

Gift and Release Agreement

We Sally Richey and Jamie Crump  
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

Grandmother's house in Pell City AL

on the date(s) of April 2, 1995

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

Sally Richey  
Interviewee's signature

Address 75 Lake Vista Drive  
Cropwood AL 35054  
Phone 525-5721

Date April 2 1995

Jamie Crump  
Interviewer's signature

Address 802 36<sup>th</sup> St. N.  
Pell City AL 35105  
Phone 884-3757

Date April 2 1995

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Sally Syler Richey MF

Address: 75 LAKE VISTA DR.

Phone number(s): 205 525 5721

Approximate age or date of birth: 3-1-28

Mother's Name: Zona Sullerigen Syler

Father's Name: Hubert W. Syler

Places lived and when: Smithland, Flintville, Tenn  
Croswell, Al

Education: 1 year College

Religion: Baptist

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

Present occupation: Retired

Former occupations: ASCS office manager self owned business

Special Skills: Office manager

Major Accomplishments: Business operations

National Events in which interviewee has participated: NONE

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: NONE

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamie Crump  
American History 202 MWF 10:15-11:15

Sally Syler Richey  
75 Lake Vista Drive  
Cropwell, Alabama 35054  
Smithland, Tennessee Mar. 1, 1928  
Interview Date - Feb. 19, 1995

X  
excellent

I will be interviewing my grandmother about the obstacles her family faced during the Great Depression. My grandmother was very young at the time but she can remember hard times. Her dad owned a store in the rural area of Smithland, Tennessee. Due to the economic depression, he lost their store and because he was faced with an illness, he was unable to work. For several years her family lived off of food raised on their farm such as tomatoes, beans, cows, hogs and chickens. She can remember eating tomato soup almost every meal. My grandmother's father worked with the road transportation in the area. Her family owned a horse and buggy and that was the main transportation in their hometown. During the election, time her father also worked with the probate judge. My grandmother talks about how close her family was despite the depression. She recalls her dad with a positive outlook on life. *yes*

I feel the Great Depression was a very important time in American History. We know that every family was affected in some way. My grandmother will discuss the everyday living of the family along with the churches, the schools, and modes of transportation. I also feel my grandmother will be a good source because her family knew first hand how it was to lose a business. She has many books and pictures to prompt her memory and my grandmother will discuss the hardships caused by the Great Depression. When asked if she was taught anything about how to cope with the depression in school she said, "No honey we just lived it". *great*  
*wonderful quote!!!*

Possible Interview Questions

1. How was your family affected by the depression?
2. Did your family have a source of transportation?
3. Where did you get your food and what did you eat?
4. What did your dad do for a living? *How about his mother??*
5. How did he respond to the depression?
6. What was the overall outlook of the town?
7. Describe your home. *the farm*
8. What kind of illnesses were people faced with and how did they cope with them? *Did they have herbal medicine? Was there a midwife or a doctor?*
9. Describe the school and what the government provided them with.
10. What did parents supply the school with?
11. How much land did your family own?
12. Did your family have to pay a lot of taxes?
13. What did your dad help the probate judge with at election time?
14. What was the poll tax at the time and did your dad pay it?
15. Was your family any better off compared to others? Why or Why not?

16. *How did they feel about FDR?*  
*Eleanor Roosevelt +*  
*New Deal programs*  
*like WPA*  
*CCC*  
*farm program* *(see your text)*

*Good job*

Sally Syler  
Richey  
By;  
Jamie Crump  
4-2-95  
Pell City  
Depression

Table of Contents  
Great Depression

Side One

My grandmother discusses what they owned and lost in the Depression.

They grew their own food and she discusses what they grew.

She learned at a early age what it was to want and not be able to have it.

Go to church by wagon and that was their only transporation.

Farm her father owned and about her mother being a housewife.

Overall outlook of the town during the Depression.

Home, farm and the store.

Company drilling for gas across from the store.

Illnesses of the time. How a doctor made housecalls.

School systems such as the heating and food that was served.

Parents helping in the schools and that her teacher picked her up for school.

Taxes her father had to pay and how he helped at election time.

Blind grandmother who lived with her.

Entertainment such as games they played.

Chores around the house and that she liked outside work better than inside work.

She felt that the love in the family made the hard times easy.

How important religion was and the types of church she attended.

She shares her thoughts about F.D.R. and his wife.

Story about some boys camping.

How only a very few people could buy cokes her father had in the store.

Milk stayed cold by putting it in the well.

Side two

A list charged at the store by the preacher.

First time she rode in a car.

The number of dropouts in the school.

How the things that were done in the community were done by volunteers.

Story about what happened to her family when they let someone that was traveling stay with them.

How she liked going fishing and hunting with her dad.

Quilting Bees the women had.

In public men stuck together and women stuck together to catch up on the latest gossip.

A story about potatoes.

Thrashing days were days that men were helped in the fields.

How they made homemade ice cream.

Hard work men putting on building roads and bridges.

Newspaper in the small town, and how her father liked to read.

How people thought that hard times was normal.

Story about a airplane accident.

How in the school they did not have many books and they studied the Bible.

Concludes her thoughts about The Great Depression.