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### Oral History Interview: Sidney Morgan Martin

Sidney Morgan Martin

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ORAL HISTORY

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Date April 14, 1973

Stanley Morgan Martin Sign here  
(Signature - Interviewee)

Box 83  
Address

Eddyville, Ky. 42038

Date April 14, 1973

Glenn A. Messick  
(Signature - Witness)



Sidney Morgan Martin

Glenn Messick interviewing Mr. Sidney Morgan Martin, ninety seven year old Spanish-American War veteran and candidate for the Sheriff of Lyon County, Eddyville, Kentucky, April 14, 1973.

GAM: Mr. Martin, could you elaborate a little about your father's experiences in the Mexican War?

SMM: Well they went to Vera Cruz. They landed at Vera Cruz and marched to the city. He was there when they captured Santa Anna, you know.

GAM: You said also that he had been a veteran of the Civil War with the Confederate Army of Missouri.

SMM: I think he lost his records. He was on the Southern Army and he never drew anything. I think he got his discharge burnt up. I think he did sometime. He had other papers but they weren't worth anything to him, much, anyway but he drew a pension as a Mexican Veteran.

GAM: Your uncles were on the Northern side?

SMM: He was with the Federal Army. We use to fight it over again, ya know, in the olden days.

GAM: How did they get along after the war?

SMM: After the war? Oh, finest kind! They got along fine.

GAM: You said your mother's family were slave owners?

SMM: Yes, she was a Smith. Her maiden name was Smith, Salina Smith and it was her father who owned slaves, but they never seemed to have any trouble. The slaves stayed with them, I think, after they were freed. You know I often heard my mother talk about it, you know, and they thought about as much of those slaves as they did one another.

GAM: I've heard stories like that before. Do you have any idea how many they owned at any one time?

SMM: No, I don't remember, several, oh, several.

GAM: Were they around the immediate area?

SMM: When I can first remember you could see out at the old home place, little places where they had little shacks built around, little houses for the slaves.

GAM: What kind of job did your father have? What was his main occupation?

SMM: Well we grew up on the farm. That's all we knew anything about.

GAM: Did you do much hunting or fishing back then?

SMM: Quite a bit of fishing at Eddyville. You must remember that we were not very far from the river.

GAM: These lakes weren't here at the time?

SMM: Yes, this was. I was born about six miles from here between the lakes. Of course like I said we were strictly Southerners, our family was. We grew up rebels you might say but when I look back over it now I see a difference, I'll just say this we didn't need to have a Civil War. I think Lincoln would have agreed to that. If our statesmen had just got together and paid the South something for the slaves they imported and paid for them and I think Lincoln wanted to do that but certain hot headed didn't. If they'd have done that why everybody would have been satisfied later and we'd be in much better shape today, it wouldn't have hurt anybody.

GAM: Did they belong to any veteran's organizations after the war?

SMM: There wasn't any I know of back then.

Mrs. SMM: I want to come out and speak to you.

SMM: This is my wife. But it just looks like the statesmen should have gotten together and settled that.

GAM: Did the uncle that was in the Federal Army ever receive



a pension from the states?

SMM: Yes, from the Federal Pension. He drew it for years.

GAM: Was he in a Kentucky regiment or from another state?

SMM: I don't know. I just know he was in the Federal Army and know that he drew a pension.

GAM: In later years did they ever attend any of the reunions like the encampment between the Blue and the Gray? The veterans use to get together at one of the battlefields and have a celebration or something.

SMM: You mean like the G. A. R.'s?

GAM: Yes.

SMM: Well of course the G. A. R.'s , now they probably organized way back there but I don't know much about them, of course later the Confederate Veterans organized too and they had their gatherings and just as I happen to think about it in 1903, in August I believe it was when I came back from the Philippines I was in San Francisco and the G. A. R.'s had their gathering there and I saw them march down Market Street there in San Francisco.

GAM: Thank you. Who were the political figures they followed at the time? Right after the war? Were there any differences between the two that had served in different armies?

SMM: I didn't exactly understand the question.

GAM: What political figures did the veterans follow at the time? Like, did the Confederate veterans follow the Democrats?

SMM: Yes, yes pretty well.

GAM: Union veterans follow the Republicans?

SMM: That's right.

GAM: Something like that order, they lines up by armies?

SMM: That's right.

GAM: I guess the next section is on family life and things like that.

SMM: I couldn't tell much about that. My mother passed away when I was ten years old and we began to scatter out, you know, I left home when I was twelve or fourteen, something like that. Mostly went to church and went to school. I was a stay-at-home. Only had three or four months of school and I guess I, compared with today I just reached about the fifth grade.

GAM: You said that you only went three or four months. What did you do the other time?

SMM: Work you know, raising crops, started about the first of September had three or four months of school, get out before Christmas of course through the winter months why we just monkeyed around. Planted a crop in the summertime. I worked for my uncle between school and crop time.

GAM: Did your parents have a large family?

SMM: Yes, had nine and in my own family I had nine other brothers and sisters.

GAM: Did any other family members, say uncles or aunts, live in the same house with you?

SMM: Oh, I think not.

