

Gift and Release Agreement

We W.E. Jones Jr. and Jonathan Adams
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

do hereby give and grant to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History, Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at

The home of W.E. Jones Jr.

on the date(s) of March 31, 1995

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

W.E. Jones Jr.
Interviewee's signature

Address Rt. 1 Box 279

Heflin AL 36264

Phone (205) 463-7387

Date 3/31/95

Jonathan Adams
Interviewer's signature

Date 3/31/95

Address P.O. Box 122

Heflin AL 36264

Phone (205) 463-2099

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: William E. Jones, Jr. M/F male

Address: RR 1, Box 279 Heflin, AL 36264

Phone number(s): (205) 463-7381

Approximate age or date of birth: February 25, 1926 69 yrs. old

Mother's Name: Estelle Jones

Father's Name: William E. Jones, Sr.

Places lived and when: born in Talladega County at Duck Nest Springs
in Cheaha Mountains and then moved to Heflin

Education: 10th grade

Religion: Southern Baptist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) _____

Present occupation: retired

Former occupations: saw miller, truck driver for Cities Service Oil (con'd)

Special Skills: laborer, truck driver, preacher & pastored church for (con'd)

Major Accomplishments: enjoyed life to its fullness, accomplished
a little wealth and blessed to no end.

National Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: Booster Club Member

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: Clellon Vise

Additional information: _____

Former occupations (con'd): Company for 15 years; Service Manager; pants department manager; salesman at Buster Miles Chevrolet for 15 years; farmer; raised chickens for Tyson poultry for 17 years.

Special skills (con'd): 28 years. Enjoyed hard work and ministering to people.

Interviewee: William E. Jones Jr.
Interviewer: Jonathan Adams
Date: March 31, 1995
Place of interview: At his home
Subject of interview: Life on Mt. Cheaha

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Born

Ducknest Springs, Alabama
Five miles from Oxford
February 25, 1926
Doctor rode in on horse
House born in is in Cleburne, Clay, and Talledega Counties
Born in room in Talledega County

Family

Parents- William E. Jones Sr. and Estele Norton Jones
Brothers- Charles, Harold
Sisters- Genell, Jacqueline

Parents' occupations

Father- Sawmilling
Mother- Housewife

Where lived

Ducknest Springs, Cleburne County, Alabama
Cedar Creek, Cleburne County, Alabama
Fell in well
Heflin, Cleburne County, Alabama
Depression- Money frozen in bank
Still lives here today

Education

Cleburne County High
No college

Jobs

Sawmilling
Webb Lumber Company
Tollison and Webb Oil Company

Married

In Tallapoosa, Georgia at minister's home
May 4, 1946

How met wife

In a cafe
Dated 18 months

Jobs

Buster Miles Chevrolet

World WarII

Did not fight
Brother died at age 16
Had to sign up for draft
Was not drafted because of handicap
Almost drafted at end of war anyway
Was called a draft dodger

Doctor

Went for cut off finger
Almost died

JFK

Good President
Did good for country
Did not turn out right

Favorite President

Roosevelt
During Depression

Church Career

New Harmony Church
Went into ministry
Abel Church
Happy Hill Church
Union Hill Church
New Harmony Church
Cedar Creek Church
Still preaching there today
Wife passed away

Questions

1. When and where were you born?
2. Who are your parents and siblings?
3. What did you parents do around the house?
4. What were your chores around the house?
5. Where have you lived throughout your life?
6. What were your parents' occupations while you were growing up?
7. What do you remember about the depression?
8. Where did you go to school?
9. Did you go to college?
10. What was your first job?
11. When did you get married?
12. How did you meet your wife?
13. What jobs have you had during your lifetime?
14. Did you fight in World War II?
15. What do you remember about the war?
16. Did you fight in the Korean War?
17. What is your opinion of JFK?
18. Who is your favorite President?

CLEBURNE COUNTY

LAND OF NATURAL SPLendor

BY :

JONATHAN ADAMS

Cleburne County, Alabama, was established as^a county on December 6, 1866, by the Alabama Legislature. The county was made of land taken from Calhoun, Randolph, and Talladega Counties. Cleburne County was named after General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne. He was the Major General of the Confederate States of America. In 1865, General Cleburne fell from his horse in a charge in Franklin, Tennessee and died. The three counties that were taken away from to create Cleburne County had very little representation in the legislature, so there was no voice of opposition of the plan to cut off a part of these counties to make a new county (Stewart vi-1).

Cleburne County lies in the northeastern section of the state. It is bordered on the north by Cherokee County, on the east by the Georgia state line, on the south by Clay and Randolph counties, and on the west by Calhoun and Talladega counties. Some of the land area in Cleburne County is very mountainous and rugged, but there are also fertile valleys. At the time of its creation, the county had rich gold deposits in the southern part. The region, called Arbacoochee, was well known in 1866 for its gold mine operations. The land area of Cleburne County is approximately six hundred square miles. Cleburne County lies within three main physiographic belts: the Appalachian Mountains, covering the western part; the Piedmont Plateau, covering the southeastern section; and

the Tallapoosa River bottoms, which enter the state along the Georgia line and extend to the southwest. The Talladega National Forest now contains all of the 21,740 acres of public land that existed in 1893 plus more land that has been added through the years. Cleburne County contains thirty-eight rivers and creeks. In early times, there were nine mills operating on these waterways (Stewart 8-12).

