

Not only is he a Sir but he is a Marquis as well. Doubly royal. My Mama knew that she wanted to have the Marquis in his name before she thought of Sir. All of her children have French middle names. She told me that she liked how they sounded. How they just rolled right off of her southern tongue.

Sir Antony Marquis Lavonne Hinkle

I had to stay home and heal. I did not go out for six months. Mama had strict rules about healing after you had a baby. I always did what she told me to because I was under her roof. Your aunt didn't want to listen and had to have a call back to the hospital.

So you didn't go out with Sir when he was first born?

No but Mama did. She took him to the Goodies. She took him out with the white folks and she did all of that. I stayed home.

So what did people say when they asked what was his name?

I don't know Mama will have to tell you that

What did his father think? Winferd. What did he think about you naming your son Sir?

He wanted to make him a Jr. and I didn't want that ugly name.

So how did he feel when you told him the name?

I don't know you have to call him and ask him. If you can find him.

There was a table and chairs that he would drag up and down the stairs when he was a one year old. A heavy solid wooden table and chairs. He would pick it up like a toothpick. Moving it up and down. Lifting it above his head. When she would come to check in on his play she always wondered who did it. Who moved that table up the mountain of stairs, up the mountain of improbability, up and down the layers and cliffs, with bones that had just formed?

Walgreens Louisville, KY 1980. Granny and Mama went to the pharmacy to pick up Sir's medication. Waiting patiently for it to be their turn in line they approached the counter and commenced to pay for the bill. Baby Boy was written in the prescription line that addressed who the medication was for. Baby Boy Hinkle. Not Sir Hinkle, the name written on his birth certificate.

My grandmother wanted to name him Master. Her rationale was that if Kentucky was ever a slave state again then the Master would have to call him Master.

Who would let themselves become a slave? Who would let that happen again?