Mrs. SMM: Your mother married again. You had a stepbrother.

SMM: Oh, that's right.

GAM: Did they live on the same street?

SMM: How's that?

GAM: Did they live on the same street or in the same town?

SMM: Oh, we lived out in the country, five or six miles to the nearest town, out on a farm.

GAM: Did you have any servants living with you at the time?

SMM: Servants? No.

GAM: How did your family organize holidays? Or, what holidays did they celebrate?

SMM: Of course we usually went to church on Sunday and that's about the only holiday we paid much attention to, except the Fourth of July, and a few occasions like that. We went to church on Sunday.

GAM: Did you do much for Christmas or Easter like people do now?

SMM: Yes, we always celebrated Christmas. I recollect we didn't celebrate Easter very much. It was Christmas back then.

GAM: How did you go about celebrating Christmas?

SMM: Well it was usually about like they would now, but we had firecrackers something like that. Just made a kind of a mock of it. Of course we hung up our socks. They did that on Christmas Eve night, you know, we had to hang up our socks and we, of course I just remembered I believed in Santa Claus. Our parents, you know, fixed up our socks and of course we lived out in the country we always burnt wood, you know, and had our old stick and clay chimney where they'd make scratches back there where Santa Claus had been.

GAM: What kind of gifts or anything were the usual ones for the kids?

SMM: How's that?

GAM: What kind of gifts did you get at Christmas?

SMM: Well a pack of firecrackers, an apple, and an orange

and candy, ya know, that was about all.

GAM: That's typical of kids though. That's all they want something to eat.

SMM: That was alot then, you know.

GAM: Did your grandparents ever help in rearing you? Or did any older member of the families have any chores like disciplining the kids or anything?

SMM: No, well our grandmother Smith lived with us and she had quite a little influence on us children. She lived with us quite a bit. Her husband passed away and of course she had some influence with the children.

GAM: When you did something you weren't suppose to do did they yell at you or spank you?

SMM: Yes indeed, yes my mother and father both were pretty rough on me. They were pretty strict.

Mrs. SMM: Tell them about you keeping the house from burning up one night.

SMM: This one time that my meaness did some good. My father and mother had gone from home and left three boys, two boys older than myself and me at home. We were working in the clearing just over the hill, oh quarter of a mile. I guess not that far. I guess three or four hundred yards from the house and my older brothers went in at noontime and they cooked dinner and we didn't even have a stove, cooked over the coals, ya know, on the fire and so after dinner they swept up everything and swept up the coals and set the broom right up against the wall and there was a coal fire in it and they didn't know anything about it and we went over to work on the hill and I did something I don't know what it was. We was out of sight of the house. I did something that made my older brother mad and he took after me and I started to run toward the house just as I got over the hill I didn't notice but I was trying to get away from him and he saw the house a blaze coming

out of the corner of the roof of the house and he said, "Look at that house!" And took out and left me. My two older brothers went down and put that fire out. We had a spring just out back and they carried water from that spring and got a ladder and put that fire out and saved the house.

GAM: What were the attitudes of other family members toward older people in the house?

SMM: Well of course we respected them alright.

GAM: Did you give them more respect than younger people do today?

SMM: Well I think so. I think so. I don't know whether it is a bad sign or not. I'll tell you older folks back there just like Irwin Cobb said. I don't know if you know anything about it but he was a humorist down here in Paducah. He said he didn't observe Sunday he kept the Sabbath just like a person in a straight jacket, all day. They were strict in that respect, ya know. I think that there is a movement on today that would be better for the churches and for everything when it's finally worked out. We've got a long ways to go yet but I think the final outcome will be a great improvement over anything you've seen.

GAM: Showing respect for your grandparents and your parents, were children in your time more able to follow in their father's footsteps when they chose an occupation?

SMM: Seemed like they didn't want to do that. Looked like everybody wanted to get off and do something else. I've got a niece down in S.E. Missouri. She married down there and she and her husband started out with nothing, picking cotton for a living. They bought a little land and kept buying land and it looks like they're worth a million dollars now. They got a beautiful home and seven or eight hundred acres of land. They got a son there. He went off to New York to do something else, seemed like he wasn't interested in it.

GAM: You said when you were young the church played a bigger part in the lives of the people?

SMM: How's that?

GAM: You said when you were young the church played a bigger part in the lives of the people.

SMM: Well back there it was of course you can understand that people were not enlightened. They had to go to church to hear anything, you know, in the way of the gospel. A lot of people couldn't even read and study themselves if they wanted to. They just sat there and listened to the preacher and they got information that way. So they went to church kind of like the Catholic Church is today. The folks went to church back there because they were afraid not to. Something like that, you know. But they're waking up to the fact today, I think, that the organized church is too much hide bound. They need to turn loose, you know, to get a broader conception of what Christian teaching really is. So I think the final outcome, I don't think there is any question about it, will be better for everyone.

GAM: What did you do after you left home? Right at the beginning you said you left home when you were fourteen or something?

SMM: Well I went down Missouri for several, three or four years just got out and worked picking cotton, help thrash wheat, worked for one of our neighbors over here during crop time, worked for my uncle for a year, and worked about from time to time.

