

Gift and Release Agreement

We Jack Stewart and Bill Bishop  
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

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

181 Kristie Lane, Boaz, Al

on the date(s) of 4-3-95

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

Jack Stewart  
Interviewee's signature  
Address 181 Kristie Ln  
Boaz, Al  
Phone (205) 593-0701

Date 4/3/95

William F Bishop  
Interviewer's signature  
Address 318 Richmond Ave  
Albertville, Al 35950  
Phone (205) 878-9123

Date 4/3/95

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Jack Stewart M/F M

Address: 181 Kristie Ln. Boaz, AL 35957

Phone number(s): (205) 593-0701

Approximate age or date of birth: March 13, 1925

Mother's Name: Fannie NeSmith

Father's Name: John Stewart

Places lived and when: Born Attalla, AL Age 1 through 17 McClarty, AL (Blount Co.)

Syrs. in Service (based out of Gadsden, AL) Birmingham, AL 1948-1979 Collinsville, AL 1979-19

Education: Pickle Grade School Susan Moore High School

Religion: Pentecostal

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

Present occupation: Salesperson

Former occupations: Farming, U.S. Army, Business owner, Management & Sales

Special Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Accomplishments: Building and Starting Several Churches

Pentecostal Pastor

National Events in which interviewee has participated: \_\_\_\_\_

The Great Depression of 1930's. World War II

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: \_\_\_\_\_

National born U.S. citizen?  Yes  No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: NA

Country from which he/she emigrated: NA

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

German 9mm. Pistol, Photographs of concentration camp.

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

Additional information: German made pistol was taken from German

Officer killed in Battle of Rhine. Photographs of liberation of Concentration Camp

in Belgium.

Bill Bishop  
202: American History since 1977  
2-14-95 6:00p.m. class  
Oral History Project

Interviewee: Jack Stewart  
181 Kristie Lane  
Boaz, AL 35957

Born: March 13, 1925  
Attalla, AL

Propose to do interview:  
Week of March 13, 1995  
At the home of the interviewee

I expect Mr. Stewart will relate ~~on~~ interesting accounts of U.S. History during the period just before and during World War II. He grew up on a rural farm in Blount County during the depression years of the 1930's.

He lived through many of the hardships of the time and witnessed many of the government work programs that began during this period. He saw the growing concern of U.S. involvement in the war and the news of the attack on the U.S. Naval fleet at Pearl Harbor.

He joined the army soon after war was declared and went through military training. He was shipped to Europe during the war and saw action in many of the battles there. He was part of General George Patton's army and was involved in the Battle of the ~~Bluge~~ *Bulge* that advanced into Germany and eventually defeated them. He remained in Germany for a period after surrendering and witnessed many events of that period.

I will research events of this time period and hope to provide an interesting view into the events of this part of United States History. I hope to focus not only on the war itself, but also on the depression years and life in rural North Alabama during this period.

*Carol*

*Sounds good  
+*

Proposed Questions

A. Depression years *See family history to*

1. What were the circumstances where you lived during the 1930's?
2. What were the economic conditions at the time?
3. Did government seem~~ed~~ concerned and what if anything, did they do to improve things?
4. Do you recall any major events of the time period?  
*or minor*
5. What seem<sup>ed</sup> to be attitude of the people toward government and elected officials?
6. What things were important to you and your family during this time?

7. Familiar w/ Civilian Conserv. Corps;  
WPA?, etc?

*You may need more questions.*

- *what did they do for you?*
- *was the church a part of their lives?*
- *school?*

## Proposed Questions

### B. World War II

1. What did you know about the war in Europe?
2. What were the sources of information you received?
3. What was people's attitude at this time?
4. How did you hear about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?
5. Where and how did you become involved?
6. What were the opinions of people in your area after the United States declared war?
7. How were you prepared in military training?
8. What were you told or what did you expect?
9. What did you know about U.S. involvement in World War II?
10. Where you in a division under the command of General George Patton?
11. What did you think about General Patton?
12. How long were you in Europe at this time?

