

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

700 PELHAM ROAD N.

JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA 36265-9982

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

TELEPHONE: (205) 782-5632

Gift and Release Agreement:

We Sydney Fox Long and Sesalia Fuller
(Interviewee) (Interviewer)

Do hereby grant permission to Jacksonville State University to copy the tape of the interview conducted at her home in Jacksonville on the date(s) of October 23, 1995 for the oral history collection being compiled at Jacksonville State University.

This collection will be maintained by Jacksonville State University for research into the history of Northeast Alabama and the South. We further grant researchers permission to quote from the interview on this tape.

Sydney Fox Long
(Interviewee's signature)

Date Oct. 23, 1995

P.O. Box 577
(Address)

Jacksonville, AL 36205

435-4235
(Telephone)

Sesalia Fuller
(Interviewer's signature)

Date Oct. 23, 1995

129 Betta View Street
(Address)

Jacksonville, AL 36205

435-7609
(Telephone)

Interviewee Background Information

Name: Sydney Fox Reid Long
Address: P.O. Box 577 Jacksonville, AL 36205
Phone Number(s): (205) 435-4235
Approximate age or date of birth: August 23, 1933
Mother's name: Agnes Whatley (Watley) Fox
Father's name: Theodore Bert Fox
Places lived and when: Jacksonville 1995; Anniston 1986-1995;
Jacksonville birth until 1986.

Education: Eastwood Elem.; Eastwood High; Cobb Avenue High 9-12 grade,
graduated 1951; AL A+M one semester; JSU BS Dec 1973, MA 1976
Religion: Baptist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present): Delta Omicron;
Delta Sigma Theta - charter member; Delta Kappa Gamma; NEA; AEA; JEA; Youth
Pres. NAACP; Democratic Women's Movement; advisory board for Ayers State;
Present occupation: 5th grade teacher at Kitty Stone; minister of music;
Former occupation(s): fashion model (late 1960s - early 1980s); owner/operator
of modelling school; homemaker; volunteer at school; day care teacher
Special skills: plays piano; modelling
Major Accomplishments: rearing her children - her "sunshine"

Local events in which you have participated: Senior Caution County
Pageant; Civic League of Jacksonville

State and/or regional events in which you have participated: regional
meeting of Delta Kappa Gamma

National events in which you have participated: national meeting
of Delta Sigma Theta in Washington, D.C.

International events in which you have participated: _____

Natural born U.S. citizen? (Yes)/No
Naturalized Citizen: (Yes)/No Date: _____
Country from which you emigrated: _____
Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in your possession: _____

Individuals you recommend who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

SYDNEY FOX LONG:
FAMILY HISTORY, REARING CHILDREN ALONE,
AND EXPERIENCES IN THE 1960S

SESALEA FULLER
HISTORY OF AMERICAN WOMEN
DECEMBER 4, 1995



Classy, dignified, independent, determined, African-American, Alabamian, woman--these words accurately describe Sydney Consuello Fox Reid Long. Throughout her life, Mrs. Long has experienced many events, including the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Civil Rights Movement, President Kennedy's assassination, and the Vietnam War. She has observed the African-American race undergo massive social, economic, and political changes during her lifetime. Basing my information on the lengthy interview I conducted with Mrs. Long and extensive research, the focus of this paper will be on her family's heritage, rearing her children on her own, and her experiences in the decade of the 1960s.

Sydney Fox Reid Long was born in 1933 in Jacksonville, Alabama, the daughter of Theodore Bert Fox and Agnes Whatley Fox. Her family history proves to be extremely interesting. Her mother's mother was Alice Daugeette Whatley, of the distinguished Jacksonville Daugeettes. Miss Alice, as she was called, was born in 1887, presumably in Monroe County, Alabama.¹ It is not known who her parents were, but can be assumed that her mother had been a slave and her father a Daugeette, given her skin coloring. Miss Alice grew up in the Daugeette home in Monroe County and travelled to Jacksonville with Dr. Clarence W. Daugeette in 1894 when he was offered a teaching position at Jacksonville Normal School, later Jacksonville State University.² Miss Alice

played an active role in the Daugette family. She trained the children and wrote creative plays for them. Mrs. Long remembers her grandmother as being very short and "very bossy." Miss Alice insisted that Mrs. Daugette, Annie Forney Daugette, learn how to drive. The Daugettes valued Alice's opinion a great deal. They "didn't buy a car or anything without Alice...saying it was okay, whether it was the color or whatever."³ Although Miss Alice married H.C. Whatley in 1914⁴ and they resided on the east side of Jacksonville, she continued to visit the Daugette household everyday. Mrs. Long remarks that the Daugettes "were very instrumental in [her] rearing." Today the Fox and Daugette families remain very close.⁵

The other side of Mrs. Long's family is equally as interesting. Very little is known about where Mrs. Long's grandfather, Cass Fox, came from. He was born in 1865, possibly in Cheneyville, Louisiana. In any case, Cass Fox came to reside in Calhoun County, Alabama in the town of Jacksonville, sometime during his adulthood. Cass owned a vast amount of land in Jacksonville, including Chimney Peak and what is now seventh or eighth avenue all the way back to the mountain.⁶ For a black man to possess large tracts of land in the late 1800s in the South is especially remarkable since relatively little land was available to the black man.⁷ Exactly how Cass obtained his land holdings remains a mystery. Mrs. Long theorizes that Cass was "very shrewd," "knew how to make money,...[and] knew how to do a lot of

different things to make money." Cass rented his land to both black and white sharecroppers and tenant farmers and owned the houses in which they lived. Mrs. Long recalls her father telling her of what a paradoxical picture Cass made, prancing on his white horse amongst his workers in the cotton fields.⁸

Cass became a leading citizen in the community. In addition to his landholdings, Cass also operated a bank, lending money to blacks and whites.⁹ Some very influential white people "[who] didn't want anybody to know they were borrowing money, ... would wait till it was very dark and they'd come to the back door and knock on the door" to borrow money and not be seen at the same time.¹⁰ Cass also operated a restaurant and a funeral business. He and his family lived at 307 Pelham Road, "the street that the most prominent citizens lived on." Cass's wife, Jennie, taught school before she married Cass. She was forced to quit because married women were not allowed to teach. Following Cass's death in 1936, Jennie resumed teaching until her death in 1956.¹¹

Mrs. Long describes her parents as a "loving, loving couple."¹² Her father, Theodore Fox, was the first black councilman in Alabama. "He saw a need for some things" and decided to run for a seat on the Jacksonville City Council. During his twenty years of holding office, Mr. Fox was challenged for his seat only once. The city of Jacksonville

gave Mr. Fox his seat for as long as he wanted it, shortly before his death in 1988.¹³

Mr. Fox believed that a woman's "place was in the home, rearing the children."¹⁴ This idea corresponds with the concept of separate spheres for the sexes discussed in *History of American Women*. According to this concept, males are to dominate the public sphere-politics, economics, corruption, and immorality-while females maintain the private sphere-domestics, child rearing, religion, and morality.¹⁵ Agnes Fox, Mrs. Long's mother, supported her husband in all his endeavors. "She just loved it. Anything that Daddy thought was right, that's what she did. She adored him." The irony of the situation is that the Fox's four daughters, Sydney, June, Barbara, and Sandra, all work outside of the home.¹⁶

Sydney Fox married Eugene Reid, Jr. of Jacksonville in 1953. Together they had four sons, Marcus, Gregory, Michael, and Eugene III.¹⁷ Mr. Reid's family owned and operated the oldest business establishment in Jacksonville, Reid's Shoe Shop, located south of the square.¹⁸ Mr. Reid and Theodore Fox shared the opinion that women should work within the home. Mr. Reid handled all of the family's finances, did the grocery shopping, and drove his wife wherever she needed to go.¹⁹ One can interpret that this was Mr. Reid's attempt to keep his wife dependent solely on him, and to assure that she worked within the household.

