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We Erna R. Daugherty and April Daniel
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

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852 Windmill Rd. Boaz, AL 35957

on the date(s) of 2/17/95
for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Erna R. Daugherty
Interviewee's signature

Address 852 Windmill Rd.
Boaz, AL 35957
Phone 205-359-3598

Date Feb. 17, 1995

April Daniel
Interviewer's signature

Address 2578 Bethlehem Rd
Forton, Alabama 35980
Phone 205-593-7529

Date Feb 17, 1995

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Emma Ruth D. Daugherty M/F
Address: 852 Windmill Rd.
Phone number(s): 593-3598
Approximate age or date of birth: April 11, 1920
Mother's Name: Rosie Mae Eula Sims
Father's Name: Luther Olen Gilliland
Places lived and when: Marshall County and Calhoun County
Education: BS and M.A.
Religion: Protestant (Baptist)
Business, political and social memberships (past and present) N.E.A. A.E.A. M.C.B.E. Home Demonstration
Present occupation: Retired
Former occupations: Educator
Special Skills: Writing short stories + poems, arts + crafts, archery
Major Accomplishments: _____
National Events in which interviewee has participated: _____
Local Events in which interviewee has participated: Local Fund Raisers and Parades
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: _____

GENEEOLOGY

Paternal

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Married</u>
Great-great grandparents			
Rev. John Gilliland	7-11-1797	10-12-1857	
Sarah Braseal	3-11-1800	8-20-1862	
Great-grandparents			
James Alexander Gilliland	10-06-1820		5-15-1843
Hulda Ricks	11-28-1821		
Calvin Scott(married 5 times)			5-24-1841
Sarah Murdock (second wife)			
Grandparents			
Rev. John Gilliland	1-19-1864	11-23-1932	9-20-1885
Mary Elizabeth Scott	3-16-1871	9-15-1933	
Parents			
Luther Olen Gilliland	5-10-1891	2-07-1979	12-22-1912
Rosie Mae Eula Sims	5-07-1895	4-24-1973	
Herself and marriages			
Erna Ruth Gilliland	4-11-1920		
Henry Clarence Daniel	11-25-1919	2-07-1960	5-15-1943
Howard James Daugherty	7-04-1920	4-12-1989	4-03-1988

Maternal

Great-great grandparents			
James Sims	1795	1850	
Mary Ann Isabel Watson	1797	1850	
Great grandparents			
James Hampton Sims	10-21-1827	7-22-1912	10-23-1849
Sarah Jane Walker	2-11-1831	10-06-1862	
Grandparents			
Absolom Elcana Clark Sims	7-18-1851	7-23-1937	
Nanny Elizabeth Childers	10-27-1867	4-02-1953	
Parents			
Luther Olen Gilliland	5-10-1891	2-07-1979	12-22-1912
Rosie Mae Eula Sims	5-07-1895	4-24-1973	

INTERVIEW: ERNA RUTH DAUGHERTY
DOB: APRIL 11, 1920
POB: MARSHALL COUNTY
INTERVIEW DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 1995
SUBJECT: 1940'S
BY: APRIL DANIEL

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Excellent,
job. Enjoyed this
paper & your
granometer
A

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW: ERNA RUTH DAUGHERTY

BY: APRIL DANIEL

DATE OF INTERVIEW: FEB. 17, 1995

SUBJECT: 1940's

I chose to do my interview with my grandmother, Mrs. Erna Ruth Daugherty on the subject of the 1940's. There were several reasons for selecting Mrs. Daugherty for this interview. First of all both of her husbands were associated with the war. Her first husband, Clarence Daniel, worked on the army base at Anniston during the war. Her second husband, Howard Daugherty, was a footsoldier in Germany. Second, Mrs. Daugherty lived for a time on the Anniston Army Depot Base. Third, her family was directly affected by the war in that one of her brothers and all three of her brothers-in-law fought in different branches of the military.

