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1-8-2016

## **Interview with Flavia Webber Ortiz (oral history transcription)**

Roseann Bacha-Garza

Flavia Webber Ortiz

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**Friday, January 8th, (2016)**

**Home of Mrs. Flavia Webber Ortiz (Weslaco, Texas)**

**Interviewer (Roseann): Representative of CHAPS program at UTRGV**

**Interviewee : Mrs. Flavia Webber Ortiz (Purpose: Research for the RGVCWT)**

**(Wind Chimes lightly playing throughout in background)**

**Roseann Bacha-Garza:** Okay, Today is, uh, Friday, January 8th, (2016), uh, my name is Roseann Bacha-Garza, I am in the home of Flavia Webber Ortiz in Weslaco, Texas, and I am a representative of the CHAPS program at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and I am interviewing Mrs. Ortiz, uh, for the purpose of doing research for the Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail, and uh, I would like to begin by thanking you very much for inviting me into your home,

**Mrs. Flavia Webber Ortiz:** You're welcome.

**Roseann:** ...and I I really appreciate your time and effort.

**Flavia:** Why thank you.

**Roseann:** Now, uhm, what you are showing me here, right now, is a, uh, marriage license for your father?

**(wind chimes sound lightly in background)**

**Flavia:** Yes...and my mother.

**Roseann:** and, your father is Santiago Webber?

**Flavia:** Yes

**Roseann:** Okay, and your uhm, okay... so Santiago Webber is your father?

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** And your mother was?

**Flavia:** Anita

**Roseann:** Uh, huh,

**Flavia:** Selma...

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** ...with S.

**Roseann:** Ok. Okay. And they were married in 1962? No.

**Flavia:** No.

**Roseann:** They were married in 1937?

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** Okay, and they were married on November 11th, 1937. Okay. Ok. And then you were born in, what is your birthday?

**Flavia:** 10/6/38 6th, '38.\*\*\*

**Roseann:** '38 is, okay. ok. Now, who was Santiago's parents?

**Flavia:** uhm, Jimmie Webber and uh, uhm..let let me see...Regina Hernandez.\*\*\*

**Roseann:** Okay, Do you happen to know, uhm, the birthdate of Jimmy Webber or James Webber?

**Flavia:** No. No., and neither uh my grandmother either, only that she died when I was born.

**Roseann:** Okay, so Santiago your father, what was his birthday? Do you remember?

**Flavia:** Uhh, August 12th, 1907

**Roseann:** Okay, here you go.

**Flavia:** Because I have a grandson that was born on August 12.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** And I,.. We named him Carlos Santiago.

**Roseann:** Oh okay.

**Flavia:** And then he has a son...he named him Santiago Ulysses Saenz.

**Roseann:** Oh okay, okay.

**Flavia:** And and my brother, my half brother in San Antonio, is Rolando Santiago Webber.

**Roseann:** Oh (chuckles)

**Flavia:** There is a lot of Santiagos.

**Roseann:** Okay, well that's good to know. Do you happen to know who was Jimmy Webber's parents?

**Flavia:** Uh, No.

**Roseann:** No, okay, because uhm, lets see...uhhh...

**Flavia:** John Fermendy? I don't know.

**Roseann:** You were raised by ...you were raised by...

**Flavia:** Concepcion, what is it, how do you say Black?\*\*\*

**Roseann:** Concepcion Webber?\*\*\*

**Flavia:** Yeah, well, only until my father got out of the military, I was raised by them, thats uhhh, Concepcion Webber and his wife, uh but Francisca. I don't know, I don't remember, if its the right.uh....oh that is gross, **(whispers)** the hands.

**Roseann:** Huh, uh.

**Flavia:** I don't know her last name, her maiden name.

**Roseann:** Huh, uh.

**Flavia:** Francisca...

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** ...that was his wife, of Concepcion.

**Roseann:** Was Concepcion Webber, the son of Juan Fernando Webber or John Ferdinand Webber?

**Flavia:** No, he was...**(sigh)**...let me get it.

**Roseann:** Okay...take your time.

**Flavia:** Who was Juan's, who was Juan's mother? I know. Well Mama Papacita?

Juan was son of Concepcion, Alfredo, Concha, Santiago chiquito, he died very early in his age.