Mrs. Long demonstrated subtle defiance and asserted her independence when she was offered an opportunity to model.

Mrs. Long and her mother were shopping in Anniston when a man approached her about modelling. She assumed the man was joking and thought nothing more about the encounter. Somehow the man contacted her father, and Mrs. Long's parents encouraged her to investigate the matter. Becoming a model, she learned, required attending modelling school. Mr. Reid was against the idea because the family could not afford unnecessary expenses. When the modelling school informed her that she could worry about the money later, Mrs. Long decided to give modelling a try. After only days of attending the school, she received offers to work for Berman Gayles in Anniston and other stores who wished to engage black models. Mrs. Long never finished her training as a model.²⁰

Mrs. Long recounts some very interesting stories from her modelling days.

I've had to change clothes in cars, sit up on a real, narrow, high bridge, try to stand in a door that was closed way up somewhere to get a picture, in a warehouse, on top on of old cans of trash. I've had to do a lot of things that were really crazy. In cold weather, I had to sit out somewhere and look like I was oh so warm. And I had to have pictures taken in a football stadium in July with this leopard coat on and these long pants and boots and look like "Oh! I'm just freezing to death."²¹

Mrs. Long did not say exactly how the money she earned from modelling was handled at home. Since her husband controlled the family's finances, one may conclude that he pooled all of their income together.

At the same time, Mrs. Long attended Jacksonville State University, pursuing a degree in education. As to why she chose to go to college at this particular time, Mrs. Long simply felt like something was telling her to go to school. "I kept having this dream of being up under the college steps and I kept feeling like 'I'm up under these steps and I can't get out.' I kept having the nightmare." When Mrs. Long informed her husband that she planned to enroll, he said they did not have the money. Mrs. Long enrolled anyway, knowing that when "the time [came], [they would] have the money someday."²² Again this incident demonstrates how Mrs. Long maintained her independence. Mr. Reid still insisted, however, on driving her to and from class each day. Mrs. Long chose to go into education because of her love for children and seeing them learn. Mrs. Long's decision to attend college proved beneficial later, in that, after her husband died in 1970, she was able to find a job to support herself and her children.²³

Mr. Reid's death was shocking to the entire town of Jacksonville. At the time of his death, he was only 41 years of age and no one realized how sick he was. The stores in Jacksonville closed for an hour "in memory of a member of one of the most respected families."²⁴ "They flew

the flag at half mast. They asked permission to carry his body around the square and on to the cemetery. He was quite an influence in this area."²⁵

Mrs. Long had not dealt with finances before her husband's death, being that economics was considered part of the male public sphere.²⁶ Mrs. Long realized that she would have to handle the finances. She went to apply for welfare, not because she wanted to, but rather she needed help in paying bills. She filled out an application, but discovered, after Mr. Reid died, that it had been thrown away. The welfare people read Mr. Reid's obituary in the newspaper and mistakenly assumed the family had insurance. Since Mr. Reid was in his own business at the Shoe Shop, the family only received about \$340 a month in Social Security. "He was a [Korean War] veteran, but he wasn't getting any money from VA or anything. So they paid me for my two smallest children, something like \$140 a month and every year, they would cut that back as the children got older." Mrs. Long worked at the Jacksonville State University campus bookstore. She and her children ate off of the \$65 a month she earned there. Mrs. Long learned the house was mortgaged and the car was not paid for. Because Jacksonville was such a small town and everyone knew the Reid family, the bank took it upon themselves to pay the insurance on the car. Mrs. Long had an account with Spiegel to purchase the children's clothes. She discovered that they too had automatically paid her bill. Despite the help she received,

Mrs. Long still had to pay off the mortgage and her husband's funeral expenses. Mr. Reid's funeral cost approximately \$2000 because she "tried to get the best funeral [she] could." Veterans only paid \$75 and it took her two years to pay the remaining expenses. Mrs. Long also recalls feeling delighted when she finally paid off her mortgage. Mrs. Long could have asked for financial assistance from her parents, but because she is so fiercely independent, she felt that paying her own way was "what [she] need[ed] to do."²⁷

Mrs. Long continued to model after her husband's death. "I think the modelling kind of prepared me for what I was going to have to face...-trying to make ends meet, trying to not let myself just give up because I had to remember to try to keep myself looking as well as I could." Mrs. Long had several "tempting" opportunities to further her career in modelling, including one from the designer Wilhemnia. For Mrs. Long, her children were far more important. At the time of their father's death, Marcus, Gregory, Michael, and Eugene III were 16, 15, 12, and 9, respectively. Mrs. Long remembers praying "Lord, let me live to see them grown, if I can see them. I don't want anybody to have to rear these children. They just have one parent." Both modelling and her children worked together to keep her going. Mrs. Long has no regrets.

I've enjoyed what I learned about modelling. It's worked well with me. It's helped me to be conscious of my health and I think if that's the purpose, then I'm happy about that. I'm happy that I had that part of a glamorous type of life.²⁸

Mrs. Long feared she would have to drop out of college because she had no money to pay for tuition and books. Since she had missed classes because of her husband's illness, Dr. Stone, president of the university, wrote her a note to take to her instructors for help in catching up on assignments. Mrs. Stone's club presented Mrs. Long with a scholarship to pay for her tuition.²⁹ One may believe that, because of Mrs. Long's close association with the Daugette family, she was singled out for financial assistance over other needy students. Mrs. Long's sister and brother-in-law in Birmingham also helped pay for her books one semester.³⁰

Mrs. Long could very easily have given up if it had not been for the support of family and friends and her children "My mom told me, said, 'Time's going to pass anyway. You can spend it here sitting down feeling sorry for yourself or, you can do something with it.' It was very hard. I just wanted to cover my head up, but I just buckled down." Although she was unable to help her children financially in college, she "tried to teach them what was right and wrong." Mrs. Long's sons are the "light of [her] life" and she is extremely proud of them. Mrs. Long credits God for helping her through such a difficult time: "I have a lot of faith and I know he had to be with us."³¹

Mrs. Long and the interviewer also discussed extensively the decade of the 1960s. The mere mention of the 1960s conjures up the images of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the Civil Rights Movement, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing, Alabama Governor George Wallace standing in the schoolhouse door, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, and the Vietnam War. Stating that the 1960s was a volatile time in United States history does not quite express the emotions and thoughts of the people in the country. Mrs. Long describes the 1960s as being "a strange time" with people left to wonder, "what's going to happen next? What's this going to lead to?"³²

