

Oral History Tape Recording Release

I, Maris G. Harris, hereby give and grant my tape recordings and their contents to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History Jacksonville State University, and authorize her to make them available for scholarly research purposes.

INTERVIEWEE Maris G. Harris

INTERVIEWER Bryan D. Jamison

DATE OF INTERVIEW 2-28-94

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

DATE OF AGREEMENT 2-28-94

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE/DONOR Maris G. Harris

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Mavis G. Harris <sup>(F)</sup>

Address: Rt. 2 Box 41 Lineville, Al

Phone number(s): 396-5615

Approximate age or date of birth: April 18, 1925

Mother's Name: Lilla Griffin

Father's Name: Curtis D. Griffin

Places lived and when: Clay County, Talladega County for 1 year 1944-45  
Calhoun County 47-49

Education: Grade School (1-9) (9-12) Lineville High JSU 47-50

Religion: Southern Baptist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) \_\_\_\_\_

Present occupation: Retired AEA 45 years; NEA 45 years; Delta Kappa Gamma 45 years

Former occupations: Retired School teacher

Special Skills: English B.S.

Major Accomplishments: taught school for 37 years at Barfield School

National Events in which interviewee has participated: none

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: Local town meetings  
parent-teacher organization at

Barfield School

National born U.S. citizen? Yes/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Country from which he/she emigrated: \_\_\_\_\_

Documents, photographs and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

M.Ed Auburn

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 1. Introduction and Personal History of Mavis G. Harris

Born April 1925 Ashland, AL

Father moved to Barfield, AL

Began school at Barfield

Graduation from Lineville High School

### 2. Career and Education

Worked at Brecon Loading Co. in Talladega, AL during WWII. She was inspector while there.

Met and married J.D. Harris. Had one child.

Enrollment into Jacksonville Teacher's College

Began teaching two terms before graduation

Graduation from Jacksonville Teacher's College

### 3. Family Life Before Marriage

Father Occupation

Jobs at home

### 4. Teaching Career at Barfield School

Subjects taught

Everyday life of school at Barfield

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5. Continuation of Education

Master's degree from Auburn University

What Mrs. Harris learned in 37 years in education

## ALABAMA EVENTS

- 1925 Mavis Griffin born in Ashland, AL (Clay County).
- 1931 Mavis Griffin started school in Clay County at Barfield School.
- 1937 Mrs. Dixie Bibb Graves appointed to former Senate seat of Justice Black.
- 1938 Congressman Hill appointed to Black's seat upon resignation of Mrs. Graves.
- 1939 All of Congressional delegation returned. Speaker Bankhead died September 15, 1940.
- Frank M. Dixon of Jefferson County elected governor.
- 1940 Current census: 2,832,961 population.
- Zadok L. Weatherford of Red Bay elected to seat of late Speaker Bankhead.
- 1942 Alabama voted Republican for President (Eisenhower), first time since Reconstruction.
- 1943 Chauncey Sparks of Barbour County became governor.
- Mavis Griffin graduated from Lineville High School.
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- 1944 George W. Andrews elected to seat of Congressman Steagall  
deceased.  
Mavis Griffin worked at Brecon Loading Co. in Talladega, AL.
- 1945 All of Congressional delegation returned except Congressman  
Newsome, replaced by Albert Rains of Gadsden.  
Mavis Griffin met and married J.D. Harris.
- 1946 George R. Swift of Atmore appointed to seat of Senator Bankhead,  
deceased.
- 1947 James E. Folsom became governor.  
Mavis G. Harris had one daughter, Carol; Enrolled at Jacksonville  
Teacher's College.
- 1950 Current census figures: 3,061,743.
- 1951 Mrs. Harris Graduated from Jacksonville Teacher's College with a  
degree in English Education. Got job at Barfield School where she  
taught for 37 years.
- 1955 Governor Folsom began second term.
- 1956 Congress created Horseshoe Bend National Military Park.
- 1957 Entire Congressional delegation returned.
- 1959 Mrs. Harris enrolled at Auburn University.
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- 1960            Census figures: 3,266,740.  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center dedicated at Huntsville.  
Alabama cast 6 electoral votes for Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia,  
5 electoral votes for John F. Kennedy.  
Mrs. Harris graduated from Auburn University with a Master's  
degree in Administration and Supervision.
- 1961            So-called "freedom rides" of integrationist provoked outbreaks of  
violence in several Alabama cities. U.S. Department of Justice sent  
number of federal marshals into state to protect riders.
- 1963            George C. Wallace became governor.
- 1964            Three Negro students enrolled at University of Alabama over  
vigorous            local protest. President Kennedy nationalized Alabama guard  
units            which "regretfully" requested Governor Wallace to desist from  
personally barring entry.  
Alabama cast its electoral votes for Republican Presidential  
candidate Barry Goldwater.