Four of them were born to my, uh let me see, San-, Juan, Alfredo, Concha, Santiago chiquito. They were born to-to Concepcion and uh Francisca. And uh, he was raised by my original grandmother, mostly raised by her. **(sigh)** That hurt. **(sigh)**

**Roseann:** Okay. Okay,. well I was, When I was meeting with huhh,,O- O.J. and his wife

**Flavia:** Uh huh,

**Roseann:** Uhm I was meeting with them back in November...

**Flavia:** Leslie?

**Roseann:** Leslie, Yes, uh, mmm and Leslie has done a lot of research on your family.

**Flavia:** Yes, she's the one that told me a lot of things that I, well I know a lot, some some, but uh she told me the rest. And then uhh-her mother-in-law told me she had some questions that she wanted to ask me. And I say, well I don't know if she works or if she's at home or what, so I can call her and ask her what questions that she wanted to ask me. But I haven't gotten to it. I really don't know how to go about anything?

**Roseann:** Oh okay, well, uhm, I was wondering if maybe you had some folklore stories about the Webber's and when they came here. Cuz John Ferdinand Webber was married to Sylvia,

**Flavia:** Uh huh.

**Roseann:** ...and Sylvia was a slave that he freed, he purchased her and then he freed her. So uhm, She was mentioning to me that there were some stories perhaps passed down through your family about Sylvia. Uh, about them living near the river. Is there anything you would like to share?

**Flavia:** They were not welcome here in Texas because they did not like the Yankees. So John Ferdinand he was a Yankee soldier, medic.

So they didn't want him here, so they left for Mexico. And then when they were welcome back, they were welcome the Yankees here in Texas, he came back. And uh, The curious thing about this is that one of my sons, Vicente Ortiz, he is already passed, and uh, he used, he went to college in Oklahoma, and all that before, to be a teacher ,so he got a license to teach from 6-12

for life. So He was giving classes in Hidalgo, Texas; my daughter in law would tell him, “honey we have, we have, I have my sister, she’s a principal here in Harlingen, why don’t”  
“No, no, no, I like, I like Hidalgo, there’s a lot of poor children, and there a lot and they don’t get their homework and I like to go and...

**Roseann:** help them?

**Flavia:** ...parents, and talk to them, and help them.”

So that’s how he got to just going to Harlingen, Military Highway to Hidalgo. And now, I know that Sylvia and Ferdinand got married in Hidalgo.

**Roseann:** Oh.

**Flavia:** Which was, before that, it says on the map, it was Edinburgh. Then they changed it to Hidalgo, and then Edinburg where it is now. But when they got married it was Edinburgh.

**Roseann:** Well, do you, do you think it was John Ferdinand and Sylvia that got married there or was it there children?

**Flavia:** No, John and Sylvia. That’s what they tell me so that’s what I understand.

**Roseann:** So do you think there is a marriage certificate in the Hidalgo County Courthouse?

**Flavia:** Yes, there must be one. Yes, or in Hidalgo. It’s a city.

**Roseann:** Right.

**Flavia:** But remember there was a uh, a long time, papers got burnt.

**Roseann:** Well the papers, were moved in the middle of the night, from where-what it is Hidalgo now, into Edinburg.

**Flavia:** See?

**Roseann:** Yes, yes, because they wanted to move the courthouse.

**Flavia:** Well that’s good news. If there is a marriage license uh, I would really like to-to know. If I don’t see it, it’s okay for me to know. So I can let my kids know, there is a marriage license, there is a Webbers...

**Roseann:** See I had thought that John Ferdinand Webber and Sylvia Hector had gotten married in Webberville.

**Flavia:** Yes, that was what I was going to tell you, there's "Webberville" and uh, and uh a sign, there that says "Webber" "Webberville". And I, uh, my grandson, Santiago he's been there, and now he takes his little boy to see the-there. He says its small, there is a lake, and there is maybe one store or something. I haven't' been there. But uh, it's nice. But I don't, I'm not up to not even going to see my children anymore. Because I cannot. My-my age and my bones. I have osteoporosis and arthritis and uh, problem with my right eye. So I can't travel anymore, and I, I would love to see Webberville. Yeah. So I know there's Webberville, and uh, that John when he came back from Mexico, got married. And uh, I guess, to legalize their children, I suppose, I understand there was children and one of his, and one everybody came with him, and Juan, son didn't, he stayed back in Mexico.

**Roseann:** Mmm hmm, where do you think they went in Mexico?

**Flavia:** I don't know but he was working in a Tobacco industry.

**Roseann:** Oh okay.

**Flavia:** That information, uh, my cousin, my cousins son, \_\_\_\_Jose, Jose, Jose, Cuellar.

**Roseann:** Jose Cuellar?

**Flavia:** From Brownsville, yes, he has, he gave me all that information. And uh,

**Roseann:** And how is he related to the Webber's?

**Flavia:** He, well, his mother, is uh, well she's, no, she's not Webber, she's Armiento, but she's a daughter to a sister of my father, uh, Guadalupe Webber.