The 1960s picked up where the 1950s left off. The Civil Rights Movement shifted into high gear with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as its leader. The 1950s experienced the Supreme Court ruling on Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas, Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott, and the Little Rock Five and the subsequent closure of four Arkansas high schools to avoid integration. Mrs. Long feels the Civil Rights Movement is something that needed to happen. Being born into society the way it was, she had grown accustomed to it. She "thought that everybody should be able to do what they wanted to, as long as it didn't infringe on anybody else's rights...Everybody ought to be treated with dignity and self-worth."³³ As president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, King heavily promoted acts of nonviolent resistance.³⁴ King

believed it was "the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom and human dignity. [Non-violent resistance] has a way of disarming the opponent."³⁵ In the late 1950s, young, black students "became fascinated with the concept of nonviolent action."³⁶

King found an ally in Senator, and Democratic presidential nominee, John F. Kennedy. The two agreed on the "need for strong presidential leadership in the area of civil rights." King was impressed with the "forthright and honest manner in which [Kennedy] discussed the civil rights questions." Kennedy and his brother, Robert, later helped in freeing King from Reidsville State Penitentiary in Georgia. In the presidential election of 1960, it is little wonder that Kennedy won with a heavy black vote.³⁷ After Kennedy had been in office for nearly two years, King felt that the president had "not yet given the leadership that the enormity of the problem [of civil rights] demand[ed]."³⁸

Martin Luther King, Jr. called 1963 "the most decisive year in the Negro's fight for equality."³⁹ Many blacks, including children, were arrested in Birmingham during a nonviolent demonstration. After several days of unrest in the city, President Kennedy ordered federal troops to Alabama. George Wallace blocked black students from entering the University of Alabama. Again President Kennedy sent troops to Alabama; Wallace stepped aside.⁴⁰ Mrs. Long believes that George Wallace only said what he thought people wanted to hear. She thinks "he wanted to be governor

and...be liked by everybody."⁴¹ Goldfield acknowledges that after a bitter defeat in the 1958 gubernatorial primary, Wallace shifted from populist causes to race politics.⁴² Mrs. Long proposes that by Governor Wallace "just...standing in that door, he caused more openings than it would have been if we'd gone another way." She does not feel that is what he intended, but because of all the attention the event drew, it helped the law "where everybody [could] go to school together" pass.⁴³

Following the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Dr. King "sided with the recommendation to plan more far-reaching campaigns that would seek to end the bigotry that resulted in murderous acts." Many young people rejected King's philosophy and leadership style because they doubted nonviolence would bring equality to the South.⁴⁴ Meanwhile, President Kennedy "helped to set a national tone that would spur federal civil rights legislation."⁴⁵ Unfortunately, he did not live to see the result of his efforts. Struck and killed by an assassin's bullet in November, 1963, President John F. Kennedy's death sent shock waves throughout the nation. To Mrs. Long "it was just like a dark cloud over everything...It was like a slap in the face." Many blacks felt that President Kennedy was their friend, "somebody that was close to us [blacks] that could help everybody. He seemed like he cared about all people."⁴⁶ Lyndon B. Johnson, President Kennedy's successor, did not abandon Kennedy's legislative agenda; the

1964 Civil Rights Act was signed in July of that year. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 "prohibited segregation in public accommodations and discriminatory application of voter-registration procedures," and created an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.⁴⁷

Gradually, Americans began to turn their attention away from the Civil Rights Movement and focused on United States military involvement in Vietnam. This shift was especially hard on black Americans because it meant the movement would be indefinitely postponed. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke out against the "Southeast Asian adventure," saying the United States should have never become involved. The movement for freedom had come to a standstill.⁴⁸ Mrs. Long feels that "[Dr. King] had come to a point where there wasn't too much more he could do...He seemed to know he had a mission in life."⁴⁹ Even though he received numerous threats on his life, Dr. King "decided to make every single moment of his life count, to face each single test with all his faith."⁵⁰ Mrs. Long speculates that "[King] had a feeling [something might happen to him] because people who live close to God have feelings about things."⁵¹ In his final speech the night before his assassination in Memphis, King said:

It really doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop...I've looked over and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight, that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy tonight.

I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man.⁵²

The small town of Jacksonville, Alabama did not appear to be affected by the Civil Rights Movement, in comparison to other places throughout Alabama. Anniston, for example, experienced the 1961 Freedom Riders' bus burning. When she worked in Anniston and everyone was marching, Mrs. Long recalls being scared. That feeling, however, did not translate to Jacksonville. Jacksonville seemed to be set apart. Integration was "no problem" in Jacksonville. "In Jacksonville, it was just the separation of schools. I think mainly what everybody wanted in the schools...wasn't so much of trying to [integrate],...[rather] the idea of being separate but...equal." Dr. Stone, whose wife was principal of Kitty Stone Elementary School, asked Mrs. Long to start her son in preschool at the newly integrated facility. As Mrs. Long says, "there was no big to do [sic]. There wasn't any newspapers and all that...We just eased on through it and it...never was a problem." Mrs. Long attributes the difficulties that other places had, such as Little Rock and the University of Alabama, to the media which "really...bl[ew] it up and [put] a lot of attention on it."⁵³

On the whole, racial discrimination was kept to a minimum in Jacksonville. Mrs. Long, however, recalls two individual incidents in which she felt discrimination.

While attending Jacksonville State University, she was assigned a project. For her topic Mrs. Long chose Negro spirituals. ^{pit}The professor did not approve of the topic and found "knit-picky" things wrong with her paper, even though she turned it in three or four times. Although she brought all her reference materials to the professor, he still gave her a "D". Mrs. Long refused to choose another topic because she "felt like this [was] what [she] wanted to do." The second incident in which Mrs. Long felt racial tension was the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. When she walked into her classroom that morning, a hush fell over the room. Mrs. Long believes "it was out of sympathy or they just felt 'Oh! I'm so ashamed.'"⁵⁴

Discrimination in Anniston was quite different. Mrs. Long recalls going to Jack's and the people would not serve her husband because they were unsure of his skin coloring. (He was a very fair-skinned black man.) The manager asked Mr. Reid to go to the back window. Mr. Reid became angry and left the store. The incident upset Mrs. Long's children greatly. Her oldest son, Marcus, was skittish afterwards of going into a store, afraid people would fuss at him. Mrs. Long also remembers having to use separate restrooms and separate water fountains.⁵⁵

Mrs. Long does not remember any protests occurring in Jacksonville concerning the Vietnam War. She caught bits and pieces about the war in newspapers and on television.

Mrs. Long admits that at the time of the height of war protests in the United States, she was too involved in her own life and the lives of her children, to notice much of what was going on around her.⁵⁶

While conducting my interview with Mrs. Long and researching related material for this paper, I have learned many things, one of which being that I have never met anyone quite like her. She has so many things to teach and I find, I have many, many things to learn about the world around me and the people in it. Most of all I have learned about myself and how I tend to view certain situations. This interview and this paper have taught me that, more than ever, I need to examine how others look at things. Mrs. Long has lived an extraordinary life and I am happy I was able to share in her recollections of her family, her hardships after her husband's death, and the tumultuous decade of the 1960s.

NOTES

¹Anne C. Daniell, ed., "Alice Daugette." City Cemetery of Jacksonville, Alabama with added genealogical information, Part One (Anniston, Alabama: Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library, 1991), 32-33.

²"Alice Whatley," Jacksonville News, 30 May 1956, 2; First National Bank of Jacksonville, The Jacksonville Story...an enduring heritage (Jacksonville, Alabama: First National Bank of Jacksonville, 1977), 7.

³Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁴Anne C. Daniell, ed., "Alice Daugette." City Cemetery of Jacksonville, Alabama with added genealogical information, Part One (Anniston, Alabama: Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library, 1991), 32-33.; Two different spellings are listed for Alice Daugette's married name-- Whatley and Watley.

