until he finally made his way to Apopka to join them. And that's where they resettled. Luckily enough, he—he had property somewhere—everywhere. So luckily enough, he had property in Apopka, also. And, uh, a nice, um, citrus grove with orange trees and grapefruit trees. And so he built a nice home on the grove. Uh, and as well as several other little houses that he would rent to migrant workers that came in to pick oranges or work on the muck, so to speak. You know? The, eh—the workers that picked the produce and stuff. And, uh, so he would provide housing for them.

So—but he, you know—he was pretty old. Like I said, he was much older than my grandma. So most of the time, when I knew my grandad, he was—eh, he'd seen his better years, so to speak.

Cravero Mm.

Hickey Yeah. So—but, uh, like I said, he resettled in Apopka. Um, again, uh, I didn't know that we were lacking anything. Um, people would come by and speak with him. Talk with him. And, you know, about how things used to be. And—and I had cousins who said, man, you know? Mister—that grandad had a lot of money. You know? People thought that perhaps he had hid some of the money out in the grove and stuff. And, you know, I didn't—I had no idea what they were really talking about. But as I did some research, you know—to come across, uh, articles that I read as to how he may have been one of the largest—had—he lost more land than probably anybody else in that whole situation in Ocoee. And to see his name in print: John Hickey Lost More than a Hundred and Some Acres. And, you know. So, you know.

But, uh, s—I—so now I—and know he was a man of few words. He didn't talk a whole lot. You know? And now I have a better understanding of what was probably bothering him. Yeah.

Cravero Um, so [clears throat] do you have any—what are your, uh—did your grandparents ever mention, uh, Mose Norman or J—uh, July Perry? Did they have any relationship with either of them?

Hickey Well, grandma mentioned—you know, when she was trying to tell me about the—th—the—the riot. Or the—the—I think they—some people called it a riot. Some people called it a massacre. She'd mention the fact that Mose Norman and them—she tried to explain who they were. But I didn't—you know how they went and tried to vote. They all tried to vote. You know? I didn't get whether or not s—they were suc—successful or not. But the fact that Mose and, uh, July Perry went and—and, uh, how he was murdered. J—July. Mose kind of got away

for the moment. And that was supposedly the reason that they came into the community looking for him. And...

Allen [clears throat].

Hickey ...uh, that was the reason for them supposedly, you know – but that's one school of thought. You know? That they were in pursuit of Mose and that's why they decided to turn the place upside down looking for him. And burned them all out. Then again, you know, um, uh, how dare they have so much? You know? Some people thought that, well, these people got all that stuff out there. And, you know? They had more than a lot of the white people in the city had. So – but, uh, yeah. That part. She – they knew. Yeah. They were always a close-knit community. So, you know – so – but, uh. Yeah. She told me about th – the – you know, the night when all that went down. You know? How they had killed Mo – uh, July. Yeah.

And I didn't get – like I said, I wasn't sure whether or not they had any success at voting. I think McKinley was – 1920 it was. I – I think it was McKinley or something. They were supposed to – they were all fired up about voting. They were – they were excited about the opportunity. You know how that was. Paid the poll tax and all that other stuff. And really wanted to do it [adjusts papers]. But, uh, they were denied. You know?

Cravero Did they ever mention, um, where a lot of their friends in the community ended up settling afterwards? Or – was Apopka like...

Hickey Yeah. Apopka. Turned out to be a quite a few in Apopka and that area. You know? Um, uh, I'm not sure what made Apopka the place. I just assumed that they had property there as well. You know? Like I say, he had qu – quite a bit of property all around the area. So, uh, I guess maybe that's why they headed to Apopka. Uh, you know? But it's – there are a few other family members from Apopka she – from Ocoee that settled in Apopka. Uh, but, uh – and that's the best I got it as a kid. You know? I mean I had no idea, uh, you know, what it was all about at an early age. And, like I said, it was much later that I got an understanding.

0:14:23 **Interviewing his grandmother as an adult and conducting his own research about his grandfather's landholdings**

Hickey And I did interview my grandma. One Saturday morning, a – a friend of mine said, "Wow, Bob. Why don't you interview Grandma and just let her talk?" Because she's w – a very few words. She only spoke basically when spoken to. You know? And she'd answer your questions. That was basically it. So a friend of my suggested, "Why don't we take her out to breakfast and – and just ask her some basic questions?" 'Cause she was a history major, this friend of mine. So she came up with some questions. And she just got her to talk. And that's when

she talked about this thing in some detail. You know? And – and how they lost so much. And – and how they were just grateful that they had their lives. And, you know? And so am I. You know? I'm – I'm glad to have met 'em. You know?