GAM: How old were you when the Spanish-American War started?

SMM: I was twenty two. I think it's marked on there.

GAM: How did you learn that the war had begun?

SMM: I was up in Tennessee. I didn't pay much attention to it until the Maine was blown up. The battleship Maine was blown up. Of course that aroused everybody

in the country. I was in the timber business doing pretty well and I wasn't particularly interested at first. Of course it didn't last long. When the United States went into the war.

GAM: What do you think caused you to join the service?

SMM: Well, I'll tell you. I was in the timber business making pretty good, doing pretty good but I had the misfortune to lose some timber and turned up broke and in debt too. Of course it looked like there wasn't nothing else left to do. I believe I was in Paducah at the time and there was a recruiting office there and I just decided to enlist in the army.

GAM: When you enlisted in the service where did you go or what did you do right at the beginning?

SMM: I was sent to Louisville and from there on to San Francisco and did a little training there. Calisthenics, exercises and short order drill, you know.

GAM: Much the same as they do today?

SMM: Put in from about the tenth of January to the sixteenth of February was all the training we had there and then they shipped us to the Philippines.

GAM: How did you get out to San Francisco?

SMM: Out there? By rail.

GAM: Do you recall how long it took you to get out there?

SMM: About four days, four nights, five days from the time we left Paducah till we got there.

GAM: That was a long ride out?

SMM: Yeah, we were about from the sixteenth of February to the eighteenth of March getting to the Philippines on a transport.

GAM: What did you do when you got to the Philippines?

SMM: We just did garrison duty around there, you know. We weren't in any active service for awhile. It was going on right close to us there too, but we weren't in any combat service or anything like that for sometime afterward. Mostly everything was garrison duty till about the second year we was over there. I was in little skirmishes.

GAM: Did the Spanish really have an effective force?

SMM: How's that?

GAM: Did the Spanish really have an effective force or was it more or less a joke with the United States Army?

SMM: What we had trouble with over there was the Philippine Insurrection. We didn't have any trouble with Spanish after I got over there. That was over with.

GAM: How long did you stay in the Philippines?

SMM: Sailed on the sixteenth of February 1901 and we left the Philippines on July 15, 1903.

GAM: After the Insurrection was over?

SMM: Yes, it was over in 1902, July I think. I served a little over a year in the Insurrection.

GAM: When you enlisted did you have any idea you would be staying in the service that long?

SMM: Yes, signed up for three years. That was understood.

GAM: When you were over there was there much sickness in the camps?

SMM: Oh boy! Seemed like dysentery was one of the worse troubles we had in the Philippines except veneral disease. There was alot of that but you probably know about that, syphilis and gonorrhea.

GAM: Did you have any trouble with fever?

SMM: Fever?



GAM: Yeah, Malaria or anything like that?

SMM: I did a little bit. I had Malaria but not too bad. I was very careful about my living and eating and for that reason I got by pretty well. I didn't accept alot of things as some of them did so I escaped pretty well.

GAM: What did the other people believe caused all the sickness? Did they have any idea it was mosquitoes or did they believe . . .

SMM: Yes, I think so. I think the doctors knew pretty well what the trouble was.

GAM: Where did you get mustered out?

SMM: Fort Brown, Texas.

GAM: What did you do after you got out?

SMM: Well, I came home and went into the timber business and also while I was in the service, I had been in long I was broke and in debt too. I got into the barber business and I was the company barber for most of the time and made quite a bit of money on the side. I was able to pay out of debt and come home with a little extra money. So when I got home I went into the timber business again and also in the barber business over here in Eddyville. I worked at the barber trade for some twenty years after I got back.

GAM: When you got out from Fort Brown how long did it take you to get back to this area?

SMM: Well the only way I could get out of there was by stage. I had to take a stagecoach to Alice, Texas. That took about thirty six hours. Then I caught a train into San Francisco, I mean San Antonio, there I got my final statement cashed. It took me about ten days to get home I guess.

GAM: Did you become a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars when they organized or the American Legion?

SMM: No, I'm a member of the Spanish-American War Veterans. The Legion is from the First World War.

GAM: But now they usually include the Spanish-American War Veterans with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and I was wondering if you were an active member or anything.

SMM: I guess they count me a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I send them a contribution every year.

GAM: Do you receive a pension from the government?

SMM: Yes sir.

GAM: Do you feel it is adequate for a veteran to live on now?

SMM: Well it's pretty close, it has to be pretty close to get by.

GAM: Do veterans receive cost of living raises or is their pension fixed at the time they start receiving it?

SMM: I didn't exactly get that question.

GAM: Does your pension ever increase or is it a fixed pension, just so much per month or do they increase it once in awhile?

SMM: It hasn't increased not for quite awhile. It did increase back several years ago.

GAM: Do they have any other services for veterans that the United States government provides?

SMM: Not that I know of.

GAM: If you were ever in need of hospitalization would they help you?

SMM: Oh yes, they do that.

GAM: They're good in that way?

SMM: Yes, of course the Veteran's Administration, we have access to the Veteran's Administration. In case of sickness they help.