⁵Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁶*ibid.*; June Fox Davis, Taylor-Fox Reunion (n.p.: June, 1995), 2.; Mrs. Long gave this document to me for use in this paper. The source of information in this document was "family Bibles and records dating from the 1800s, personal records of deceased members, Calhoun County, Alabama Probate Court Records, the autobiography of Knox Ides, and present day oral history." This document provides data about Mrs. Long's father's side of the family.

⁷William Warren Rogers et al., eds., Alabama: The History of a Deep South State (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1994), 236-237.

⁸Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.; June Fox Davis, Taylor-Fox Reunion (n.p.: June, 1995), 2.

⁹June Fox Davis, Taylor-Fox Reunion (n.p.: June, 1995), 2.

¹⁰Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹¹June Fox Davis, Taylor-Fox Reunion (n.p.: June, 1995), 2.

¹²Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹³"Theodore Fox Succumbs: City Mourns Loss." Jacksonville News, 3 August 1988, 1.; Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹⁴Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹⁵Nancy A. Hewitt, "Beyond the Search for Sisterhood: American Women's History in the 1980s," in Unequal Sisters: A Multi-Cultural Reader in U.S. Women's History, ed. Vicki L. Ruiz and Ellen Carol DuBois (New York: Routledge, 1994), 1-19.; Paula Baker, "The Domestication of Politics: Women and American Political Society, 1780-1920," in Unequal Sisters: A Multi-Cultural Reader in U.S. Women's History, ed. Vicki L. Ruiz and Ellen Carol DuBois (New York: Routledge, 1994), 100-101.; I also based my information on notes taken in History of American Women.

¹⁶Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹⁷Anne C. Daniell, ed. "Eugene Reid, Jr." City Cemetery of Jacksonville, Alabama with added genealogical information, Part One (Anniston, Alabama: Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library, 1991), 36, 38.; Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹⁸First National Bank of Jacksonville, The Jacksonville Story...an enduring heritage (Jacksonville, Alabama: First National Bank of Jacksonville, 1977), 21.; Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹⁹Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

²⁰*ibid.*

²¹*ibid.*

²²*ibid.*

²³*ibid.*

²⁴"City Merchants Close for Reid Services," Jacksonville News, 7 October 1970, 1.; Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

²⁵Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

²⁶Nancy A. Hewitt, "Beyond the Search for Sisterhood: American Women's History in the 1980s," in Unequal Sisters:

A Multi-Cultural Reader in U.S. Women's History, ed. Vicki L. Ruiz and Ellen Carol DuBois (New York: Routledge, 1994), 1-19.; Paula Baker, "The Domestication of Politics: Women and American Political Society, 1780-1920," in Unequal Sisters: A Multi-Cultural Reader in U.S. Women's History, ed. Vicki L. Ruiz and Ellen Carol DuBois (New York: Routledge, 1994), 100-101.; I also based my information on notes taken in History of American Women.

²⁷Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

²⁸*ibid.*

²⁹*ibid.*

³⁰*ibid.*

³¹*ibid.*

³²*ibid.*

³³*ibid.*

³⁴Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 34, 57.

³⁵Martin Luther King, Jr., interview by Kenneth B. Clark, The Negro Protest, (Boston; Beacon Press, 1963), 39.

³⁶Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 58.

³⁷*ibid.*, 71-75.

³⁸Martin Luther King, Jr., interview by Kenneth B. Clark, The Negro Protest, (Boston; Beacon Press, 1963), 45.

³⁹Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 126.

⁴⁰Andre Kaspi, ed., Great Dates in United States History (New York; Facts on File Inc., 1994), 182-183.

⁴¹Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁴²David R. Goldfield, Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to the present (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990), 115.

⁴³Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁴⁴Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 125.

⁴⁵David R. Goldfield, Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to the present (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990), 141.

⁴⁶Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁴⁷David R. Goldfield, Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to the present (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990), 144-145.

⁴⁸Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 155.

⁴⁹Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁵⁰Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 10.

⁵¹Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁵²Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 158.

⁵³Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁵⁴*ibid.*

⁵⁵*ibid.*

⁵⁶*ibid.*

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PROPOSAL

Sesalea Fuller

History of American Women, MWF 10:00-11:00

Sydney Fox Long

P.O. Box 577, Jacksonville, Alabama 36365

Date of Birth-- August 23, 1933 in Jacksonville

At this time, Mrs. Long and I have not set a date and time for the interview. However, it will be sometime before October 30, 1995.

I plan to talk to Mrs. Long about the struggles of raising her children in a single-parent household and the tumultuous decade of the 1960's. Mrs. Long is a black woman who experienced all aspects of life in small town Alabama. Mrs. Long will be able to shed new light on the sheltered manner in which Jacksonville existed in the 1960's. I plan to consult newspaper articles from the 1960's, especially concerning Jacksonville. I also hope to research Mrs. Long's family history in order to gain a better understanding of why she is the person she is today. I have already spent a considerable amount of time with Mrs. Long and have found her to be a very interesting person.

QUESTIONS

1. How did you support yourself and your children after your husband died?
2. You went to college after your children were in school. What made you decide to go into education?
3. Non-traditional students were fairly uncommon at the time you went back to college. How did traditional students treat you?
4. How did you break into modelling?
5. Was modelling for you just a job or did you enjoy it? Did you travel to any of the so-called fashion capitals and if so, what was your impression of these places?
6. Why didn't you pursue a career in modelling that seemed to be so promising? What kind of prejudice, if any, did you experience while modelling?
7. Tell me about Jacksonville as you remember it when you were a young girl.
8. How has Jacksonville changed since your childhood?
9. How did your parents shelter you from the prejudice that seemed so prevalent in the 1960's? Since Jacksonville was such a small town, how did prejudice affect you here?
10. How would you describe the 1960's?
11. What kind of discrimination, if any, have you seen because you are a woman?
12. The 1960's was a decade of immense turmoil and change. Although I know from what you have already said that Jacksonville was set apart from the rest of the South, how did the Civil Rights Movement affect you? What are your thoughts on the Civil Rights Movement?
13. What was student reaction toward you when Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated?

Interviewee Background Information

Name: Sydney Fox Reid Long
Address: PO Box 577 Jacksonville, AL 36205
Phone Number(s): 435-4235
Approximate age or date of birth: August 23, 1933
Mother's name: Agnes Whatley Fox
Father's name: Theodore Bert Fox
Places lived and when: Anniston 1936-1995, Jacksonville - childhood until 1986, Jacksonville, 1995; briefly lived in Germany and France

Education: Eastwood Elementary; Eastwood High; Cobb Avenue High graduated 1951; AL A+M 1 semester; JSU BS Dec 1973, MA 1976
Religion: Baptist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present): Delta Omicron; Delta Sigma Theta - charter member; Delta Kappa Gamma; NEA; AEA; JEA; Youth Pres NAACP; Democratic, Women's Movement; advisory board → Present occupation: 5th grade teacher, minister of music; private piano lessons
Former occupation(s): fashion model (late 1960s - early 1980s); owner/operator of modeling school; homemaker; volunteer at school; hostess of open house
Special skills: play piano; modeling
Major Accomplishments: rearing her children - her "Sunshine"

Local events in which you have participated: Senior Pageant, Civic League of Jacksonville

State and/or regional events in which you have participated: regional meeting of Delta Kappa Gamma

National events in which you have participated: no national meeting of Delta Sigma Theta

International events in which you have participated: _____

Natural born U.S. citizen? (Yes)/No
Naturalized Citizen: (Yes)/No Date: _____
Country from which you emigrated: _____
Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in your possession: _____

Individuals you recommend who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

700 PELHAM ROAD N.

JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA 36265-9982

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

TELEPHONE: (205) 782-5632

Gift and Release Agreement:

We Sydney Fox Long and Sesalea Fuller
(Interviewee) (Interviewer)

Do hereby grant permission to Jacksonville State University to copy the tape of the interview conducted at her home in Jacksonville on the date(s) of October 23, 1995 for the oral history collection being compiled at Jacksonville State University.

