

**Excerpt from Paul Smith, Ex-Slave Federal Writer's Project Interview**

“Us chillun sho did lak to see ‘em run dat old gin, ‘cause ‘fore dey ever had a gin Marster used to make us pick a shoe-full of cotton seeds out evvy night ‘fore us went to bed. Now dat don’t sound so bad, Missy, but did you ever try to pick any seeds out of cotton?”

**Excerpt from Paul Smith, Ex-Slave Federal Writer's Project Interview**

“Us chillun sho did lak to see ‘em run dat old gin, ‘cause ‘fore dey ever had a gin Marster used to make us pick a shoe-full of cotton seeds out evvy night ‘fore us went to bed. Now dat don’t sound so bad, Missy, but did you ever try to pick any seeds out of cotton?”

**Excerpt from Paul Smith, Ex-Slave Federal Writer's Project Interview**

“Us chillun sho did lak to see ‘em run dat old gin, ‘cause ‘fore dey ever had a gin Marster used to make us pick a shoe-full of cotton seeds out evvy night ‘fore us went to bed. Now dat don’t sound so bad, Missy, but did you ever try to pick any seeds out of cotton?”

**Excerpt from Paul Smith, Ex-Slave Federal Writer's Project Interview**

“Us chillun sho did lak to see ‘em run dat old gin, ‘cause ‘fore dey ever had a gin Marster used to make us pick a shoe-full of cotton seeds out evvy night ‘fore us went to bed. Now dat don’t sound so bad, Missy, but did you ever try to pick any seeds out of cotton?”