GAM: Do you think the government could do anything more for it's older citizens in any way to make them more responsible for older people?

SMM: I'll tell you what I think about it today. I think if we'd all just realize that the thing we ought to do is real patriotism, means to do something for our government instead of waiting for the government to do something for us. I think if we'd all get that spirit we'd all get along better than we do.

GAM: In otherwords you're against all the welfare that they're handing out?

SMM: Yes, I think today it's just, I'm afraid that it's ruining our country. If I get a job done out here where it takes labor, a pick and shovel, you know, like that, I have to pay about \$2.50 an hour and go and haul the fellow over here and haul him back. The trouble is the government won't let alot of our young people work. You know and if they do they try to make the minimum wage so high we just can't afford to pay for it.

GAM: How old were you when you were first married?

SMM: When I first married? I married, I came back from the Army in 1904. I was, let's see, twenty five, I was twenty eight, I believe when I married.

GAM: Did you notice any change that had taken place in the United States as a result of the war, did the attitudes of the people change?

SMM: Yes, I think so.

GAM: Did these attitudes affect family life at all?

SMM: I couldn't say if it did.

GAM: When you started your family did you pattern it after your family life as a youngster?

SMM: Well not very much. I was in the timber business and barber business.

GAM: Did you have a large family yourself?

SMM: Just two daughters.

GAM: That was some change there from the size family you had.

SMM: Yes, I'll say.

GAM: Do you think the United States was justified in entering World War I?

SMM: I guess we couldn't stay out of it. I guess we had to go into it. I think that someday we'll look back and see that Woodrow Wilson was probably the greatest president we've had since I can remember. I don't remember when Lincoln was president. I believe that the League of Nations, if the United States had backed Woodrow Wilson up and ratified the League of Nations, I believe it would have prevented World II. But I'll just show how things was. After the war, Republicans claim, I had a sister that married into a Republican family so I got the information through her. She wrote me a letter and said to be careful that if the United States got into the League of Nations we'd have the biggest war the world had ever see. Yes sir when I look back they just turned that thing around and made it look just reversed to what Wilson meant it to be. I believe today that if the United States had gone into it that we would not have had World War II.

GAM: After World War I they said the 1920's, they call the "Roaring Twenties." Was there anything special about the 1920's that you know of? The movies always show speakeasies and dance hall girls. This wasn't the America that most people knew, was it?

SMM: No, it was quite different I think.

GAM: When Mr. Hoover was president.

SMM: Mr. Hoover?

GAM: Yeah, do you think that he was the cause of the Great Depression of 1929?

SMM: No, I don't think so. I think Hoover was a good man. That's my notion about him. I supported Hoover back there at that time. I think he was a good man. If I remember correctly he won the presidency over Al Smith and I can't help but think that Hoover was a better man than he ever got credit for.

GAM: What do you think caused the Depression?

SMM: Well of course these depressions, it's just because as I see it the people don't take advantage of it and go ahead and they, take now, suppose we were to end all the trouble over there and didn't have to put out all this money for armies and navies and things like that it'd stop alot of folks from working. If they'd just turn around and got to work here and build roads and things like Roosevelt did and take up something like that I don't think we'd need to have those depressions after the wars.

GAM: How was your town affected by the Depression? Did people lose their houses or anything?

SMM: Well they, I'll tell you people all over the country lost their houses. I had a brother who had a farm and had it paid for, about one hundred or so acres, bought it reasonable. After the war everything went sky high. He took a notion to buy another farm over here at a high price. I tried to keep him from doing it, but he said he needed it, so mortgaged his farm and lost them both. There were a number of cases like that.

GAM: When Franklin Roosevelt became president, what did you think of his New Deal and some of his Conservation Corps and Tennessee Valley Authority and things he was using to counter the Depression and bring the United

States back economically?

SMM: I think the Tennessee Valley Authority is a great thing. I don't think there is any question about that. In otherwords I think a way of carrying out the Devine Plan, go forth and multiply and replentish the earth and subdue, subjection of the natural power and resources of the earth, use them for the benefit of man. I don't think that there is any question about that it is alright, that part of it, but it just remains to be seen whether to continue the New Deal is going to be best or not. I doubt it. We're going to pay the fiddler someday. Don't you think so? Somethings got to happen.

GAM: Yes.

SMM: It's just like giving a shot in the arm. We're still doing the same thing, going into debt. I'm afraid that we've carried it too far.

GAM: Did the T. V. A. create alot of jobs down here?

SMM: Yes indeed. They did that and the WPA and PWA and things like that did alot of good. It's just like they went in debt so far with it.

GAM: The TVA program, did that create a higher land value down here and give the economy a shot?

SMM: TVA? It made electricity alot cheaper here, you know, no question about that. I was born over here between the lakes. I grew up over there and I had to give up everything, the old church, the old school, the old home, and moved over here and I give up everything over here except about fifteen acres right here. Still I think it's a good thing. I think these dams and things like that are just using natural resources and power and harnessing it. I'm for it, it's a good thing.

GAM: With all the lakes around here has this become a resort area? Fishing?