This collection will be maintained by Jacksonville State University for research into the history of Northeast Alabama and the South. We further grant researchers permission to quote from the interview on this tape.

Sydney Fox Long
(Interviewee's signature)

Date October 28, 1995

P.O. Box 577
(Address)

Jacksonville, AL 36205

435-4235
(Telephone)

Sesalea Fuller
(Interviewer's signature)

Date October 23, 1995

129 Beta View Street
(Address)

Jacksonville, AL 36205

435-7609
(Telephone)

Sydney Fox Long-Sesalea Fuller Interview October 23, 1995

- I. Family Background Tape 1, Side A
- *Cass Fox-father's father
 - *Jennie Fox-father's mother
 - *Alice Daugette-mother's mother
 - *Theodore Fox-father
 - *Agnes Whatley Fox-mother
- II. Childhood
- *life in Jacksonville (small town Alabama)-social life, school life, grandfather Cass, Theodore Fox
 - *parents' recollections of the Great Depression and WW II
- III. Marriage
- *Eugene Reid-how they met, children, his death, Jacksonville reaction Tape 1, Side B
- IV. Raising Her Children by Herself
- *Jobs-bills to pay
 - *modelling-stability
 - *college
 - *support from family, church, etc.
- V. College
- *why education major? background, love for children
- VI. 1960's
- *JFK's assassination
 - *views of MLK, Jr. end Tape 1; Tape 2, Side A
 - *Civil Rights Movement in Jacksonville-integration, discrimination in college
- VI. 1960's (continued)
- *(shift from MLK assassination to JFK assassination)
 - *admiration of Jackie Kennedy
 - *Vietnam War's effect on Jacksonville
 - *views of Civil Rights Movement-discrimination, education
 - *views on George Wallace
- VII. discrimination as a woman

SYDNEY FOX LONG:
HER FAMILY HISTORY AND EXPERIENCES IN THE 1960S
IN JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA

SESALEA FULLER
HISTORY OF ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 21, 1995

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

- 1920-The 19th Amendment went into effect. Alabama had refused to ratify it.
*Warren G. Harding elected president.
*National League of Women Voters established.
*Farm Bureau Federation organized.
- 1921-Separate peace treaties signed with Germany and the countries formed from the defunct Austro-Hungarian empire.
- 1922-New York prohibited aliens from teaching in public schools.
*A baseball game was broadcast on radio for the first time.
*The Technicolor process for cinematography invented.
*The Montgomery Light and Power Company received the first radio broadcasting license in the state.
- 1923-Harding died. Coolidge became president.
*William W. Brandon elected governor of Alabama.
- 1924-Calvin Coolidge elected president.
*Two women elected governor-Texas and Wyoming.
- 1925-Tennessee Legislature made teaching a theory of evolution in public schools unlawful-Scopes trial.
*The powerhouse at Wilson Dam produced its first commercial power, selling electricity to the Alabama Power Company.
- 1926-Admiral Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennet made first airplane flight over the North Pole.
- 1927-Coolidge vetoed the McNary-Haugen Bill, which was aimed at helping farmers through the purchase of their surplus production.
*Mechanical cotton picker invented.
*Bibb Graves elected governor of Alabama.
- 1928-Herbert Hoover elected president.
*The law abolishing the convict-lease system went into effect.
*Muscle Shoals Bill-provided for government ownership of the hydroelectric plant at Muscle Shoals in Tennessee River passed by Congress. Later killed by veto of president.
- 1929-Federal Farm Board created to grant farmers loans and purchase their surpluses.
*The stock market crashed on "Black Tuesday" ushering in the Great Depression.

- 1930-Hoover asked Congress to finance a public works program.
*Four million people unemployed.
*William Faulkner published As I Lay Dying.
- 1931-Benjamin Miller elected governor of Alabama.
*In Scottsboro, law enforcement officials arrested nine black men, charging them with the rape of two white women. They were found guilty and sentenced to death.
*The Star-Spangled Banner designated as the national anthem.
- 1932-Franklin Roosevelt elected president.
*The Supreme Court declared that the Scottsboro defendants lacked adequate council at their trial and set aside their convictions.
*Thirteen million people unemployed.
- 1933-Roosevelt signed the Morris-Hill bill establishing the Tennessee Valley Authority.
*New Deal Legislation-Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, Public Works Administration, Workers Progress Administration, etc.
- 1934-Crop (Lean) Act-authorized loans to farmers.
*The Cotton Control Act empowered AAA to control cotton-planting quotas.
*Securities and Exchange Commission created to regulate all stock market operations.
*Shirley Temple made her film debut.
- 1935-Social Security enacted.
*The Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933(including the PWA and the National Recovery Administration). This marked the beginning of Roosevelt's conflict with the Court.
*Bibb Graves elected governor of Alabama.
- 1936-Roosevelt elected for second term in office.
*Supreme Court upheld the right of TVA to sell surplus power.
*Life magazine published.
*Gone With the Wind published.
- 1937-Roosevelt nominated Hugo Black, Senator from Alabama, to Supreme Court. Scandal later ensued because Black was once a member of the Ku Klux Klan and had their support.
*First full-length animated movie produced by Walt Disney, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, released.
- 1938-House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities created to inquire into Nazi, Fascist, communist and

Now there is
an event! →

- other radical groups.
*Xerox machine invented.
- 1939-Germany invaded Poland, triggering World War II.
*Researchers succeed in splitting atoms of uranium, thorium, and protactinium by bombarding them with neutrons.
*Frank Dixon elected governor of Alabama.
*Gone With the Wind premiered in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1940-Roosevelt elected to third term.
*Denmark and Norway invaded by Germany.
*Churchill, prime minister of England, telegraphed Roosevelt for assistance in war.
*Bugs Bunny made movie debut.
- 1941-Fair Employment Practice Committee created to ensure fair working conditions and to protect workers in the defense industry against any discrimination based on color of skin, race, or religion.
*Despite strong opposition within the service, the army held inaugural ceremonies at Tuskegee for the first flight school in the nation for black air corps pilots. After training at Morton Field, they became part of the 99th Fighter Squadron, which flew approximately 1600 combat missions over Europe.
*Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor-U.S. declared war on Japan.
- 1942-For the first time ever, women enlisted into noncombat military service with the creation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.
*Sugar, gas, coffee rationed.
- 1943-A racial disturbance occurs in Detroit. During the summer, more disturbances will take place in Mobile, Louisiana, and Texas.
*Pentagon built.
*Chauncey Sparks elected governor of Alabama.
- 1944-Roosevelt elected to fourth term.
*D-Day-Allies conduct a successful landing on the beaches of Normandy.
Because of rationing paperbacks produced for first time.
*The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams.
- 1945-Roosevelt dies; Truman becomes president.
*Germany surrenders.
*American bomber drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Japan surrenders.