Throughout the interview there were three major topics of conversation: her background, World War II, and entertainment and leisure. Her background began with an extensive genealogy dating back to her great great-grandparents on her father's side who were originally from North Carolina. Reverend John Gilliland and Sarah Braseal were born around the turn of the nineteenth century. Their son James Alexander Gilliland and his wife Hulda Ricks were born in 1820 and 1821 respectively. James and Hulda named their son John after James' father. He also became a minister and later married Mary Elizabeth SCott. Their son, Luther Olen Gilliland was Mrs. Daugherty's father. On her mother's side her great great- grandparents were James Sims and Mary Ann Isabel Watson born in 1795 and 1797 respectively. They had a son named James who married Sarah Jane Walker in October of 1849. In 1851 James and Sarah Jane gave birth to Absolom Elcana Clark Sims. Absolom and his wife Nanny Elizabeth Childers gave birth to a daughter named Rosie Mae Eula Sims- Mrs. Daugherty's mother. In addition to her genealogy, Mrs. Daugherty told me what she did for a living. She was a teacher who taught every grade from nursery to adult education except third grade. Her BA degree came from Jacksonville State University before it was a state university- at the time it was only a state teachers' college. Her MA degree came from the University of Alabama around 1978-1979. In 1981 she retired after teaching for 20 years in Marshall County at Mount Hebron School and Douglas School. She did have her youngest son in class and by her own admission, " I had to be a little bit more strict on Kenneth than I did on some of the other students for fear

that they would accuse me of showing partiality.”

The topic then changed to the 1940's. Our first discussion was about the teacher shortage because of the war. This was how her husband got the job of principal at Roy Webb school in Calhoun County. Both the principal and the coach were drafted so the job fell to the next man who happened to be Clarence.

Mention of the draft led to conversation concerning the feeling of the draft. According to her, people obeyed the draft out of a sense of duty to the nation. Her first husband was called four times and turned down each time because of a heart condition. All three of his brothers entered the service- two in the navy and one in the army. When compared to the draft of Vietnam, this draft was accepted peacefully even though some of the exemption rules seemed unfair at the time. For example, one of Mrs. Daugherty's brothers was drafted even though he had two children and worked in a factory. Her other brother was not drafted because he had one child and was a farmer.

After the draft, our conversation turned to voting and segregation. Her voting experiences were limited because she felt it should be left up to the men. Rumors around that time, especially from her neighbors, also influenced her decision not to vote. One such rumor was that women purposely voted opposite their husbands just to annoy them. Mrs. Daugherty was registered to vote but declined to do so until Richard Nixon ran for office. As for segregation, it was "...pretty much en vogue", but she never witnessed any lynchings. Schools were segregated into black and white schools each taught by someone whose race reflected the color of the school.

As mentioned before, Mrs. Daugherty's first husband, Clarence, worked at the Anniston Army Depot. His first job there was as recreation director of the housing project. His duties included coaching basketball and swimming and running the picture machine while she sold tickets and concessions. Later he got a job on the inside working in the lens maintenance department repairing and polishing lenses for the telescopes in the tanks. While in the lens

department he worked seven days a week, extra hours during the day, and often overtime as opposed to being on 24-hour call as recreation director.

The cost of living was pretty much balanced against wages, at least for her family. The only problem was rationing. items such as meat, lard, gas, oil, and sugar were rationed with stamps. This reminded her of when she and Clarence got married. Their mothers had used both of their sugar stamps for the wedding so his mother gave them one cup of sugar to last until the first of June when the next stamps would be issued. Luckily her parents lived on a farm and they were able to take home some of the pork, beef, and vegetables grown there.

Next we talked about FDR. According to Mrs. Daugherty, most everyone liked FDR as a president because he made an effort to create jobs such as the PWA, of which her father was the director of the local chapter. Another positive point about FDR was the radio broadcasts of the fireside chats that were used to get close to the people. It was unclear if the fireside chats were also broadcast over the television because she did not get a TV until 1952. On the negative side, she said she thought FDR was getting a little too power-hungry around the fourth term. People were no longer seeing immediate results as they first had. They also worried about Truman becoming President. Many felt that he could not live up to standards set by Roosevelt.

FDR also gave a speech about four freedoms- freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from fear, and freedom from want. Mrs. Daugherty focused on the freedom of speech. She said it meant people in the U.S. could say anything they wanted to even if it was against the government. There were no sedition laws in place at that time as compared to WWI.

Our next topic was World War II. It was quite a shock to Mrs. Daugherty and the American public that Pearl Harbor had been bombed by Japan. It was never expected that Japan would "sneak attack" them. While the army was prepared for war, they were never prepared for this. Some of it can be explained because the major focus was on Europe, not Japan.