**Roseann: (flips pages)** Okay, let's see. Oh okay, Jose Cuellar. 7635 Southmost Road Brownsville, 78521. Andddd, so you don't have his phone number?

**Flavia: (speaks softly)** Let me see, I might have it. Uh, let me see here.

**Roseann:** Here ya go.

**(flipping pages)**

**Roseann:** Do you know of a person named Oscar Bowie?

**Flavia:** I know of Bowie, Bowie. But I don't know, they, do they live in Mercedes?

**Roseann:** Perhaps, yes.

**Flavia:** I-I only knew one! But there were two, two of them, maybe more, but I only knew one.

Uh, and uh, he called me "prima", because we were cousins on their father's side. And he said, they used to live near.

**Roseann: (pages turned)** Okay, and what was his first name?

**Flavia:** I don't know. I don't know.

**Roseann:** Oh okay

**Flavia:** I didn't get to talk to him that much, at that time, we-we just, I had, I don't know, I think that something when you see each other and right away you know that, that person has something to do with you. And you get to say, "hi hello, you are my family", and then they say "well ahhh", and then we start talking about Webber. So, he said he was a Bowie, and they-they lived there in Mercedes, but I was living here in Weslaco by that time.

**Roseann:** Do you-do you remember a place called, "The Rio Vista Gin"? It was a cotton gin, in south of Alamo?

**Flavia:** No

**Roseann:** No? Okay.

**Flavia:** No, I don't, I didn't. You see I got married in '51. And uh, we went to Phoenix, we stayed in Phoenix by accident, the car wouldn't go anywhere, then the people were taking us at least. So...uh...

**Roseann:** Do you recall a woman, uh, probably a relative of yours, named Sylvia Webber Bravo? Sylvia Webber-Webber Bravo?

**Flavia:** I-I've heard of the Bravos, that they are, they belong to our...

**Roseann:** Yes...

**Flavia:** Yes, but I don't know her.



**Roseann:** Ohhh, okay, cuz I'd love to talk to her too. Uhm,...

**Flavia:** Yeah, that's a pretty name, Well, I always liked it, my girls had a friend, that was her name was Sylvia, and I'd say, "well that's a beautiful name." Let me see.

**Roseann: (birds chirping loudly)** Sylvia and John Fernando's children were L.C. and Leonard, John, Sarah, James, Nelson, **(birds stop chirping)** Sabrina, Andrew...

**Flavia:** Andres...

**Roseann:** Rachel, and Amanda....

**Flavia:** Oh that's my granddaughter's name.

**Roseann:** And, uhm, I can't read, Jeremiah Marcelino

**Flavia:** Yes, Marcelino Webber from Donna.

**Roseann:** Marcelino, okay.

**Flavia:** I think there is a grave in the Webber cemetery. I wish I had known all of them, that my father would have told us, me at least, here is our family. But he used to say, Hooks, Singleterry's Hernandez, but uh, he-I didn't get to know anything. And all I'm learning now is now, and it's kind of late for me.

**Roseann:** Do you know a John Webber and a Cecilia Dominquez? Do you recall?

**Flavia:** Junior? Juan Jr.?

**Roseann:** Juan, was he married to a Cecilia?

**Flavia:** Well, that must be uh-oh that must be John, Olga's, uh Leslie's, Leslie's brother-in-law. He's John Webber Jr. he went to Vietnam. I have his number. We can call him and ask him. I was looking for the phone of Cuellar.

**Roseann:** Oh okay. Yes, that would be great.

**Flavia:** But, let me see, I. Let me see about Juan. Maybe I'm looking at the wrong.

**Roseann:** Yes, here we have uhm in a report, and I can't tell you when it was written or who wrote it. All I can tell you is that it's in the Museum of South Texas History Closner Ramsey Collection Webber Family Folder. It says, uh "Major portions of La Blanca Grant were given to

Webber's daughters who married and therefore lost the Webber name in succeeding generations. Uhhh Elsie Webber married John Jackson, and Rachel Amanda Webber married James Singleterry." Which is what you were saying you were related to Singleterry's.

**Flavia:** They had a store in Second Street.

**Roseann:** Mmm hmm

**Flavia:** I have it here, but I don't have a phone number for him, just the address that I gave you.

**Roseann:** Mmm hmm, and then there's James uh-who died in 1922 in Donna, Texas. So is that Jimmy who you were telling me, is the father of your father?