- 1946-Supreme Court rules that bus companies must provide seats for all passengers regardless of their race or skin color.
 *Truman first president to use TV to address nation
 *KKK files for incorporation in Alabama.
- 1947-President allocates \$350 million to help countries destroyed by war.
 *Jackie Robinson signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers to become the first black to play major league baseball.
 *James Folsom elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1948-Executive order signed by Truman prohibits discrimination in the armed forces and in federal employment.
 *Long-playing phonograph record developed.
 *Miles Davis introduces Cool Jazz.
- 1949-Permanent headquarters of UN dedicated in New York
 *First binary computer built.
 *Governor Folsom signed into law a bill outlawing the wearing of masks or hoods in public.
 *First TV station in Alabama began broadcasting.
- 1950-Truman orders U.S. Air Force and Navy units to assist South Korean troops in repulsing the North Korean attack.
 *President sends American ground troops to South Korea and orders the navy to blockade the Korean coast.
 *Rock and roll music will become popular in the 1950s.
- 1951-Peace treaty signed with Japan in San Francisco. Full Japanese sovereignty is restored.
 *First direct trans-continental telephone call made.
 *Gordon Persons elected Alabama governor.
- 1952-Eisenhower elected president.
 *New GI Bill of Rights gives Korean War veterans the same benefits as those provided to veterans of WW II.
 *Polio vaccine tested.
 *American Bandstand premiered.
- 1953-Eisenhower holds talks with French prime minister. U.S. will help France in war with Indochina.
 *Department of Health, Education and Welfare created.
- 1954-Supreme Court rules in Brown cases that providing separate but equal facilities for whites and blacks is unconstitutional.
 *Boeing 707 undergoes first test flights.
- 1955-U.S begins program of aid to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.
 *President holds first televised news conference.

- *In Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks is arrested ofr refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. Her act will spark a boycott of the city's buses by blacks
- 1956-Eisenhower elected president
 - *Autherine Lucy becomes first black student to attend the University of Alabama. She will be expelled after three days of violent protest against her admission.
 - *Elvis Presley's hit record "Heartbreak Hotel".
- 1957-Civil Rights Act becomes first federal law since 1875 to protect the rights of blacks.
 - *In Little Rock, Arkansas, stat National Guard blocks black students from entering high school.
- 1958-Supreme Court unanimously ban all "dilatatory plans' for the desegregation of schools.
 - *Arkansas governor closes four high schools to avoid desegregation.
 - *Army launches first U.S. satellite.
- 1959-High schools in Little Rock reopened in compliance with federal desegregation policy.
 - *Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded under Rev. Martin Luther King. Jr., to further advancement of civil rights by Christian means.
 - *John Patterson elected governor of Alabama.
- 1960-John F. Kennedy elected president.
 - *New civil rights act strengthens the voting-rights provisions to the 1957 act and sets new criminals penalties for violent obstruction of federal court orders.
- 1961-Mobs attacked "Freedom Riders" at Anniston and Birmingham. The Freedom Riders, many of whom were hurt in the attecks, called off their bus tour the next day.
 - *Peace Corps created.
 - *Kennedy proposes a space program whose goal is to land a man on the Moon before the end of the decade.
- 1962-In response to a Communist offensive in Laos, Kennedy orders sea and ground units to Thailand.
 - *Cuban Missile Crisis.
 - *Supreme Court rules that any law permitting segregated public transportation is unconstitutional.
 - *Supreme Court fules that prayer in public school is unconstitutional under First Amendment.
- 1963-In Birmingham, several hundred blacks, including children, are arrested during a nonviolent demonstration.

- *Alabama Governor Wallace blocks schoolhouse door at the University of Alabama.
- *March on Washington for civil rights draws 200,000 demonstrators and numerous black leaders.
- *Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing.
- *President Kennedy assassinated.
- *George Wallace elected governor of Alabama.
- 1964-Lyndon Johnson elected president.
 - *23,300 American soldiers in Vietnam.
 - *Martin Luther King awarded Nobel Prize for Peace.
 - *Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law.
- 1965-Department of Housing and Urban Development created.
 - *President announces increase in military and economic to South Vietnam.
 - *March from Selma to Montgomery.
 - *Race riots and war demonstrations across country.
- 1966-Anti-war demonstrations break out across country.
 - *Governor Wallace signed into law a bill declaring federal school desegregation guidelines unconstitutional in the state.
- 1967-Johnson appoints Thurgood Marshall to Supreme Court, first black justice.
 - *U.S Marines suffer heavy losses in North Vietnamese attack.
 - *Anti-war demonstrations and race riots across country.
 - *Lurleen Wallace elected governor of Alabama.
- 1968-Martin Luther King assassinated.
 - *Richard Nixon elected president.
 - *Albert Brewer took over as governor of Alabama when Lurleen Wallace died.
 - *Robert Kennedy assassinated.
- 1969-Earth Day marked by demonstrations against pollution.
 - *Americans first landed on the moon.
 - *Nixon visits South Vietnam and other Asian countries.
- 1970-EPA established.
 - *Anti-war demonstrations at Kent State.
 - *In Alabama state legislative elections, two black candidates won seats in previously all white legislature.

PERSONAL CHRONOLOGY

1933-born in Jacksonville, Alabama
1936-Cass Fox died
1951-graduated from Cobb Avenue High School, Anniston,
Alabama
1953-married Eugene Reid, Jr. of Jacksonville
1954-son Marcus born
1955-son Gregory born
1956-Alice Daugette Whatley died
1958-son Micheal born
1961-son Eugege III born
late 1960s-started college at Jacksonville State University
1970-Eugene Reid, Jr. died
1973-received BS in education from JSU
1974-1976-taught in Anniston City School System
1976-received MA in education from JSU
*began teaching at Kitty Stone Elementary School in
Jacksonville; still teaching there
1986-married Frank Long of Anniston
*moved to Anniston
1988-father Theodore Fox died
1991-mother Agnes Whatley Fox died
1995-moved back to Jacksonville

QUESTIONS

1. How did you support yourself and your children after your husband died?
2. You went to college after your children were in school. What made you decide to go into education?
3. Non-traditional students were fairly uncommon at the time you went back to college. How did traditional students treat you?
4. How did you break into modelling?
5. Was modelling for you just a job or did you enjoy it? Did you travel to any of the so-called fashion capitals and if so, what was your impression of these places?
6. Why didn't you pursue a career in modelling that seemed to be so promising? What kind of prejudice, if any, did you experience while modelling?
7. Tell me about Jacksonville as you remember it when you were a young girl.
8. How has Jacksonville changed since your childhood?
9. How did your parents shelter you from the prejudice that seemed so prevalent in the 1960's? Since Jacksonville was such a small town, how did prejudice affect you here?
10. How would you describe the 1960's?
11. What kind of discrimination, if any, have you seen because you are a woman?
12. The 1960's was a decade of immense turmoil and change. Although I know from what you have already said that Jacksonville was set apart from the rest of the South, how did the Civil Rights Movement affect you? What are your thoughts on the Civil Rights Movement?
13. What was student reaction toward you when Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated?