There were also rumors about the Normandy Invasion concerning when and how it would take place. There was no doubt the invasion would take place but all across the nation waited "on

pins and needles for fear that something would go wrong like it did at Pearl Harbor.”

Unfortunately, Mrs. Daugherty didn't remember much about Iwo Jima but she did recall the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She felt the bombing was more an act of revenge and retaliation for Pearl Harbor. At that time all Central Powers were viewed as the enemy so the bombing was justified somewhat. In hindsight, she felt that perhaps negotiations could have taken place before the bombing.

While on the subject of the Central Powers, I asked her how she felt when Hitler committed suicide. In her own words, "I think I heard more shouting then...". She described Hitler as a "bad boy" especially after news of the Holocaust was made known. It is important to note that the extent of the information about the Holocaust was only found out after the fact.

After the war was over, people were glad the soldiers came home but many suffered emotional as well as physical scars. Mrs. Daugherty's second husband was one of those. He told her a story about one night when he and his troop were holed up in an abandoned house in Germany. They heard noises outside. Every man in the house started to fire randomly in all directions. The next morning they looked outside and found 15 dead German soldiers. He told her he prayed to God that his bullets didn't kill one of them because he couldn't have handled it. Sometime later he received a minor wound and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. After he told her the story he never talked about it much any more.

The last subject related to the war was Rosie the Riveter. Mrs. Daugherty had a misconception of what a Rosie the Riveter was. She said a Rosie the Riveter was the name given to women spies who worked in the factories. In fact, a Rosie the Riveter was a name given to women who took jobs in factories while the men fought in the war. She was never a spy.

Our last major topic was entertainment and leisure. We started with the radio broadcasts. Two of the programs her dad would allow her family to listen to was the Grande Ole Opry and Amos and Andy. Before the war, they were one of the few families around who had a radio so sometimes the young people would come in and gather around the radio.

Next we talked about dating and the movies. When she and her first husband were "courting" in college neither one had much money so he would mow lawns for people and sell his books when he was finished with them. His mother would pay for his next set of books so they used the money to go out every Wednesday afternoon to the picture show because it was cheaper than going on the weekends. Then on the weekends when everyone else was out at the movies or driving around they would have the parlor in the dorm to themselves. Some of the movies they saw were "Leave Her to Heaven", "From Here to Eternity", and "Song of the South".

After the war there was a period of time when everybody was having children. Mrs. Daugherty and her husband were no exception. During this time they had two sons. When her second son was born their oldest vowed he wouldn't go to sleep until they brought the new baby home. Eventually he got a spanking from his grandmother because he wouldn't go to bed.

While on the base Mrs. Daugherty worked in the nursery school. Generally they ranged in ages from 2 to 4 but there were exceptions. One child in particular stood out in her memory because he cursed so much that she literally washed his mouth with a washcloth.

Mrs. Daugherty has many memories of people she met on the base. One is her best friend even today. They started out as next-door neighbors in the housing project with only a partition between them. The friend had a three year old girl that would come over and eat olives. It was the only place she would eat olives even though her mother bought them for her. Later when the friend got the mumps from her daughter, Mrs. Daugherty took care of her and her family.

Women in the workplace were prevalent during the war, but after the war ~~but after the war~~ many also stayed home to raise their families, which is what my grandmother chose to do. Compared to today's society an extraordinary number of women stayed home to raise families. After the soldiers came back there were few jobs to be found for women. As for blacks from around the Anniston-Bynum-Jacksonville area, most all lived in Anniston. There were some who worked on the base but none lived in the housing project.

Religion was a major subject left until the end. Her husband was a clerk at one Baptist church before they began attending services at First Baptist of Jacksonville because that was where his mother was a member. Later after a church was built on the base they attended some. Mostly they went to church for their religion and not for social reasons. When they would go home they would often go to Sacred Harp singings or Fa,Sol,La singings. Sacred Harp singings are when you sing four shaped notes- fa, sol, la, and mi. These singings would last all day with recesses for lunch and water.