**Flavia:** Uh huh, 1922? My father was born in 1907. So, I don't know what his age might have been.

**Roseann:** And James was also probably buried in the Webber family cemetery.

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** But some of the tombstones are hard to find.

**Flavia:** Well, we found it a few years back.

**Roseann:** Well, John Ferdinand Webber now he has a military headstone in that...

**Flavia:** Well it doesn't show, it's just, to me, it's just a simple. It's just simple. But it's there. It wasn't. It's there.

**Roseann:** Yes. Uh huh.

**Flavia:** And I love it.

**Roseann:** Yes.

I visited, uh-maybe three weeks ago. Because my grandson came from Houston, he's married to a Vietnamese. They have two beautiful children. And I took them there. And I said, well here is uh, I don't know how great my grandfather is, but he's a great-great something to me. And he said "ahh, well let's go." So, we went. We got two cabbages, two red cabbages there from the fields there where, there beside the cemetery.

**Roseann:** Uh huh.

**Flavia:** So let me see, Juan-Juan. Did did, Leslie should have it because it's her, it's her.

**Roseann:** Okay, well if she has it then I can get the number from her.

**Flavia:** It's her in-law, because he's a brother of Olga. But I have it, I was just looking at it on Labor Day, but I didn't get to call him. Veteran's Day I mean.

**Roseann:** Mmm hmm.

**Flavia:** So my brother Rolando is a commissioner for Air Force, do they do that?

**Roseann:** Oh okay.

**Flavia:** He was born in '47. But he lives in San Antonio. Let me see you, I think I have it, somewhere here.

**Roseann:** Well, in particular, I'm looking for information of the Webber's living here during the Civil War, which is the 1860's which was a long time ago. And uhm, I was just wondering if you had any folklore stories that talked about...

**Flavia:** No, not that my father would have told me.

**Roseann:** Leslie mentioned something about stories about Sylvia having green eyes.

**Flavia:** Oh yes.

**(windchimes playing in background)**

**Roseann:** What do you know about that?

**Flavia:** That's, that, I think that's true, because Juan Webber, uhh, Olga's father, and uh, he had a daughter, Concepcion, "Concha", and she had most beautiful eyes. And none of them had them, and you know Cuellar's mother, did have the same beautiful eyes and dark skin, so did uh, Juan, uh, that should be Juan Jr.'s sister. No, no, uh, Juan daughter, Juan's daughter. And uh, she had beautiful eyes, because you see, as you said, I was raised by them, and she got to take me here and there, and put dresses on me and dress me up, my hair. And so I got to know her, but she had beautiful eyes, so where do those eyes come from? I think, they must be.....

**Roseann:** So Concepcion Webber and Francisco Webber had Juan, Alfredo, Concha, and Santiago.

**Flavia:** Francisca, yes. (pause) Concha, yes. (pause) Concha and Santiago, chiquito, that means he was junior. But he died, uhh-he had an accident on his bicycle and he didn't recuperate from that. And Concha died of tuberculosis, so did her husband. I don't know what his name was, I don't remember, I was just a child. But uh...

**Roseann:** And when did Santiago die?

**Flavia:** My father?

**Roseann:** Yeah.

**Flavia:** Uh, he died, at uh, sixty-'67 or '68.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** '67 or '68. Because I bought this house in '67 and my father died the next year. In Mercedes.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** No, no not in Mercedes, in Kerrville. He was in the Veteran's Hospital.

**Roseann:** Mmm hmm. (pages turned) Okay, so I am just trying to get to the bottom of your line, where your, you were born in 1938.

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** Your father was born in 1907.

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** And then his father...

**Flavia:** He was 29, and my mother was 13.

**Roseann:** Ooh goodness.

**Flavia:** (chuckles) So I got married at 14/15, like, because I was 15 when I had my first kid. And I didn't know I was having. I don't know, I can't believe it now, but I say yes it's true, there are people that don't know that they're having a baby. I didn't know.

**Roseann:** Yeah, goodness gracious.

**Flavia:** What the pains were, I didn't understand it. And I say, "why not, why, that thing, because there movement," no I was not aware.

**Roseann:** So if your father was alive, between, he was born in 1907 and died in 1968, what was the reason why you were raised by Juan?

**Flavia:** Only because when he went into the army, my father wanted someone to take care for me. And wanted to have, uh-uh if something did happen to me, wanted to have authority for me to get medical attention, otherwise they...