Sydney Fox Long-Sesalea Fuller Interview October 23, 1995

I. Family Background Tape 1, Side A

- *Cass Fox-father's father
- *Jennie Fox-father's mother
- *Alice Daugette-mother's mother
- *Theodore Fox-father
- *Agnes Whatley Fox-mother

II. Childhood

- *life in Jacksonville (small town Alabama)-social life,
school life, grandfather Cass, Theodore Fox
- *parents' recollections of the Great Depression and
WWII

III. Marriage

- *Eugene Reid-how they met, children, his death,
Jacksonville reaction

Tape 1, Side B

IV. Raising Her Children by Herself

- *Jobs-bills to pay
- *modelling-stability
- *college
- *support from family, church, etc.

V. College

- *why education major? background, love for children

VI. 1960's

- *JFK's assassination
- *views of MLK, Jr. end Tape 1; Tape 2, Side A
- *Civil Rights Movement in Jacksonville-intergration,
discrimination in college

VI. 1960's (continued)

*(shift from MLK assassination to JFK assassination)

*admiration of Jackie Kennedy

*Vietnam War's effect on Jacksonville

*views of Civil Rights Movement-discrimination,
education

*views on George Wallace

VII. discrimination as a woman

Classy, dignified, independent, determined, African-American, Alabamian, woman--these words accurately describe Sydney Consuello Fox Reid Long. Throughout her life, Mrs. Long has experienced many events, including the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Civil Rights Movement, President Kennedy's assassination, and the Vietnam War. She has observed the African-American race undergo massive social, economic, and political changes during her lifetime. Basing my information on the lengthy interview I conducted with Mrs. Long and extensive research, the focus of this paper will be on her family's heritage and her experiences in the decade of the 1960s, in reference to Jacksonville, Alabama.

Sydney Fox Reid Long was born in 1933 in Jacksonville, Alabama, the daughter of Theodore Bert Fox and Agnes Whatley Fox. Her family history proves to be extremely interesting. Her mother's mother was Alice Daugette Whatley, of the distinguished Jacksonville Daugettes. Miss Alice, as she was called, was born in 1887, presumably in Monroe County, Alabama.¹ It is not known who her parents were, but can be assumed that her mother had been a slave and her father a Daugette, given her skin coloring. Miss Alice grew up in the Daugette home in Monroe County and travelled to Jacksonville with Dr. Clarence W. Daugette in 1894 when he was offered a teaching position at Jacksonville Normal School, later Jacksonville State University.² Miss Alice

played an active role in the Daugette family. She trained the children and wrote creative plays for them. Mrs. Long remembers her grandmother as being very short and "very bossy." Miss Alice insisted that Mrs. Daugette, Annie Forney Daugette, learn how to drive. The Daugettes valued Alice's opinion a great deal. They "didn't buy a car or anything without Alice...saying it was okay, whether it was the color or whatever."³ Although Miss Alice married H.C. Whatley in 1914⁴ and they resided on the east side of Jacksonville, she continued to visit the Daugette household everyday. Mrs. Long remarks that the Daugettes "were very instrumental in [her] rearing." Today the Fox and Daugette families remain very close.⁵

The other side of Mrs. Long's family is equally as interesting. Very little is known about where Mrs. Long's grandfather, Cass Fox, came from. He was born in 1865, possibly in Cheneyville, Louisiana. In any case, Cass Fox came to reside in Calhoun County, Alabama in the town of Jacksonville, sometime during his adulthood. Cass owned a vast amount of land in Jacksonville, including Chimney Peak and what is now seventh or eighth avenue all the way back to the mountain.⁶ For a black man to possess large tracts of land in the late 1800s in the South is especially remarkable since relatively little land was available to the black man.⁷ Exactly how Cass obtained his land holdings remains a mystery. Mrs. Long theorizes that Cass was "very shrewd,"

"knew how to make money..., [and] knew how to do a lot of different things to make money." Cass rented his land to both black and white sharecroppers and tenant farmers and owned the houses in which they lived. Mrs. Long recalls her father telling her of what a paradoxical picture Cass made, prancing on his white horse amongst his workers in the cotton fields.⁸

Cass became a leading citizen in the community. In addition to his landholdings, Cass also operated a bank, lending money to blacks and whites.⁹ Some very influential white people "[who] didn't want anybody to know they were borrowing money, ..would wait till it was very dark and they'd come to the back door and knock on the door" to borrow money and not be seen at the same time.¹⁰ Cass also operated a restaurant and a funeral business. He and his family lived at 307 Pelham Road, "the street that the most prominent citizens lived on."¹¹ Cass's son, Theodore Fox, Mrs. Long's father, became one of the first black councilmen in Alabama.¹²

The mere mention of the 1960s conjures up the images of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the Civil Rights Movement, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing, Alabama Governor George Wallace standing in the schoolhouse door, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, and the Vietnam War. Stating that the 1960s was a volatile time in United States history does not quite express the emotions

and thoughts of the people in the country. Mrs. Long describes the 1960s as being "a strange time" with people left to wonder, "what's going to happen next? What's this going to lead to?"¹³

The 1960s picked up where the 1950s left off. The Civil Rights Movement shifted into high gear with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as its leader. The 1950s experienced the Supreme Court ruling on Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas, Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott, and the Little Rock Five and the subsequent closure of four Arkansas high schools to avoid integration. Mrs. Long feels the Civil Rights Movement is something that needed to happen. Being born into society the way it was, she had grown accustomed to it. She "thought that everybody should be able to do what they wanted to as long as it didn't infringe on anybody else's rights...Everybody ought to be treated with dignity and self-worth."¹⁴ As president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, King heavily promoted acts of nonviolent resistance.¹⁵ King believed it was "the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom and human dignity. [Non-violent resistance] has a way of disarming the opponent."¹⁶ In the late 1950s, young, black students "became fascinated with the concept of nonviolent action."¹⁷

King found an ally in Senator, and Democratic presidential nominee, John F. Kennedy. The two agreed on

the "need for strong presidential leadership in the area of civil rights." King was impressed with the "forthright and honest manner in which [Kennedy] discussed the civil rights questions." Kennedy and his brother, Robert, later helped in freeing King from Reidsville State Penitentiary in Georgia. In the presidential election of 1960, it is little wonder that Kennedy won with a heavy black vote.¹⁸ After Kennedy had been in office for nearly two years, King felt that the president had "not yet given the leadership that the enormity of the problem [of civil rights] demand[ed]."¹⁹

Martin Luther King, Jr. called 1963 "the most decisive year in the Negro's fight for equality."²⁰ Many blacks, including children, were arrested in Birmingham during a nonviolent demonstration. After several days of unrest in the city, President Kennedy ordered federal troops to Alabama. George Wallace blocked black students from entering the University of Alabama. Again President Kennedy sent troops to Alabama; Wallace stepped aside.²¹ Mrs. Long believes that George Wallace only said what he thought people wanted to hear. She thinks "he wanted to be governor and...be liked by everybody."²² Goldfield acknowledges that after a bitter defeat in the 1958 gubernatorial primary, Wallace shifted from populist causes to race politics.²³ Mrs. Long proposes that by Governor Wallace "just...standing in that door, he caused more openings than it would have

been if we'd gone another way." She does not feel that is what he intended, but because of all the attention the event drew, it helped the law "where everybody [could] go to school together" pass.²⁴