SMM: Yes, it is. It's attractive. I don't know, take the

county here, I guess they have taken at least half the county here and flooded it. Today the assessed value of the property of the county is more than it was back when they had it all. The people built and came here on the lakes. I've got around fifty trailers and lots, you know. People came in here interested in the lake and some of them have retired and became citizens here. It's a wonderful attraction. I don't see how it is so much, but it is.

GAM: I guess alot of people who like fishing come down here.

SMM: Well that's true.

GAM: Just sit and look out the window. The view is beautiful.

SMM: Yes.

GAM: A little bit of everything for everybody. Soon after Roosevelt's election the United States became embroiled in another World War. What do you think was the cause of the second World War?

SMM: Second World War? Well, of course we know that the attack on Pearl Harbor set it off. They just got together in a few days and declared war.

GAM: Was that a justifiable war?

SMM: Yes, I think so. I think the United States just fought that in self defense. I believe Japan thought that Hitler was going to win out and then would be the psychological time to attack the United States. I took the position just as soon as I heard of Pearl Harbor. I happened to be listening to the radio when Roosevelt said that the Japs were attacking Pearl Harbor on a Sunday, that I said to myself and told some others that it was like slapping a strong man in the face just enough to make him good and mad.

GAM: Do you think that the United States was justified in getting into Korea and Vietnam?

SMM: I doubt it. I don't know. I tell you what I think

about that though. I think that if our president, President Truman let MacArthur alone and listened to him after we whipped Japan. He could have whipped Red China right there in Korea and settled that. I don't think the other ever would have happened. That's my notion about it. Here was MacArthur and the Army and the Reds pouring right down this peninsula there, you know. The navy and Air Force could have backed up MacArthur right there. They could have whipped the Red Chinese right there. That's where Truman made the first mistake. One of the worst judgements any president made for quite awhile.

GAM: With this recent peace in Vietnam do you think it is a "Just Peace" or a peace to end wars just like Truman and Wilson did?

SMM: It's hard for one to tell about that.

GAM: Do you think that President Nixon has done as much for the country as he could?

SMM: I believe he has under the circumstances. Nixon has done the very best that he could.

GAM: As well as anybody in the office could, I guess.

SMM: That's right.

GAM: What president during your lifetime has done as much for this area of the country as he could?

SMM: Well, I don't know. Truman was our friend here. He got this dam here and he helped us in that respect, and Roosevelt too.

GAM: Which president the United States has had in the last few years would you think would be the worst one? The worst of the batch.

SMM: Worst? I'd hate to say but I'll tell you I'm afraid Mr. Johnson made about one of the worst mistakes that any president has for quite awhile. He bent backward to try and carry out this Civil Rights business. I



think he went too far with it, entirely too far. I don't think there's any question about that. I'll just say this about presidents, I don't think, like somebody else said, we've never had a bad one. They all wanted to do the right thing.

GAM: I guess it's the job. They can't please everybody all of the time.

SMM: I'm afraid Mr. Johnson's policies caused us more trouble than we've had for quite awhile.

GAM: Do you feel that American society is any worse off than it was when you were younger?

SMM: Yes, I think it is.

GAM: In what ways?

SMM: Well, we just don't have the respect for law and order we should have. Crime, our leaders tell you is increasing all the time.

GAM: Is this what prompted you to run for Sheriff of Lyon County?

SMM: Here are some papers that will explain that to you.

Mrs. SMM: Is it one of these?

SMM: There's one, I'd say if getting out and trying to do something and help people adds to your health or strength, why it pays off far greater than anything you could expect in dollars and cents, I think.

GAM: In the last couple of years we've seen a lot of changes in America. What do you think about the Civil Rights legislation, you know, in itself that they've had?

SMM: How's that which?

GAM: Civil Rights legislation, such as more busing?

SMM: I think they've carried it entirely too far. I think Nixon is right about that and I'll say further that George Wallace has got the right idea about a whole lot of things like that and he's had an influence too, no question about that. I think they've carried it entirely too far. Fact is, if they'd have let it alone I think it was growing out. I think this prejudice was growing out faster and would have worn out entirely. They just (inaudible) the thing and it hurt instead of helped. That's my honest opinion of it.

GAM: What do you think about 18 year olds being able to vote for the president in the national election?

SMM: Well, I'm kinda in favor of the young folks. If they're going to make them go to the army, take them up and make them go to the army, I think they ought to be given a chance to vote. That's all I got to say about that.

GAM: Do you think Women's Liberation has anything to offer the Americans?

SMM: The which?

GAM: Women's Liberation, is it a good idea?

SMM: I don't know about today. I don't know much about what they are talking about today, but I think that letting the women vote back there of course that come in since I remember, you know, that's not been so many years ago. But it's just like this, I think that giving women the right to vote has made our elections, I just speak about locally. When I was a boy if they didn't have a fight or two on election day we didn't know whether to call it an election or not. When women got to voting, you know, and they came in we just said, "How's everything?" and left, you know.

GAM: Calmed everybody down, huh?

SMM: Peaceable.

Mrs. SMM: I don't like Women's Liberation at all.

GAM: You don't, why not?

Mrs. SMM: I've worked and I've done. I just don't know what they're looking for. I don't know.