**Roseann:** Well that's important, absolutely.

**Flavia:** Yes. That's the only reason. And just in case something might happen to my father in war, he would have, I would be with them, living with them. That's the reason, I did not-I did not know that until about two years, that I was adopted by them. And I say, "Why? I thought I was raised-I was being raised by them." And they said, "yes". Cuellar told me that. And I said, "what?" and he said, "yes" and then I asked Olga, and she says "I don't know tia." That's Leslie's mother-in-law. Juan Jr. had a sister. I can't find his name, I have him here and his phone.

**Roseann:** Who was Juan Webber married to?

**Flavia:** You were just asking me, the Juan, you got there, the name of the girls, that's what I'm looking for. We can call him and ask him, he;s divorced now.

**Windchimes playing softly in background)**

**Roseann:** So Juan Webber is Santiago's brother. Your father's brother?

**Flavia:** Yes, no.

**Roseann:** No.

**Flavia:** No. Juan Webber, no, Concepcion was my father's brother.

**Roseann:** Oh okay.

**Flavia:** And Felipe Webber was my father's brother.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** Felipe Webber. Concepcion and Felipe, Juan was Concepcion's son.

**Roseann:** Uh huh, right Juan was Concepcion's son.

**Flavia:** And Juan Jr. is-uh, Juan's son and Olga and two more girls.

**Roseann:** Okay. Got it. Okay and Concepcion's son Juan was the one who raised you?

**Flavia:** Yes. Noo. No. Concepcion raised me and his wife Francisca, they raised me.

**Roseann:** Okay, okay. So Concepcion and Francisca Webber raised you with Juan, Alfredo, Concha, and Santiago while your dad was in the Army.

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** And at nine, my father took me to live with him and his wife, when I was nine. That was 1940...'46, because in '47 his son with this lady was born, his first son with her. And they had five children.

**Roseann:** So your father Santiago married somebody else?

**Flavia:** Yes, Alicia Webber. Alicia Perez Webber.

**Roseann:** Okay, but we're not gonna talk about that part of the family. Right?

**Flavia:** Well no, because I think that by now they are doing something else with the property. And they've gone to get whatever their share is. I don't know nothing.

**Roseann:** Okay, okay, that's fine. I'm just trying to get a line of descendants from, that stem from you. And uh, okay. I think I can figure this out.

**(bird chirping) (Roseann chuckles)**

**Flavia:** Yes, This is uh-Isabel Webber from Houston. She has Francis. I think Francis is the one Olga gets in touch with these things. Chavela, she's very very old now. She was Alfredo's wife, Concepcion's daughter-in-law. They might know a lot about the war, because Juan and Alfredo, her husband went to war, they were veterans. So, Concepcion was Sheriff-Deputy. That's all I can tell you. Her name is here. She has a daughter, her name is I forgot uh,...

**Roseann:** So, what's the number, what's the phone number?

**Flavia:** There is, Chavela, I put Chavela, but it's Isabel.

**Roseann:** Yes, uh huh.

**Flavia:** Isabel.

**Roseann:** 281-221...

**Flavia:** Uh, uh, let me think of the name of her daughter...Frances. Frances, is Webber I don't know if she has a last name from her husband. She might be married, she might not. Frances is Chavela's daughter. And uh, she's daughter of Alfredo Webber, who went to war with Juan Webber.

**Roseann:** Do you know which war?

**Flavia:** No. Well, let's, I don't know much about arithmetic, but uh. I remember I was small...

**Roseann:** I can, I think I can figure that out. **(chuckles)**

**Flavia:** Yes, I didn't go into school, but uh 3 months into fourth grade. That's it. **(bird chirping)** I went three years to Catholic and three months to, a year and three months maybe into public school.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** So, that's why I'm not too much educated. Not at all.

Okay, okay, here we go. Yeah, so if Alfredo was a son of Concepcion and Francisca, Concepcion and Francisca, so....

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** 1907...maybe they went to World War I?\*\*\*

**Flavia:** I don't know, I guess. Because Juan Jr., Juan Jr. went to Vietnam. Juan Jr., uhh Olga's brother.

**Roseann:** Right.

**Flavia:** The name that I'm looking for and I can't find it.

**Roseann:** I'm gonna look up Census reports, and yeah, I have pictures of all kinds of gravestones and that. Florencio Webber Bravo.

**Flavia:** Florencio, Florencio, mi tio Florencio. That was my uncle. Florencio, he was Webber, he was killed in a train accident in uh-Michigan. Juan Webber went to bring him to be buried here.

**Roseann:** And Marcelino Webber, and Michaela Webber, they were 1852 to 1902. That's, those are, Marcelino was one of John Fernando Webber's children. But I have in here, I have a like a genealogy family tree, oh I had, oh here it is, but it's mostly for Bravo.

