

Memories of visiting Sampson County, North Carolina

Daddy took me from Richmond to Faison on the train when I was around 7 or 8 (1946?). I had lived my entire life in the country but only 12 miles from Richmond. He never let me forget that when I stepped down from the train in metropolitan Faison, I asked, "Where's the town?"

I believed we stayed at Inez's [Aunt Inez Oates Hines]. I remember a house in the country and one of the older girls making doughnuts. It must have been Gwen I played with. She had older sisters primping to go out on dates.

I also remember visiting relatives who lived in a newer, smaller house. I'm sending a picture of [two girls and a boy](#) standing beside that house.

Daddy took me to White Lake on several occasions and we probably visited relatives then. I have a picture of [Ruth](#) and her husband John in their cucumber field (around 1950). Also one of a young man in the same field. I'm sending those pictures, also. Daddy took me on a tour of the pickle factory in Mt. Olive.

The last trip I remember going to Faison with Daddy was in the spring of 1956. Leon paid for material to build a fence around the Oates Cemetery and Daddy did the work. Just the two of us drove down pulling a trailer containing materials. I'd just gotten my driver's license and thought it pretty cool that Daddy let me drive and pull the trailer.

Loretta Oates Davis
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Memoir from Loretta Oates Davis requested by Ron Oates (webmaster)