And then to read about John Hickey and h – his holdings. And I was most impressed with an article I came across, uh, uh, uh, referred to Hickey Subdivision. Uh, there's a[sic] area in Ocoee right now, they still sometime[sic] refer to it as Hickey Subdivision. And right at the intersection right now I guess would be, uh, Ocoee-Apopka Road and Silver Star [Road]. Right in that general area. And it's like three blocks or more where he had this property that he had divided up to more than 50 dissen – different parcels for sale. Uh, I don't know if he was gonna sell it all or if he was going to do some development. [inaudible] – like the lots. So I don't know if he was gonna try to develop it. But, uh, it seems like he had some grand plans. You know? And, uh, I – that made me real proud. You know? That he was thinking like that. You know?

And, uh – and like I said, you know, he lost quite a bit. But he was still, you know, w – w – we wound up in Apopka, you know, in a nice orange grove that I was raised on. You know? Three. Two acres. And all – all kinds of fruit trees. I mean, tangerines, grapefruits, mandarins. I – I – I would say he had the only mandarin tree I ever seen in the area. So, you know? Guava bushes. You know? Um, tool shed full of all – whatever you needed. Smokehouse. Hams hanging. You know? He – he lived a good life. He believed that. You know?

So I – I was real proud of that. But I didn't – I just didn't know. I just – it was a matter of fact, you know? But after seeing what they went through and reading about it, I got a great appreciation for it.

0:17:07

Reflections on the Ocoee Massacre

Cravero Um, what are your own, uh, reflections on – on the Ocoee Massacre?

Hickey Um, I think that, uh, it was a trem – quite an accomplishment. You know? It was short period of time when – after the end of slavery. Slavery ended in 1865, and here we're talking about 1920. And, you know, 50 years or so later. Uh, a tremendous accomplishment by these African-American people to build a – a upstanding community, where most of them had. They weren't lacking. They, you know – they had some fellowship. A comradery amongst themselves. You know? And, um, and – and i – they did well. They were thriving. And I mean, uh, Mose and July Perry. I think I read something about Mose had a real fancy automobile. He went to try to vote. [laughs] You know?

But, uh, I was impressed. And, uh, 'cause I was real sad to see what happened to them. That all of what they had, uh, all of a sudden on November 2nd, 1920, the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness and all the thing that the American dream is supposed to be about came to a squeaking halt for these people. You know? I

mean they in a f—in—in a matter of hours they had to flee for their lives. And, uh, you know, for—for the next 50 years, there weren't[sic] no black people in Ocoee. 50 years plus. You know? So, um, it just seemed a little unfair, what happened to 'em. And, you know, it happened a—a—has happened other places. You know? But, uh. Yeah. It was a bad thing. And like I said, i—it was, uh, pain and sorrow. You know? I was pleased and happy about what I read. How they lived and what they did. And then for it to end like that was, uh, bad. You know? Very disheartening.

But—and now I understand why my grandad had—didn't have much to say about anything. And right 'til the—the time he died, he—he was a very bitter man. You know? So that—you know, that's it. Uh, uh, so—yeah. So with that's, you know, um—I'm glad to know that they accomplished all those things. I'm sad to see how it ended. Yeah.

0:19:49

Working towards righting the injustice and honoring his grandparents

Cravero Um, can you talk a little about what efforts have been made to somehow right the injustice? And—and what else can be done? What's—what's lacking?

Hickey Well...

Cravero [*clears throat*].

Hickey ...um, I've heard things. Uh, we were contacted by, uh, a—a writer for Associated Press. I forget his—Allen—I—I forget his—his name. But, you know, he brought it to our attention about, you know, what happened then. You know? And the injustices of it all. And what—the different type of, uh, movements. Uh, people were trying to do some things to try to right that wrong. And, um, uh, that's why I was real glad to hear about Josie's group⁷ and their efforts. And, uh, when—and when they reached out to me, I—I was, "Wow. Yes." I was, "Anything I can do to help the situation." And I'm grateful for—for that organization, uh, and all the others. You and your group. And any way that, uh—to right the situation as best possible.

I mean, you know, I don't ever think there's gonna be any type of reparations. As a matter of fact, I s—did speak with someone, uh, regarding that. I spoke with the same attorney that handled the Rosewood case. And, uh, you know, explained who I was and—and what my concerns and issues was[sic]. And he told me, said, "Well, you know, the Florida legislature said this is a one-time deal. You know? This is not gonna set a precedent. This is it [*claps hands*]. Boom. Bop. Boom." I said, "Well, how can this, you know—it's all the same." But, uh, that's what I got from him. Okay? And, uh, I have notes on all of that stuff.

⁷ Bridge the Gap Coalition, Inc.