**Flaiva:** Yes, Bravo.

**Roseann:** And there was a...

**Flavia:** One of them takes care of the-the Webber cemetery.

**Roseann:** Yeah, Aaron, yeah. Well he's passed away now, he passed away a couple of, maybe a year or two ago.

**Flavia:** Ohhh.

**Roseann:** Florencio Bravo and Marcelito Webber.

**Flavia:** Marcelita. Marcela?

**Roseann:** Marcelita Webber. And they had Aaron Bravo, Elias Bravo, Flores Bravo, Antonio Bravo, Arm-encio Bravo, Francisco Bravo. Florencio Bravo, and Marcelita Webber.

**Flavia:** Uh huh, oh man, they're a lot.

**Roseann:** Mmm hmm, mmm hmm.

**Flavia:** Yeah, 8, 832, I don't know if that is, it says here Cuellar, that must be uh-Jose, the one in Brownsville, I don't know. But it says Cuellar, 832 202-4497([956-554-3417](tel:956-554-3417)). That's the only Cuellar that I would have but I'm looking for Juan Jr. He is disabled.

**Roseann:** Now I see up here, there's a picture of a young African-American boy.

Yeah, he's my great-grandson. Is that a Webber?

**Flavia:** She is Sanchez-Ortiz. Her mother is Ortiz, Maria Nita Ortiz, and his father is John-John, he's a para-those guys police officers that stop you and uh...

**Roseann:** Border Patrol?

**Flavia:** ...in white



**Roseann:** State Troopers?

**Flavia:** In white and black cars.

**Roseann:** Are one of his parents African-American?

**Flavia:** His father.

**Roseann:** His father. Okay.

**Flavia:** And my daughter, well she's not my, but I raised five of my daughters she wouldn't care for them. So I raised the five of them. Three Sanchez, one Ortiz, and Amanda Perales. Yeah, she's Elly Celinda Sanchez, and Amanda, and Rogelio Ortiz, and Carlos Sanchez, and Catarino Sanchez III. I have all of them there.

**Roseann:** Wow. And you raised them in this house?

**Flavia:** I raised them in this house, and my seven children.

**Roseann:** Wow, good golly. Wow.

**Flavia:** Yeah, now she's back in Harlingen with Mandy.

**Roseann:** Uh, huh.

**Flavia:** She was her favorite daughter. And they are together.

**Roseann:** Oh okay.

**Flavia:** There are some things, that have been going on with them and I don't, I don't talk. We don't talk. We don't talk. Yeah.

**Roseann:** No, no, we are gonna talk about Webber's only. No problem. No problem.

**Flavia:** \_\_\_they are nevertheless, I said no, no, to my house, no. I don't want, I am not in the age, I don't want to deal with things that I'm not suppose to.

**Roseann:** You are retirement mode.

**Flavia:** Sometimes, sometimes, things get to me, and you know you I have to deal with them anyway. You do, we have to, make space, see Isabel Webber the one that I told you, she lives in 9626 Aguilar St. in Houston 77013.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** I gave you 713.

**Roseann:** Yes, I wrote that number down.

**Flavia:** Yes, every time she comes here, she has a lot, she comes pay her taxes, they bring here, she's barely walking now, and she comes here and goes sees her lot, where they had their first house. And uh, Frances brings her here.

**Roseann:** Uh huh. Oh.

**Flavia:** She has two sons. Alfred, Alfredo Webber. The other one I don't remember but he's a bus, he was a bus driver, and three girls I think, Frances and Norma, Frances, Norma, Nora? I don't remember. Ay ya ya. I have, I know I have them in a tiny little, but that's me, I only write things as they come, and then I don't know where.

**Roseann:** That's okay, that's okay.

**Flavia:** Maybe uh, Leslie will give you his name, so you will know, who he married. He's divorced now, but the lady, the lady is a very nice lady. But they're divorced now.

That's alright. Okay. So, okay, let me just think if I have any other questions for you.

**Flavia:** Yes, I'm here.

**Roseann:** Did you, do you recall hearing any stories about Indian massacres in Webberville, or John and Sylvia's relationship with uh?

**Flavia:** No, no, but I've loved Indians I don't know why. I have the volcanoes, co-co something like that. And I love the stories of Monctezuma, and the first Indians from Mexico. I love them and I don't know why. I loved those stories. Mexico City, the main, the uh, and the water would go through the cement canals, cement canals, would go through and go through that big water, like a lake, for them to bring up the corn, and the beans, and everything...

