

COLE, John S.  
INTERVIEWEE

Interview: Michael Cooke  
Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections  
Winthrop University

**Interview #206**

Interviewed: February 21, 1986  
Transcribed: August 9, 2021  
Transcribed by Rosanna Thomas  
MP3 File of cassette recording  
Length: 00:47:23

Abstract: This interview includes a brief biographical history of John S. Cole. This interview also discusses the Warring Decision which did away with the literacy test that was administered at the voting polls. The Progressive Democratic Party and the Democratic Party also discussed along with the many methods for registration voters.

\* This is an edited transcript. Our transcription guidelines are available upon request/on our website.

Time	Keyword
00:00:00	<p><b>MC: Today is February 21, 1986 I'm conducting an interview with John S. Cole of Cheraw, South Carolina. Mr. Cole could you give us a brief biographical sketch of your life? When you were born, your birthplace, your education, your occupation or occupations?</b></p> <p>SC: I was born in Chesterfield county South Carolina in 1950s. I went to school in a rural area. Everybody walked to school, there were no buses to ride us at all. They had buses to ride the white children but no blacks. So I would walk five miles to school every day, going and coming. We didn't have any kind of school house. We were in a small building without windows, without glass windows, it just had holes [unclear] windows to keep the [unclear] There were no classrooms at all in the building and no heating systems as well. You just come in early and [unclear] start the fire in the school house.</p>
00:01:13	<p><b>MC: Were white schools of a similar nature have a similar type of physical plan or were they superior?</b></p> <p>JC: No. The white schools were superior. They had glass windows. They had [unclear] for the shades—for the shades for the building. They had heat in the building paid by the school board. They unclear for the price of heat. [unclear] In our school if anything [unclear]. They had classes—classrooms. We had five or six classes in one room in our schools. But we got along pretty well [unclear] We</p>

had another program going there where had to come in there at 12, [unclear] at 12. Came to school and they had school afternoon. [UNCLEAR] but every boy had to have a time to work in the classroom and to farm also. Half a day at school. The whites had the perfect set up. They had buses to ride us both ways in. They had heated buildings. Everything. We didn't have that. I was...they would leave