*Battles? - description?*

*R & R*

*Good questions*

A

JACK STEWART  
INTERVIEWED BY BILL BISHOP  
4/3/95  
JACK STEWART HOME  
DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II

*Contents  
should be  
a separate page  
list of side 1 & side 2  
topics*

### Table Of Contents

We begin this interview with Jack Stewart of 181 Kristie Lane, Boaz, Al. Mr. Stewart states his date and place of birth. March 13, 1925, Attalla, Al. He then gives a brief review of his life and some of the subject matter we will discuss during the interview.

Mr. Stewart then gives some background information about his family and early life. His father was John Stewart and his mother was Fannie NeSmith Stewart. He attended Pirkle Grade School and then Susan Moore High School. He later attended a Birmingham Business College.

We then begin to discuss the early depression years 1930 through 1932, and the economy at that time. Cotton was the main crop of the area at that time and prices dropped from 15 to 20 cents a pound down to 4 to 6 cents per pound. Farmers had to borrow from banks to plant a crop and after harvest pay off those loans with little or no profit realized. The local people raised most of their own food and preserved it for winter months. The only purchases made were bare necessities.

The people of Mr. Stewart's community were close and helped each other in times of need. When his father became ill and could

not work his farm, neighbors pitched in and helped the family plant crops and work the farm.

Mr. Stewart talks about the National Government's role in dealing with the depression and the projects started in his area to stimulate work and try to bring jobs into the area. His discussion of T.V.A. projects and the W.P.A. of the New Deal era were successful in putting some people back to work. Also the Civilian Conservation Corps ( C.C.C.) where young men would live and work on conservation projects. Some young men joined the Armed services.

The discussion of the President's role in policy making seemed to shift with the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt to create more work projects and attempt to put people to work and gain a better attitude overall. Mr. Stewart's father worked on a road project for the W.P.A. ( Works Progress Administration).

Jack Stewart talks about some of the recreation activities that people in his community enjoyed; such as organized baseball leagues and games with other local communities. Also the local churches were a source of support and guidance to people of his community and people helped to bring in ministers and hold revivals.

The news of the war in Europe was a subject many people were concerned with and the Stewart family kept up with these events by radio newscasts. Some people believed U.S. involvement should occur before Germany gained complete European control and threatened American territory. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was a shocking realization of how close the war had come to

threatening the United States. After the United States declared war, men began to turn their attention to induction into the armed service. Jack Stewart was at first denied induction because of a physical problem, but as the demand for replacements grew he was accepted at the age of nineteen years old at Fort McClennon. He was sent to Fort Hood in Texas for seventeen weeks of basic training in the armored infantry division. He then was transferred to Fort Mead in Maryland for transport to France. He was assigned to duty in the Third Army under General George Patton. General Patton was referred to as the blood and guts general according to Mr. Stewart. Jack Stewart did see General Patton during service in Europe and believed him to be an important factor in the conflict. The general opinion of Patton was one of high confidence and concern for people under his command. Mr. Stewart saw action in several major conflicts in France and Germany. People in occupied areas were mostly cordial to Allied troops and shared food and shelter when available. After word of the German surrender, he was sent to areas in Belgium where concentration camps were liberated and the horrors of the German oppression were witnessed first hand. Mr. Stewart was assigned to guard duty after the German surrender while equipment was moved back from the front lines. He eventually left Europe in June, 1945, to return to the United States. He was discharged in August, 1945. Mr. Stewart talks about the role women played during and after the war years in support of the war effort and in the workplace. He speaks of how the economy seemed to have improved after World War II. Having experienced firsthand many of the major events of

Need  
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paragraph

any  
quotes or  
stories

talk  
more about  
these -  
from example  
- use  
quotes  
from + to  
to use

United States history of this time period, it has indeed been a rewarding experience to interview Mr. Jack Stewart about these events.