**Roseann:** The irrigation.

**Flavia:** They would save, they would save the rain water.

**Roseann:** Well yes, of course.

**Flavia:** How, they had the, the intelligence, of keeping it, storing it.

**Roseann:** Do you know a woman named Sylvia Webber Bowie?

**Flavia:** That's a beautiful name also, but no, I don't.

**Roseann:** Okay, I'll have to try to find her. (chuckles)

**Flavia:** We'll have to make a get together. (chuckles)

**Roseann:** Right.

**Flavia:** Whoever is still alive.

**Roseann:** Yes, to have a family reunion.

**Flavia:** Yes, a a, long-time family.

**Roseann:** Uh, huh.

**Flavia:** Yes, they used to, Juan and Alfredo used to go to California and to get to my other aunts there. But I don't, I would say, "ohhh, that's that was too much money for me." To go. But I was not invited. And in anyway, I would have not made it, because I had my children to look after.

**Roseann:** Well sure.

**Flavia:** But they had the time, they were retired, and it was good because Alfredo was not too proud of it. He will always, "No, I don't like those gatherings, it's always something going wrong with the partying and everything," he would say, "I would rather stay at home and talk to them by phone." (chuckles)

**Roseann:** Right.

**Flavia:** But uh-he was a good brother. I say they're my brothers because I was raised with them. Juan made that house that's still standing, here where he used to live, just a few blocks from where I am, crossing uh-Texas, and uh-Paylor store, there is a house. I think uh,...

**Roseann:** Which house is that?

**Flavia:** Uh-here in Texas, you don't even get to the block, uh, Payless is here,

**Roseann:** Oh okay,

**Flavia:** There is uh, uh,

**Roseann:** Downtown.

**Flavia:** The, yeah, right here next to me, uh, there is a Esplanada Street, and you just turn to your left, and there is a house, long long, white and uh, little teal. It's long. And there's some work doing in the front, because they-they're going to make a parking lot, so, not in Juan's property, but next to him there in the house, I don't know what they're going to make, Olga says they're going to make something commercial.

**Roseann:** Okay. Okay. Well, I think that is all the questions I have for now.

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** Uhm, I wanna tell you thank you so much for...

**Flavia:** Well I wanna tell you let me knowwww, things I don't know, **(lowers voice)** were they related to John?

**Roseann:** Which massacres?

**Flavia:** The ones that you were telling me...

**Roseann:** The Indian Massacres?

**Flavia:** Yes.

**Roseann:** No, uhm, I have heard but I have not investigated yet, uhm in Webberville, there happened, I believe there happened to be Indian massacres after the Webber's left.

**Flavia: (whispers softly)** Ohhh...

**Roseann:** Because uhm, Leslie had told me that in her research she had found that the Webber's John Ferdinand and his wife Sylvia were very sympathetic to the Ame-Indians. And so uhm they were uh safe, so to speak, from any Indian incursion, Indian invasion. Uh, and then after they moved out of Webberville, there happened to be a massacre of Indian people, of Native American people. So, I want to look into that little bit history of that...

**Flavia:** Do you know if he had any property around there?

**Roseann:** In Webberville?

**Flavia:** Uh huh.

**Roseann:** Uh, probably yes. Yeah. I'm more concerned with what he had down here.

**Flavia:** Here, here here, because I know that from La Blanca, to Alamo, and the river, and they say I might have property in the river, and they don't know if it's near the cemetery or in Mercedes, but I don't know, and I don't know how to go about it.

**Roseann:** Do you see your name on a deed?

**Flavia:** No. No. Leslie was suppose to tell me, was suppose to talk to a lady, who was suppose to tell me. Well you have the maps, well I have the maps there, and the maps only say, Webber cemetery. And uh, I don't know if it says Webber Ranch?

**Roseann:** Oh yeah.

**Flavia:** Do you see it in the map?

**Roseann:** In an old map during, I would say during 1880's.

**Flavia: (grunt)** I'm not gonna look for Juan John Jr's phone number.

**Roseann:** That's okay.

**Flavia:** I wanted you to see who he married.

**Roseann:** Yes.

**Flavia:** Because that's Leslie's uncle-in-law?

**Roseann:** Uh huh.

**Flavia:** That and Olga is his, her mother-in-law, Juan is Olga's brother.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** What would it be for Leslie?

