



JESSE OWENS MEMORIAL PARK & MUSEUM

# *Sylvester Owens Recording*

## **Audio Tour of Birth Home**

**(including script)**



**Rex Free preparing to record Sylvester Owens (Jesse older brother) about growing up in their small home in Oakville. The audio recording will be played in the Home Replica on the grounds of the Jesse Owens Memorial Park. Sylvester is shown above making the recording in Moulton, Alabama at the office of James Pinion, the Lawrence County Extension Coordinator.**





*Sylvester Owens*  
*May 15, 1998*

*Sylvester Owens*  
*Describes the Owen's Home*  
*at Oakville*

*Recorded, Edited, and Mastered in Digital Audio By:*  
*Rex Free*

**AMBER** *Video & Audio Services, Inc.*

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1. Welcome to the Owens Family Home.
2. I'm Sylvester, one of the 10 children of Cleveland and Emma Owens.
3. The family lived here for many years as a sharecropper's family.
4. In ~~1902~~<sup>1922</sup> the Owens family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in search of a better life.
5. When we left Oakville, I was 13 and my brother, Jesse, was 9.
6. Our house had 3 rooms - children's bedroom, parent's room and kitchen.
7. My brothers and sisters slept on quilts on the floor.

8. We kept our house warm in the winter with our wood burning heater.
9. We pulled our quilts close to the heater in the winter to keep warm.
10. Mom and Dad were the only family members that had a bed.
11. Mom and Dad's room was also used as a gathering place and to wash up before meal time.
12. After a hard day's work, we would gather in the front room and porch to rest and talk.
13. The family lived in a similar house.
14. The wood burning stove was used for cooking and also heated the house in the winter.

15. At breakfast, we normally had cornbread, molasses and butter and bacon.
16. Each December we would butcher a hog.
17. We grew all our vegetables to eat in a garden that all family members helped with.
18. We ate our meals around the plank board table. The children sat on benches, Mom and Dad had a chair.
19. Thank you for visiting the Owens Family Home Replica.