Following the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Dr. King "sided with the recommendation to plan more far-reaching campaigns that would seek to end the bigotry that resulted in murderous acts." Many young people rejected King's philosophy and leadership style because they doubted the power of nonviolence would bring equality to the South.²⁵ Meanwhile, President Kennedy "helped to set a national tone that would spur federal civil rights legislation."²⁶ Unfortunately, he did not live to see the result of his efforts. Struck and killed by an assassin's bullet in November, 1963, President John F. Kennedy's death sent shock waves throughout the nation. To Mrs. Long "it was just like a dark cloud over everything...It was like a slap in the face." Many blacks felt that President Kennedy was their friend, "somebody that was close to us [blacks] that could help everybody. He seemed like he cared about all people."²⁷ Lyndon B. Johnson, President Kennedy's successor, did not abandon Kennedy's legislative agenda; the 1964 Civil Rights Act was signed in July of that year. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 "prohibited segregation in public accommodations and discriminatory application of voter-

registration procedures," and created an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.²⁸

Gradually, Americans began to turn their attention away from the Civil Rights Movement and focused on United States military involvement in Vietnam. This shift was especially hard on black Americans because it meant that the movement would be indefinitely postponed. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke out against the "Southeast Asian adventure" saying the United States should have never become involved. The movement for freedom had come to a standstill.²⁹ Mrs. Long feels that "he had come to a point where there wasn't too much more he could do...He seemed to know he had a mission in life."³⁰ Even though he received numerous threats on his life, Dr. King "decided to make every single moment of his life count, to face each single test with all his faith."³¹ Mrs. Long speculates that "[King] had a feeling [something might happen to him] because people who live close to God have feelings about things."³² In his final speech the night before his assassination in Memphis, King said:

It really doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop...I've looked over and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight, that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man.³³

The small town of Jacksonville, Alabama did not appear to be effected by the Civil Rights Movement, in comparison to other places throughout Alabama. Anniston, for example, experienced the 1961 Freedom Riders' bus burning. When she worked in Anniston and everyone was marching, Mrs. Long recalls being scared. That feeling, however, did not translate to Jacksonville. Jacksonville seemed to ve set apart. Integration was "no problem" in Jacksonville. "In Jacksonville, it was just the separation of schools. I think mainly what everybody wanted in the schools...wasn't so much of trying to [integrate],...[rather] the idea of being separate but...equal." Dr. Stone, whose wife was principal of Kitty Stone Elementary School, asked Mrs. Long to start her son in preschool at the newly integrated facility. As Mrs. Long says, "there was no big to do [sic]. There wasn't any newspapers and all that...We just eased on through it and it...never was a problem." Mrs. Long attributes the difficulties that other places had, such as Little Rock and the University of Alabama, to the media which "really...bl[ew] it up and [put] a lot of attention on it."³⁴

On the whole, racial discrimination was kept to a minimum in Jacksonville. Mrs. Long, however, recalls two individual incidents in which she felt discrimination. When she was attending Jacksonville State University, she was assigned a project. For her topic Mrs. Long chose Negro

spirituals. The professor did not approve of the topic and found "knit-picky" things wrong with her paper, even though she turned it in three or four times. Although she brought all her referened materials to the professor, he still gave her a "D". Mrs. Long refused to choose another topic because she "felt like this [was] what [she] wanted to do." The second incident in which Mrs. Long felt racial tension was the day after Martin Kuther King, Jr. was assassinated. When she walked into her classroom that morning, a hush fell over the room. Mrs. Long believes "it was out of sympathy or they just felt 'Oh! I'm so ashamed.'"³⁵

Discrimination in Anniston was quite different. Mrs. Long recalls going to Jack's and the people would not serve her husband because they were unsure of his skin coloring. (He was a very fair skinned black man.) The manager asked Mr. Reid to go to the back window. Mr. Reid became angry and left the store, The incident upset Mrs. Long's children greatly. Her oldest son, Marcus, was skittish afterwards of going into a store, afraid people would fuss at him. Mrs. Long also remembers having to use separate restrooms and water fountains.³⁶

Mrs. Long does not remember any protests occurring in Jacksonville concerning the Vietnam War. She caught bits nad pieces about the war in newspapers and on television. Mrs. Long admits that at the time of the height of war protests in the United States, she was too involved in her

own life ~~and~~ the lives of her children, to notice much of what was going on around her.³⁷

While conducting my interview with Mrs. Long and researching related material for this paper, I have learned many things, one of which being that I have never met anyone quite like her. She has so many things to teach and I find, I have many, many things to learn about the world around me and the people in it. Most of all I have learned about myself and how I tend to view certain situations. This interview and this paper have taught me that, more than ever, I need to examine how others look at things. Mrs. Long has lived an extraordinary life and I am happy I was able to share in her recollections of her family and the tumultuous decade of the 1960s.

NOTES

¹Anne C. Daniell, ed., "Alice Daugeette." City Cemetery of Jacksonville, Alabama with added genealogical information, Part One (Anniston, Alabama: Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library, 1991), 32-33.

²"Alice Whatley," Jacksonville News, 30 May 1956, 2; First National Bank of Jacksonville, The Jacksonville Story...an enduring heritage (Jacksonville, Alabama: First National Bank of Jacksonville, 1977), 7.

³Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁴Anne C. Daniell, ed., "Alice Daugeette." City Cemetery of Jacksonville, Alabama with added genealogical information, Part One (Anniston, Alabama: Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library, 1991), 32-33.; Two different spellings are listed for Alice Daugeette's married name-Whatley and Watley.

⁵Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

⁶*ibid.*; June Fox Davis, Taylor-Fox Reunion (n.p.: June, 1995), 2.; Mrs. Long gave this document to me for use in this paper. The source of information in this document was "family Bibles and records dating from the 1800s, personal records of deceased members, Calhoun County, Alabama Probate Court Records, the autobiography of Knox Ides, and present day oral history." This document provides data about Mrs. Long's father's side of the family.

⁷William Warren Rogers et al., eds., Alabama: The History of a Deep South State (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1994), 236-237.

⁸Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.; June Fox Davis, Taylor-Fox Reunion (n.p.: June, 1995), 2.

⁹June Fox Davis, Taylor-Fox Reunion (n.p.: June, 1995), 2.

¹⁰Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹¹June Fox Davis, Taylor-Fox Reunion (n.p.: June, 1995), 2.

¹²"Theodore Fox Succumbs: City Mourns Loss." Jacksonville News, 3 August 1988, 1.

¹³Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

¹⁴*ibid.*

¹⁵Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 34, 57.

¹⁶Martin Luther King, Jr., interview by Kenneth B. Clark, The Negro Protest, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1963), 39.

¹⁷Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 58.

¹⁸*ibid.*, 71-75.

¹⁹Martin Luther King, Jr., interview by Kenneth B. Clark, The Negro Protest, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1963), 45.

²⁰Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 126.

²¹Andre Kaspi, ed., Great Dates in United States History (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1994), 182-183.

²²Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

²³David R. Goldfield, Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to the present (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990), 115.

²⁴Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

²⁵Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 125.

²⁶David R. Goldfield, Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to the present (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990), 141.

²⁷Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

²⁸David R. Goldfield, Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to the present (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990), 144-145.

²⁹Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 155.

³⁰Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

³¹Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 10.

³²Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

³³Lillie Patterson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement (New York: Facts on File Inc., 1989), 158.

³⁴Sydney Fox Long, interview by author, 23 October 1995, Jacksonville, Alabama, tape recording.

³⁵*ibid.*

³⁶*ibid.*

³⁷*ibid.*



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