SMM: You might be interested in taking one of these cards along.

GAM: Yes.

SMM: Here's another one.

Mrs. SMM: That's got a little thing on the back of it.

GAM: Oh yes, you sent me one like this. Do you think there is much drug abuse around here with kids?

SMM: How's that?

Mrs. SMM: Drug abuse.

GAM: Drug abuse. Like marijuana and heroin and stuff like that.

SMM: Well they say it is. I don't know. I haven't seen much. They say it is getting in here quite a bit.

GAM: How do you think a police officer should cope with this problem?

SMM: Well, I don't know just how he could handle it except to try and bring out the truth in it, you know, investigate and keep things down like that, that of course it's like this, if possible the thing to do is keep the stuff away.

GAM: What do you feel that the future holds for the American people in general?

SMM: Well, my opinion is that we're headed for the worst upheaval we've ever seen. I don't know how

quick it's coming, but we can't go on like we are. It's just like this. They claim that our churches, our organized churches, are losing membership. On the whole they're really losing instead of gaining. They claim that crime is increasing and we know that we keep going further in debt all the time. The fact is, as I see it we're approaching the beginning of a new age or new dispensation. We're going to have to be suffering and I think the outcome is going to be the greatest blessing that the world has ever seen. That's my notion about that.

GAM: Okay, well thank you and one other thing. I was talking to the lady in the motel we were staying in last night and she said that you have been interviewed by John Chancellor and some national radio programs.

Mrs. SMM: No, they announced it on the television but it was in an Associated Press Paper and they got it through that.

GAM: Through the press?

SMM: They had it on Nation Hook Up.

GAM: Do you ever attend any Veteran conventions?

SMM: Yes. Spanish-American War Convention.

GAM: When are you going to the Spanish-American War Convention?

SMM: It starts the ninth of September. I think in New Orleans.

GAM: About how many people do you think will be there?

SMM: Well, I think they're planning to be as many as three or four hundred.

GAM: Are there any of the people that you served with still alive? Do you correspond with anybody?

SMM: No, not a single one I know.

GAM: That's a closing of an age. A friend of mine has a paper he's doing on The Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tennessee. I was wondering if you recall any of the stories about the evolution case.

SMM: No, I didn't see it. I kept up with that trial very closely and I think that, just between us, that Clarence Darrow just eat old Bryon up on that charge. Of course Bryon won the trial but I tell you, I think like this, you take the Bible and science the true scientists and you really get right down to the bottom you'll see that they just agree about on everything.

SMM: (Mr. Martin describing a walking stick made in the Philippines out of war souvenirs.) I told you this is ebony wood from the Philippines. On the top is a Spanish half dollar on the top and one of our rifle cartridges here on the bottom of the walking stick. I just thought I'd show it to you.

GAM: In the Dayton trial who do you think was in the right at the time? Do you think the trial should have been or was it one of those things that they just made a big story out of it?

SMM: That which?

GAM: Do you think the trial was right at the time? Do you think the people were really against evolution being taught in schools?

SMM: Yes, sentiment was against it hard, you know, especially in Tennessee. You can't get away from alot of evolution. I'm not saying that they're perfect in everything like that but there's some change about it. Mr. Bryon made the statement that he believed the Lord created the earth and everything in six days like we know days. The Bible don't teach that. When you get right down to it, of course as I see it, the people like I heard a lady say that the Bible had to be written

in child language, like a child's way, in child's language if it hadn't we never would have accepted it. I think that there is alot of truth in that.

GAM: What did the people around this area think at the time, did they support the trial?

SMM: Sure, I think back there most of the churches, the organized churches thought like Mr. Bryon did, but I think they've changed quite a bit now.

GAM: Well, thank you very much for the interview. Marshall University appreciates it. I know I do. Thank you.

Listed below are a series of questions written by the interviewer and answered off tape by the interviewee.\*

What was your birth date? October the 3rd., 1875.

What was your father and mother's name? John Martin, Salina Smith.

What was your uncle who was a federal soldier's name? Wesley Martin.

When you attended school was it a one room school? Yes.

How far was it from your home? Two miles.

How did you get there? Walked.

What kind of books did you use, did you use McDuffie's Readers? Goodrich and McDuffies.

What kind of furniture did it have in it? Homemade benches.

What kind of heating system? Wood stove.

Where did the teacher come from? On a farm in the community.

What did he or she do when school was not in session? Went to school or worked on the farm.

What grade did the school go up to? Sixth grade.

What type uniform did you wear in the Philippines? What color and what was it made out of? Light cotton fabric called Kahki or something like that, yellow in color.

Did your rifles fire smokeless powder or did they still use black smokey powder? Smokeless.

\*Explanation provided by transcriber.

How did the Philippines react to the presence of American soldiers (civilians)? They did not seem to like them very well.

Could you describe for the record the events of the skirmish or battle you took part in? Size of forces engaged, who won, what were the losses if any, what was the terrain or ground like on which it was fought.

