

Comparative Voices

Ilene Davies - Driven 2 Teach

When I Was a Slave and *Voices of Freedom* are both primary sources which illustrate the lives and struggles of African Americans. *Voices of Freedom* is an overview of events which made up the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s through the 1980s and then gives individual interpretations of many events. *When I Was a Slave* is a collection of interviews from former slaves which were interviewed in their eighties, nineties, and a few 100 or older. Obviously, both chronicle the African American experience. The narratives are responses to personal experiences from elderly perspectives which leaves the reader with more questions about the common experience of freedom after the Civil War. There did not seem to be a collective action or thought in the acquisition of freedom, whereas *Voices* is the common reaction of a race working together for the democratic rights of all citizens. Both have value, *Voices* a rounded history of a race's response to inequality and the emotional reaction by the readers of living as a slave within the narratives.

When I Was A Slave

Mary Anderson

North Carolina
Texas
Food, clothes, Sundays spent
At the Great House
Overseer could not whip
Unmanageable slaves were sold

- the Yankees came
Took the livestock, ate the food,
Camped and told the slaves
They were free

Two years after the war, Master
Searched for any former slaves
To return home
And we went
Maple Springs Baptist Church
my life

Ben Simpson

Walked to

in chains from Georgia
watched Mother go lame
and shot and left unburied

Master did not free us
We drug them chains with us
branded and afraid
he would kill us

Stealing all the time, Master
got hanged, Missy Salena
freed us, I was a wild nigger
General Houston found me
I farmed all

SLAVES

WAR

READY TO SEE GOD

2Voice - Davies

Voices of Freedom

Mamie Till Bradley Mobley

Chief Laurie Pritchett

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Money, Mississippi, 1955

Albany, Georgia, segregated

70 years supported second-class

The center of life for Black souls

1961

Citizenship for blacks

SNCC moved in from Terrible

Terrell

KKK resisted mongrelization

to Register

voters

WE ARE GOING TO OUT-NONVIOLENT THEM

MISSISSIPPI WOULD PROTECT ITS WAY OF LIFE

We knew the situation was serious

No violence

Emmett was in a pine box

No dogs

I wanted that body

No show of force

I had to make sure it was Emmett
miles?

How many jails with 15

I wanted the world to see

None in our jail

Unusual attention from the white media

Enforce the ordinances and laws

NAACP secretary Evers attended the trial

Dr. King was coming

THE WORLD WAS WATCHING

I was certainly not treated very gentle on this day

I did not disagree with Dr.

King

I was adamant it was Emmett's body
courts

I believed in the

The trial lasted five days
streets

He believed in the

Two witnesses saw Emmett in Milam's pickup
Heard the beating and cry, "Lord have mercy"
outsmarted

...you've got to go, Dr. King
Out-nonviolent and

**THE ALL WHITE JURY RETURNED THE VERDICT
NOT GUILTY!**

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