**Roseann:** Uncle-in-law. **(chuckles)**

**Flavia:** Uncle-in-law. Yeah, uncle-in-law, because he would be, his, her husband's uncle.

**Roseann:** Uh huh, okay, okay.

**Flavia:** She will know his number because they love him very much.

**Roseann:** Okay, I can get that from her.

**Flavia: (distant voice)** I want to show you a map, and you can come to my room and see how I love Indians and I don't know why! **(clear voice)** That's why I was telling you about my son. Going to teach in Hidalgo. Because why he had it in him to go there, if, and uh, he didn't die until after he knew about Sylvia, but he didn't know they were married there, he didn't get to know that far. So, that's why I share with my daughter-in-law that the history a little bit, because I say, **(soft voice)** 'how come he wanted in his heart to teach there?' He was so concerned about the children who didn't get attention from the teachers, he would take them, he would go to the parents and tell them, that they were having problems with the child, that he needed more attention in helping with the homework, and things like that. So this-this is him.

**Roseann:** Oh, that's our map. **(chuckles)**

**Flavia:** Yeah, see that there, see, that-that, well, that's the he appeared to a \_\_\_\_ and there is uh, he gave a school there in Hidalgo. But he didn't dress that way, he just did it for, to be a clown.

**Roseann: (windchimes playing/birds chirping)** Is that your son?

**Flavia:** That's my son, Vicente Ortiz. He married to Maria Gar-Garcia, that's it(?). And see me, I don't bother her. I don't say, put see, there is the-the Popo. The popo is there he is, the Indian, that's he, a volcano that's spreads lava very-very regularly, a lot of it. And that's her, see, the way she is, and that's a legend, that tells, they told them lies, that the other tribes had poisoned her because they didn't want them to marry and that was...

**Roseann:** Popo-car-petl?

**Flavia:** Ca-pé-tl, Popocapétl. And that was what, la, they say, "la mujer or-unida"(?), but that's her real name. So, that's two volcanos, but in-in legend, they say they were in love.

**Roseann:** Ahhh,

**Flavia:** That there people, wouldn't let them see. This is a different one, but it's the same, there is a volcano and that's her. And It's beautiful, I love it, and see, the uh- Leslie has one of those in back of her ear.

**Roseann:** Oh- okay, Coco-peli. Coco-peli.

**Flavia:** Leslie, and I say, “why do you and me like that?” I paid \$25 in Indian uh-tent, in Traderspost in Houston. My son would love to take me to the flea market. And they had a tent that time and I bought it. I like it. And then I saw her, she was wearing, uh-she has it tattooed behind her ear. And see, I like Indians.

**Roseann:** Sure, wow.

**Flavia:** That is little brown kid apart of Grandma, Great-grandma. He calls me grandma, and I call him son. My daughter, well she is my grand-daughter but she calls me mom. I raised her.

**Roseann:** Okay.

**Flavia:** I have these Buddha things because of Roy, he married a Vietnamese girl. So we have all kinds of...the youngest of them is 17, no-no 15. She looks beautiful, Vietnamese with Chicano. **(chuckles)** This is why, that’s the map. This is what Leslie gave me.

**Roseann:** That’s the map, and that’s what I created in the CHAPS program.

**Flavia:** You know, you know what I see, Hinojosa? I don’t know what Hinojosa...

**Roseann:** Yeah, we have the Webber Ranch right here. Webber...Yeah, right there. There are the Jackson’s.

**Flavia:** Oh yes, And then the cemetery’s nearby. I used to see a lady, I used to go to Donna for my doctor, to see my doctor. And there would come this lady, and I would say, (whispers) \_\_I think so, but I am afraid to ask..

**Roseann:** Uh huh.

**Flavia:** I would see this lady, uh, feign, very kinky hair, very not too much, but she was dark..

**Roseann:** A little moreno? Morena?

**Flavia:** Yeah, morenita. Y las chamoritos, Like uh, Dusty, dusty and dry.

And uh, she would be-she would get there, like oh-she was about to drop, she would walk from the river, or where they had their-their...I think she was a Jackson,

And then this-this boy that got shot, and killed outside a bar, in Donna. He was a Jackson also.

And his, I think his two sisters burned in an accident.

**Roseann:** Ohh. I'm gonna talk with a Jackson descendent on Wednesday next week. So,.

**Flavia:** About, about, about, Hinojosa, uh I have three, well I have three, but well now they are two, of my kids, David, and Debra, I didn't, is that off?

**Roseann:** I can turn it off. Let me turn it off. We're gonna finish the interview now, so I'm just gonna turn it off. Where is the off button, and let me just...(end).

Note: Per phone conversation between Roseann Bacha-Garza and Flavia Webber Ortiz on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, Flavia states that she approves the transcription other than to say that we spelled "Ulysses" incorrectly on page two and that she has "osteoporosis" (not cirrhosis) on page 6. Corrections have been made prior to submission to Border Studies Archive in this transcription.