Our company was stationed at the little town of Maubon in southern Luzon Island near a small river, so one night the Insurrectors came to the opposite bank and fired off their guns and gave us a general raking or balling out, as the boys would say. So sometime before day our Company Commander Lt. Mack Richardson detailed 12 or 15 of us boys with a Catholic Priest and two native Philippines for guides. So we crossed the river and followed them seven or eight miles out in the mountains where we overtook them, they was across a ravine some 3 or 4 hundred yards from us when they opened fire on us and although none of our boys were hit we could hear the bullets hit the timber above our heads. So we formed a skirmish line and opened fire on them. I think the skirmish lasted for thirty or forty minutes, till the enemy retreated. We then went over to where the enemy was stationed and found one dead and we learned later seven or eight of them was wounded. We returned to Maubon later in the afternoon without any casualties.

When you were riding to San Francisco on the train for the islands did you happen to see any buffalo along the route? No.

Did you see any Indians out in the plains region? Yes.

When you enlisted in the service did the group from Kentucky all stay together in one unit as volunteers or did they get put into national rather than state units? The volunteers stayed together but the Regular Army did not, I volunteered for the Regular Army.

Were there any negro soldiers in your unit? No.

Was the army segregated at this time? Yes.



What was the attitude of the white soldiers to the ability of the black soldiers? We regarded them as good soldiers, in fact we paid very little attention to color. We served in the same post with the ninth calvary and there was not any color line there.

If the army was segregated were there any black troops in the Philippines? How did they make out? Yes the ninth calvary, they were fine soldiers.

Did you ever have trouble getting supplies from America? Very little.

What kind of food did the troops eat? Stew, bacon, eggs, cornbeef, and salmon. Potatoes, rice, carrots, cabbage, and onion. Prunes, evaporated peaches, and some other things occasionally.

After you got over the fever did you ever have any relapses of it? I did not.

What kind of tactics did the Philippines use? Mostly ambush or guerrilla or treachery.

Did they have any regular troops or were they all guerrillas? They had some well organized troops.

Did you ever support Wm. J. Bryan for any of his presidential attempts? If so which ones and why? Yes, 1896. Because I thought he was the best man at that time.

Since you have been able to vote, which presidents have you supported and why? Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, F.D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Richard Nixon. Because I thought they was the best men for the place at that time.



Mr. S.  
Mr. Newton  
Trailer  
Court  
and  
Home

### MILITARY RECORD

Continuous Service at date of discharge: 3 years — — months — — days.

Previous Service: None

Non-commissioned officer: None

Marksmanship: Not Classified

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: Served in  
insurrection in Philippine Islands from Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 1901 to July 14<sup>th</sup> 1903  
in skirmish at Marasin, Tayabas, P.I. April 21<sup>st</sup> 1902.

Wounds received in service: None

Physical condition when discharged: Good

Married or single: Single

Remarks: Service honest and faithful

T. A. Howell  
Capt. 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Paradise 44750 Commanding Company 1<sup>st</sup>

W. B. Peck  
Captain Paymaster  
USA

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES



To all whom it may concern

Know Ye, That Morgan Martin  
a Private of Company I of the Twenty sixth Regiment  
of Infantry who was enlisted on the Sixth day of  
January one thousand nine hundred and one  
to serve 30 years is hereby Honorably Discharged from the  
Army of the United States by reason of Expiration of  
term of service

The said Morgan Martin was born in  
Edgville in the State of Kentucky  
and when enlisted was 24 1/2 years of age, 5 feet 3  
inches high, Fair complexion, Blue eyes, Light hair  
and by occupation a Farmer

Given under my hand at Fort Brown, Texas  
this Fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord  
one thousand nine hundred and

Geo. Hooker  
Major of Infantry Commanding Post

CHARACTER

No objection to his reenlistment is known to exist.

Excellent

F. A. Connelly  
Capt. 20th Infantry, Comdg. Co. I.

Part Of Spanish American War Songs.

There was eighteen Spanish Vessels,  
all went out one day to fight.  
Said the Boss we'll whip the yankees,  
and you bet we'll do it right.

~~When we get old Mr. Dewey  
bottled in~~

When we get old Mr. Dewey bottled in Manila bay,  
He will think his pegs has led him up to the judgment day.

Good morning Mr. Dewey, pleasant morning sir to you,  
you are looking rather bilous so we have a pill for you,  
for fear you think its bitter we will ram it down your neck  
with a half a ton of powder from our guns upon the deck.

It would have done you good to see those bullets fly,  
and to hear those yankee boys yell How is that for high?  
and to see those Spanish vessels go sailing to the sky,  
and they had a Hot time in the Old Town that Night.

Candidate For Sheriff Of  
LYON COUNTY  
S. M. MARTIN

Your Vote and Influence Will Be Appreciated.

Subject To The Action of The Democratic

Primary

May 29, 1973

(Over)



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## ANNOUNCES FOR SHERIFF

I hereby announce my candidacy for Sheriff of Lyon County, and I wish to say that I am making this announcement primarily for the following reasons:

For thirty years or more, one of my chief aims has been to help to make Lyon County a better place in which to live, and I believe that some of you, at least, will agree that in some respects I have been successful.