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But, um, I'm happy to see that people are – the community is now integrated. Uh, as a matter of fact, um, uh, aside from visiting, uh, Apopka, where my grandparents' ceme – eh, eh, burial site, you know – I do visit that, uh – them whenever I'm in town. And – and I don't know if I mentioned before that, you know, I had a tombstone put out there for them, uh, a couple of years ago. An inscribed at the base of the tombstone is a – is a phrase. It's a little saying. It says, "They survived" – excuse me. "They prospered in, and survived Ocoee. November 2, 1920." You know?

So right after I had that put in, the lady contacted me from the – you know, I've been doing this. I spoke with City Hall in Apopka about the right way to go about doing this. And the, uh, clerk from City Hall called me a couple of days after it was installed. Said, "There's a lady that wants to contact you. She was at the cemetery. She saw this new tombstone you had erected – put there for your grandparents. And she'd like to talk to you." So, uh, this was [knocks], um, the – from the historical society in Apopka. Uh, you know her name [knocks].

Allen Francina...

Hickey Francina...

Allen Boykin.

Hickey Boykins. And so then she called me. And she s – said, "I saw that saying." You know? So, you know, I was impressed that that got her attention. You know? Because I want, you know – and I don't want anybody – I don't want them to be known for that much. They did well there. And they survived it. You know? The – the whole thing. So – but, um, you know? That's basically it.

Uh, uh, so, uh, yeah. I will do whatever I can to keep the momentum going. Any way I can help the organization moving forward. Uh, I – I will do that. And so, i – i – making a trip like this. Hey, it worked. We worked it in. I was happy I could be here. You know? I was coming. And so...

Cravero [clears throat].

Hickey ...and, uh, the other thing that we're gonna do, uh, my friends and I, we're gonna go out and play a little golf in their honor on Saturday in Ocoee [laughs]. So, you know, I – I – I'll be thinking about 'em.

0:24:38 **Closing remarks**

Cravero That's fantastic. Well, we, uh – Mr. Hickey, we appreciate you making the trip out here and sharing your story with us. And, um, do you have any final thoughts you'd like to share? Anything else you'd like to add before we...

Hickey Well...

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- Cravero** finish?
- Hickey** ...um, again, uh, um, uh, I'd just like to again say that I'm grateful. And I'm in full support of the Peace and Justice Initiative and all the other affiliate organizations and individuals who have dedicated themselves to increasing the knowledge of the p—events that occurred on November 2nd, 1920. And that they continue their dialogue and panel discussions with local scholars and—and groups to try to, uh, bring back some type of truth and reconciliation in this regard. And, uh, I pledge to do whatever I can to move the agenda forward.
- Cravero** Alright. Well, thank you so much.
- Hickey** So any time I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to call.
- Cravero** He's looking at you [*laughs*].
- Hickey** No. I'm looking at both of you.
- Allen** [*coughs*].
- Hickey** 'Cause you're a team.
- Cravero** Right.
- Allen** Well, I just also want to thank you for coming out and doing the interview. It means so much.
- Hickey** Well, I—I want to thank you a—and y'all for what you're doing. For having interest in it. You know? I mean I didn't—you know, I didn't know that people had that much interest in the whole situation. Okay?
- Allen** I have a question.
- Hickey** Mhmm.
- Allen** So, eh, does—does your family now continue to tell the story to the generations that have come in your family?
- Hickey** I am the lead person in my family right now. Pretty much. See, I was mostly y—you know, like I said, my grandparents had, uh—my grandma and my grandad—that union that—there were six children. And out of those children, I think I'm the oldest of the grands. You know? Um, and, uh, the rest of 'em, th—they don't—they really don't have an idea about this. Except when I tell 'em—my two nieces that I brought with me last summer, they were very interested, you know? And they live here in Florida now. South Florida. And they were very interested because that's the kind of girls they are. You know? So, wow. You know? So they intrigued by those type of thing. As a matter of fact, they

went out to Apopka and visited the historical society. And – and – and, you know? So, uh, yeah. They have interest. But, uh, not many of ‘em. You know? Uh, they have – they don’t quite understand.

Uh, you know, I – get together for Thanksgiving, I do some storytelling. You know? But, and like again, I’m – I’m grateful that I have my – I spent my early childhood with my grandparents. You know? I – I can’t tell you how invaluable that is. You know? I mean just raw wisdom. You know?

0:27:51

The significance of his family dogs in his childhood

Allen When did you become aware of the world? So you didn’t have a t.v. And it is you, John and Lucy. When did you become...

Hickey Yeah.

Allen ...aware...

Hickey Well...

Allen ...of what was...