- 1967 Mrs. George C. (Lurleen) Wallace inaugurated as governor, her husband continuing as "advisor."  
(Democratic majority in delegation restored with election of Bill Nickols, Sylacauga, and Tom Bevill, Jasper.)
- 1968 Alabama voted for George Wallace for President; running on third-party ticket, Wallace received 9,825,459 popular votes in the country at large, and 45 electoral votes.  
Albert p. Brewer, lieutenant governor, succeeded Mrs. Lurleen Wallace, deceased.
- 1970 Census figures: 3,444,165.



## Questions

1. Briefly give me a personal chronology of your life from birth to marriage thru your teaching career.
  2. In what year did you graduate from high school? and where from?
  3. Where did you go to college?
  4. Did you commute from Clay county to JSU?
  5. In what year did you start college?
  6. What compelled you to be a teacher?
  7. What was your major?
  8. Did you have any inspirations that compelled you to teach?
  9. What was JSU's reputation as a college?
  10. Was it predominantly a teacher's college?
  11. In what year did you start teaching school?
  12. Was it easy to get a job in education in the state?
  13. Where did you teach? For how long?
  14. How much did you make your first few years teaching?
  15. What time did you have to be at school in the morning?
  16. What time did you leave from school?
  17. What did you teach?
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18. What grade?
  19. What was your role as mother and teacher?
  20. Did it change your ability to raise a family?
  21. What did the children wear to school?
  22. Was your student's predominantly poor, rich, or middle class?
  23. What did they eat for lunch?
  24. Did they bring their own lunches?
  25. What were your main disciplinary problems?
  26. How did you discipline?
  27. Did the parent's or these children cooperate in their child's learning?
  28. What were the principal's roles at your school?
  29. What was the curriculum like in your classroom? Did you use audiovisual's or blackboard?
  30. Did you teach any blacks at Barfield school?
  31. Was the school integrated at any point in your teaching career?
  32. What effect did Brown vs. Board of Education have on integration at Barfield school?
  33. Did the boys and girls mix together a lot?
  34. What year did you receive your master's degree?
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35. Why did you choose to go back to college?

36. How were you paid in comparison to your male counterparts?

## NATIONAL EVENTS

1920	19th Amendment: Women get the vote
	Harding elected 29th President (Republican)
1923	President Harding dies, Coolidge succeeds
1924	Coolidge elected 30th President (Republican)
1926	Revenue Act
	Ford introduces 8-hour day and 5-day week
1928	Hoover elected 31st President (Republican)
1929	Wall Street Crash
1930	Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act
1931	Empire State Building opens
1932	Relief and Construction Act
1932	Roosevelt elected 32nd President (Democrat)
1933	Banking Panic
1933	First radio ' Fireside chat'
	First Hundred Days of the New Deal
	Banking Act of 1933
	21st Amendment repeals 18th
	National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA)

- 1935      Second New Deal  
            Share-Our-Wealth Movement
- 1936      Roosevelt reelected  
            Boulder Dam completed
- 1937      National Housing Act (Wagner-Steagall Act)
- 1939      Social Security Amendments  
            World War II begins  
            US proclaims neutrality
- 1940      Roosevelt reelected President
- 1945      Yalta Conference
- 1946      Employment Act  
            Churchill's 'Iron Curtain Speech' at Fulton
- 1947      Taft-Hartley Act (labor union law)  
            Organization of American States (OAS) formed
- 1948      Truman elected 33rd President (Democrat)
- 1949      UN HQ in New York opens
- 1950      Social Security Amendments
- 1952      First hydrogen bomb tested  
            Eisenhower elected 34th President (Republican)

- 1953      Senator McCarthy's anti-Communist witchhunt  
            Rosenberg spies electrocuted
- 1954      Supreme Court finds school racial segregation unconstitutional
- 1955-56    Montgomery Bus Boycott
- 1956      Eisenhower reelected President
- 1957      Eisenhower Doctrine
- 1958      NASA founded