Towards the end of our time I decided to ask Mrs. Daugherty some questions to help clarify what we had covered in our interview. First off was a question about the occupations of her ancestors. Most all were farmers. Her Grandfather Gilliland raised honey bees but was never stung because he smoked a pipe. Her family raised cotton and corn to sell and cane for sorghum as well as vegetables to eat. The average acreage of a farm was about 40 acres that had to be tended by mules- no tractors. As long as she was in elementary or grammar school, she and other students were let out to help out on the farm. Once she entered high school, she was forced to miss school and try to catch up later in her studies.

Another question I had concerned her first husband's involvement on the base. The superintendent of Clarence's school failed to notify him of a renewal of his contract so to provide for his family he took the job as recreational director at the army depot.

The next thing I asked her about was the rationing of stamps. Each person per family received a stamp once a month. These stamps had to last for an entire month- no exceptions. Just as before when we mentioned rationing, it brought back memories of the wedding sugar story.

Since so little was mentioned about the PWA I decided to cover that subject next. Her dad was selected by the men of the Mount Hebron community to head the local PWA chapter. His job was to hand out jobs to local people. Most of the jobs consisted of repairs and building things like bridges and roads.

The last question was about V-E Day. Mostly all Mrs. Daugherty could tell me were the rumors surrounding our strategy. According to her they were waiting until the moon was in a certain stage so as to give as little as possible moonlight. Then under the cover of darkness the ships could come in to the harbors without being detected.

The final topic of fashion was brought up by Mrs. Daugherty. In the 1940's women still made almost all the clothes for a family except for men's dungarees. Material was often flour sacks or gunny sacks. Other types of cloth were unavailable because it was used to make parachutes and uniforms for the soldiers.

QUESTIONS

- When and where were you born?
- Who were your great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and the dates of their births, marriages, and deaths?
- What was your occupation?
- What grades did you teach?
- Where did you get your degree?
- Did you ever have your children in class?
- Was there a teacher shortage in Alabama or in your area similar to the one in the rest of the nation?
- How did you feel about the draft?
- What was the affect of the draft on the community?
- Was it like the 1970's when people burned their draft cards?
- How did you and your husband feel about inducting fathers into the military?
- What kind of experiences did you have with voting and segregation?
- What type of segregation laws were in place at that time?
- Were there white teachers for colored schools?
- What did your husband do on the base?
- What kind of working conditions were normal?
- What were the wages and the cost of living?
- What kind of things were rationed?
- Why were those items rationed?
- Who issued the rationing stamps?
- Where were they issued?
- How did you feel about FDR and why?
- What was the PWA?
- What do you mean by "he gave out jobs"?
- What were the fireside chats?
- How were they broadcast- over the radio or the television?
- Did you have a TV?
- Did you think FDR was getting power-hungry?
- Was Truman his Vice President for all four terms?
- What did Roosevelt mean by his declaration of the four freedoms of speech, religion, from fear, and from want?
- Were you allowed to speak out against the government or were there sedition acts?
- How did the bombing of Pearl Harbor affect you and your community?

Were we prepared for battle before the bombing of Pearl Harbor?
Was Japan not considered to be a major factor in the war?
How did you personally feel about the bombing of Pearl Harbor?
How did you feel about the Battle at Iwo Jima?
How did you feel about the atomic bombs being dropped on
Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
How were the Central Powers viewed by the people?
Were you for or against the bombing of Japan? Why?
Describe how it was when Hitler committed suicide.
How was it when people found out about the Holocaust?
Were you aware of the Holocaust before or after the fact?
Describe the general economy of that time.
Describe life after the war was over.
What was a "Rosie the Riveter"?
Was Rosie the Riveter a real person or a character?
What type of music and radio personalities did you listen to?
Was life like the movies where everyone gathered around the
radio at a certain time?
Describe what people did for entertainment in the 1940's.
What were some of the movies you remember?
Did you do any teaching on the base?
What ages did you teach?
Tell me about some of the people you met on the base.
Did a lot of women work?
Were there jobs for the blacks?
Were blacks allowed to live on the base?
What was going to church like in the 1940's?
Was there church services on the base?
Was going to church considered to be part of the social scene?
What are Sacred Harp singings?
Are there still Sacred Harp singings today?
What were the occupations of your ancestors?
What kinds of crops did you raise?
How big were the farms?
Were you let out of school to help with the crops?
How did your first husband get involved on the base?
How were the stamps issued?
Tell me about the PWA.
If the army was prepared for war why didn't we enter earlier?
Did people make most of their clothes?