Hickey Well, those few trips that we, you know – I was a happy kid. My – my grandad, he was – he couldn’t do very much. My grandma was still trying to work. My grandma would take a bus to – from Apopka to Orlando to work in the kitchen wa – washing dishes in the morning. She would do – catch the bus from Apopka at about 4 [inaudible] in the morning. In the dark. My dogs would walk her to the bus stop, which about a mile or so to what we called a “hard road”. Because we lived down on the dirt road. So they would walk her to the bus stop in the morning. She’d catch the bus into Orlando. And then the dogs came back and they’d lay out in the front yard until I got up. I was pretty much on my own. Just me and my dogs. I – I was able to get me[sic] something to eat and put on my little shorts and straw hat. And my dogs and I were all over town the rest of the day. People would say all they would see [laughs] a little – the dogs and a little straw hat in the middle. The dogs – and I get emotional – took care of me. They took care of me. I mean I could go somewhere, it started raining like now. I’d get up on the big oak tree. It looked like a canopy. Rain would hardly hit the ground sometimes. Later, I’d take a nap. And not that I was being neglected, but I was – that was it. And this is before, you know, first grade, kindergarten. Try to do that with a kid today.

0:30:16

Carrying on his grandfather’s legacy

Hickey So from that little snotty nosed kid running around Apopka with his dogs to retire as an educator, high school principal, Vietnam veteran, helicopter mechanic, you know? It came from somewhere. So it was in the genes. If – if he could do what he did, you know – and like I say, to see his name in print, and the

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Hickey Subdivision, 50 plots of – on this map. It's all laid out. How much did he lose? And they were selling property all the time, too. So he was very industrious. And, uh, you know, just – just pleased to be a part. You know? You got any more questions for me? I – I'll be more than happy to answer them.

Allen Well, just a few. Um...

Hickey You alright...

Allen You said that your...

Hickey ...there, buddy?

Cravero I'm fine.

Hickey [inaudible].

Allen You said that your grandfather...

Hickey Mhmm.

Allen ...when he died, he was...

Cravero [clears throat].

Allen ...bitter.

Hickey I, you know...

Allen How did he show it? How did he...

Hickey He never...

Allen ...show...

Hickey He loved me. I'll say that much. Uh, he was – he was pretty old. Now I was born in '47. He died in '55. Um, there were times that, you know, he was – his health was failing. His mind was getting weak. Uh, but he didn't, y – you know – he treated me well. As he called me Bob. And, um, he – my aunt, who was their baby girl, she was there. You know? The funny book reading. And she was like a teenager and stuff like that. She tried to chastise me and he'd tell her she'd better not. Leave him alone [inaudible]. [laughs] But, uh, uh, no. He didn't talk a whole lot about too much of anything. Some people would come by and visit. I had cousins that came by and say, "You know." Said mist – they s – my grandma always called him Mr. Hickey. That's what she referred to him as: Mr. Hickey. And then some – some of my cousins was at – would come by – from like his other set of children. Some of their grandchildren and stuff, they'd come by to

see him, too. And pay homage. And there was a good relationship between the other siblings on both ends. And one of my cousins tell me, he said, "You know, they said that – that grandpa – that when the banks and stuff was having problems with the money. And he didn't quite understand. So he went up to ask the man at the bank, 'Well, what ya'll need?'" *[laughs]*.

Allen *[laughs]*.

Hickey They were having some – *[inaudible]* shut the banks down because the money wasn't flowing right. So he went – made 'em – "Well, how much you need?" *[laughs]*. They thought that was funny. You know?

So, like I said, people thought there was money buried out in the orange grove and stuff. You know? But I don't know whatever happened. It may have been. You know? But, uh, uh, I think he lost a whole lot. And, like I say, he not only lost property with that situation, but I think he lost dignity as well. And I think that's the reason that he was so bitter. You know? Because he was used to being a self-sufficient, standup man. And the – to lose everything like that. And he couldn't do anything about it.

And I'm not sure how all of his land was lost. I – I would be anxious to see the records on how land was transferred from that point on. Because, uh, I'm thinking that when he may have been weak and not well, that he may have had visitors to his home to coerce him into doing some things that maybe he wasn't really f – willing to do or wanted to do. And, uh, I'm thinking some of that could have – it *[inaudible]* – you know? Because he was too much of a businessman. Too smart. And, uh – and I just think that, uh, it was just taken from him.

So that's why I'm curious to, uh, see what it looks like now on the corner of, uh, Silver Star and, uh, Ocoee-Apopka Road. You know? So – but, uh, that, I want to take a look at.

Allen I don't have anything else.

Cravero You good? Alright. Well, thanks again, Mr. Hickey. This has been, uh, Geoffrey Cravero with Robert Hickey in the conference room of Trevor Colbourn Hall at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, on Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

Hickey Yeah. Thank you.

Cravero Sounds good. Thank you.

Allen Thank you.

End of Interview