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Anacostia Community Museum Archives

Sea-Island Dialect of South Carolina

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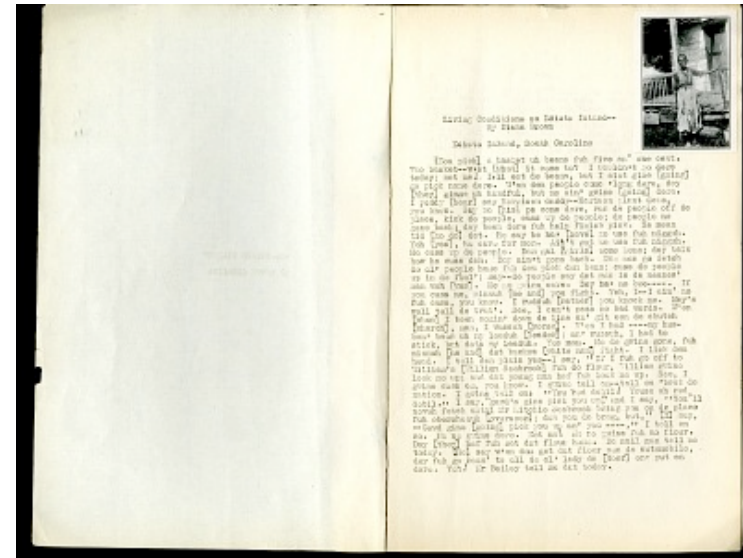
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[[image - Black and white photograph of an African-American woman outside a house with a front porch]]

Living Conditions on Edisto Island-- By Diana Brown

Edisto Island, South Carolina

[You pick] a basket uh beans fuh five an' one cent. Two basket--w'at [what] it come to? I wouldn't go dere today; not me! I'll eat de beans, but I aint gine [going] go pick none dere. W'en dem people come 'long dere, dey [they] gimme un handful, but me ain' gwine [going] dere. I yeddy [hear] say Harrison daddy--Harison plant dere, you know. Say he [his] pa come dere, run de people off de place, kick de people, cuss up de people; de people ne gone back; dey been dere fuh help finish pick. He mean tid [to do] dat. He say he ha' [have] no use fuh niggguh. Yeh [yes], he care for men. Ain't got no use fun niggguh. He cuss up de people. Dem gal [girls] come home; dey talk how he cuss dem. Dey ain't gone back. Dem men go fetch de ol' people home fuh dem pick dem bean; cuss de people up in de fiel'; say--de people say dat man is de meanes' man wuh [was]. Me no gwine dere. Dey ha' no buc----. If you cuss me, minnuh [me and] you fight. Yeh, I--I ain' no fun cuss, you know. I rudduh [rather] you knock me. May's well tell de trut'. See, I can't pass no bad words. W'en [when] I been comin' down de line an' git een de chutch [church], man, I wussuh [worse]. W'en I had ----my husban' been uh my leaduh [leader]; an' wussuh, I had to stick, but dat's my leaduh. Yes mam. Me de gwine gone, fuh minnuh [me and] dat buckra [white man] fight. I lick dem head. I tell dem plain yes--I say, "If I fuh go off to William's [William Seabrook] fuh de flour, William gwine lock me up; and dat young man haf fuh lock me up. See, I gwine cuss em, you know. I gwine tell em--tell em 'bout de nation. I gwine tell em: "You red debil! Youse uh red debil." I say, "gawd's gine pick you up," and I say, "You'll nevu' fetch until Mr Mitchie Seabrook bring you on de place fuh obserseeuh [overseer]; den you do brag, but," [I] say, "Gawd gine [going] pick you up an' you ----," I tell em so. Me no gwine dere. Not me! Me no gwine fuh no flour. Dey [they] haf fuh set dat flour home. De mail man tell me today. [He] say w'en dem get dat flour oen de automobile, dey fuh go roun' to all de ol' lady do [door] an' put en dere. Yeh! Mr Bailey tell me dat today.



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