I was born and grew up in Lyon County near Brandons Chapel, in what is now known as the Land Between the Lakes. It has been heart breaking for me to see so much of our County taken over by the government, however that is water over the dam, so it is up to us to go forward and make the best of what we have left. And I am confident that if we will put our hearts and our hands together, trusting the Lord to lead us we can still make our County one of the best little Counties in the state.

I realize, of course, that no man can operate the Sheriffs Office without help. Therefore if elected I plan to employ the very best help available and with the Lords Leadership and your cooperation, I am sure that we can reduce the law violations in our County to a minimum.

I served three years, as a volunteer in the army, mostly in the Philippines; therefore I know how to sympathize with our boys who are forced to leave their home, friends, and loved ones, and serve in foreign lands, and I am praying that they will soon be able to return home.

President John F. Kennedy said, in substance, at his inauguration, "It is not what our country can do for us, but what we can do for our country."

So I am asking you for your vote and influence, not primarily for my own personal benefit, but because it will give me an opportunity to render a service to our County.

Your vote for me,  
Is a vote for you,  
Your Church, Your School,  
And Your County too.

S.M. MARTIN

Eddyville, Ky.  
April 27, 1943.

After several years of study, I have decided that we have so many different religious denominations and creeds, that very few of us professed Christians feel free to attend the churches and worship according to the dictates of our conscience, without being embarrassed by certain rules of church government, or certain creeds that are contrary to our honest convictions.

Therefore, I have decided that every community that is large enough to support one, should have a central place of worship, where any honest person may go and feel free to worship, regardless of his belief regarding the mode of water baptism, or other religious questions on which honest people differ.

I think Lyon County is well able to support a place of this kind, and I think that near Eddyville, or Kuttawa, or Kuttawa Mineral Springs would be the proper place to erect same.

Therefore, I am investing in these bonds, not only to help my country win the war, but when the war is over, I am planning with Divine Guidance, to use the bonds with interest to help erect a place of this kind.

At this time, I deem it my Christian duty to invest my small savings in these bonds that they may help to win freedom for all people, and when we are victorious, it will be up to us Christian people, through Divine Inspiration, to build a new Order, not on sectarian lines, but on the true principle of the Christian faith, using the Bible for our creed, and the Holy Spirit for our Interpreter, and the World for our field.

Should I not live to complete this project, I trust that those who come into possession of these bonds and this document will use them to help carry out this plan.

S. M. MARTIN.

Eddyville, Ky.  
July 26, 1957.

Regarding the document to which this is attached, I wish to further state that I purchased \$6,000.00 worth of bonds, at the maturity of which I invested the proceeds in a certain piece of property which I purchased from R. S. Mason, northeast of the Illinois Central depot at Eddyville, about 45 acres in area including the old Campground. And I trust that should I not live to complete this project, as it appears now that the U. S. Engineers will soon take over most of this property, that those who come into possession of this property or the proceeds of same will use same to erect or help erect a structure of this kind, either on what is left of this property or on some other suitable location.

S. M. MARTIN

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all went out one day to fight.  
Said the Boss we'll whip the yankees,  
and you bet we'll do it right.

~~When we get old mister Dewey  
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you are looking rather bilous so we have a pill for you,  
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Candidate For Sheriff Of  
LYON COUNTY

**S. M. MARTIN**

Your Vote and Influence Will Be Appreciated.

Subject To The Action of The Democratic

Primary

May 29, 1973

(Over)





Picture made in 1903  
Sidney Morgan Martin

Mc + Mrs. S. M. Martin 4/14/73 →



Eddyville Ky.

March the 1.st. 1973.

Dear Mr. Messick:

Yours regarding the interview received and in reply I wish to say that April the 14.th. will suit me so if the good Lord spares me, I will be looking for you on that date; and I will get together all the data that I can and have it ready for you.

Sincerely,

S. H. Martin.

Box 83. Eddyville Ky. 42038.

**S. M. MARTIN**

Candidate For

**SHERIFF**

**OF LYON COUNTY**

**Your Vote and Influence Will Be Appreciated.**

**Subject To The Action of The Democratic Primary May 29, 1973**

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Proverbs: 3:6

Your vote for me, is a vote for you,

Your church, your school and your County too.



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701

JAMES E. MORROW LIBRARY

ASSOCIATES

ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, V. L. MARTIN, the undersigned, of  
Frank W. Huntington Co., County of Fayette, State  
of West Virginia, grant, convey, and transfer to the James E.  
Morrow Library Associates, a division of The Marshall University Foundation,  
Inc., an educational and eleemosynary institution, all my right, title,  
interest, and literary property rights in and to my testimony recorded on  
July 8, 1974 to be used for scholarly purposes, including  
study and rights to reproduction.

V. L. Martin Open and usable after my review.  
initial

\_\_\_\_\_ Closed for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years.  
initial

\_\_\_\_\_ Closed for my lifetime.  
initial

\_\_\_\_\_ Closed for my lifetime unless special permission  
initial is gained from me or my assigns.

Date July 8, 1974

V. L. Martin  
(Signature - Interviewee)

Frank W. Huntington Co.  
Address

11040 rd, W. Huntington

Date July 8, 1974

Frank W. Huntington Co.  
(Signature - Witness)