In the first Federal Census in 1870, the county had 7,441 white and 576 colored persons. In 1890, the total population was 13,218 with 791 colored. In 1955, the population had dropped to 10,430 (Stewart 8). Today, the total population is 12,730 with 587 blacks (Clements 264-65). The county seat was at Edwardsville from 1867 until 1906 when it was moved to Heflin, where it remains today. The 1870 census totaled farm products:

Horses - 960
Mules - 524
Meat cattle - 5,641
Sheep - 3,871
Hogs - 10,659
Wheat - 36,739 bushels
Corn - 186,763 bushels
Oats - 19,853 bushels
Potatoes - 17,547 bushels

Sorgham molasses - 9,999 gallons

Butter - 83,975 pounds

Cotton - 873 bales

Tobacco - 10,997 pounds

Wool - 6,496 pounds (Stewart 8)

In 1860, there were eleven post offices in what would become Cleburne County in six years. These post offices served a total of 919 households (Stewart 9).

Cleburne County holds the highest point in the state of Alabama -- Cheaha Mountain. Cheaha State Park is one of Alabama's first state parks, created in 1939. The Civilian Conservation Corps built the stone cottages and fire tower along with many of the roads (Blackford 30). The CCC also built cabins, lodges, cottages, picnic shelters, hiking trails, swimming area with bath houses, lakes, beaches, and other recreational facilities (Cheaha State Park). The park is 2,407 feet above sea level. The park contains 2,799 acres and exhibits breathtaking scenery year round. "Seated at your evening dining table, you can enjoy a fine meal and a spectacular sunset, then stroll across the road to your lodge room." The park also contains a lodge with sleeping accommodations for fifty people. It is completely furnished including kitchen, tableware, and linens. Alabama has 49,123 acres of state parks (Alabama). This is divided into fourteen

state parks and seven state park resorts. Alabama also has twenty state-managed fishing lakes open to the public (Holmes 270).

Some of the most important places in the county now or in the past are Arbacoochee, Chulafinnee, Edwardsville, Heflin, and Ranburne. Arbacoochee was an Indian village. On March 5, 1842 a post office was established in Arbacoochee, which was still in Randolph County at this time. The post office remained until 1904, when the mail was routed to Heflin. In 1860, the wealthiest people in Arbacoochee was a planter and his wife (Stewart 26). There was an interesting case taken to the Supreme Court by the Creek Indians concerning whose land gold was being mined from. After the California Gold Rush, interest in Alabama gold mining lessened (Stewart 53-54).

The town of Chulafinnee was incorporated by the Alabama Legislature on March 1, 1881. It read that "corporate limits shall be one mile in every direction from the Center of said town." It also said that an election for a mayor and four councilmen would be held the first Monday in April every year. The town of Chulafinnee was a thriving center of commerce and trade before 1840. A post office was established December 16, 1842, and continued until 1904 when mail was routed to Heflin (Stewart 53).

Edwardsville was not a town until 1866 because it was the

plantation of William Edwards. Edwards offered the land for a county seat when the county was established. The post office near Edwardsville before 1869 was called Fair Play and was established in 1847. Edwardsville was incorporated in 1867, and streets were laid out. Edwardsville had several newspapers and a bank. The old Edwardsville Hotel was a large two-story building and is still standing today. Snead State Junior College and the Edwardsville Academy were both flourishing schools located in Edwardsville. In 1905 a vote was held to determine whether to move the court house to Heflin or leave it. Edwardsville won by eighty-five votes; however, the county officials decided to move the court house to Heflin anyway. The old court house in Edwardsville burned in 1964 (Stewart 62,66,67).

Charles B. Heflin bought an area of land called Swift from a man of the same name. The railroad then began to refer to the whistle-stop as "The Heflin Place," and the area became Heflin, Alabama. When the Model T came out in 1914, many people in Heflin did not have much confidence in cars. Rocky roads produced many blow-outs, sometimes four or five every ten miles (Stewart 74-76). A post office was established at Heflin in 1882 (Stewart 85). Today, Heflin is still the county seat and home of the court house. Heflin is exactly half way between Birmingham and Atlanta on I-20. Heflin is by

far the largest city in the county and has one of the two high schools in the county. The other school is in Ranburne.

Ranburne is the second largest city in the county today. It is located in the southeastern corner of the county on the Georgia state line. The post office was established in 1899 (Stewart 106) and still remains today. Ranburne is a country town that has kept some of the old ways. It is amazing that no Black people have ever lived in Ranburne to this day.

The history of Cleburne County has roots in many families. It means more to me than most people because I have lived in Heflin all of my life. Heflin is a modern city with all the industry and construction of any other city. The high school has about eight or nine hundred students enrolled and graduates about one hundred and twenty each year. Most of the families who founded many of these towns still remain in the county. I think that says a lot for it. Heflin has a low crime rate and is a clean town. Most of the county is in National Forest or owned by timber companies now, making timber the counties largest resource. Cleburne County is a county of natural splendor.

*Paper should
also reflect the
and interview +
quotes from it*

90

*Good
Cites*

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Adams', is located at the bottom center of the page.