

Oral History Tape Recording Release

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INTERVIEWEE Bill Griffith

W.C. Griffith

INTERVIEWER Kimberly Boozer

DATE OF INTERVIEW 2/8/94

NUMBER OF TAPES 2

DATE OF AGREEMENT 2/8/94

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE/DONOR W.C. Griffith

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: William C. Griffith M/F  M

Address: 5265 Main St. Hobbes Bluff

Phone number(s): 492-3707

Approximate age or date of birth: 71 - Sept. 24 - 1922

Mother's Name: Marta E. Beth Curran Myrtle Ethel

Father's Name: S. D. Griffith Sr. Samuel Lester

Places lived and when: Alford's Bend, AL; Mobile, AL; Hobbes Bluff, AL; Denver, CO; Dawson, GA; Hobbes Bluff (Current)

Education: High School

Religion: Episcopist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) Democrat;

Army Air Force, American Legion, VFW

Present occupation: retired

Former occupations: Telephone Co. / North Central Bell

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

Major Accomplishments: lived to be 71.

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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:

family documents & photographs; antiques.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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## HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY INFORMATION

- 1920 - The 19<sup>th</sup> amendment concerning women's suffrage was ratified.
- 1921 - Warren G. Harding, Republican, elected president.
- 1922 - Alabama's first radio station, WAPI of Birmingham, was established.
- 1923 - Calvin Coolidge, Republican, elected president.
  - William W. Brandon, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1927 - Bibb Graves, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1929 - Herbert Hoover, Republican, elected president.
  - Great Depression.
  - Around 60 Alabama banks failed.
  - Alabama-Tombigbee river system flooded southern areas causing \$6 million in damage.
  - Alabama State University in Montgomery was accredited.
- 1930 - Alabama legislature passed a state income tax law and and the Budget Control Act to prevent the state from bankruptcy.
- 1931 - Benjamin Meek Miller, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1933 - The 20<sup>th</sup> amendment concerning terms of the president and Congress was ratified.
  - The 21<sup>st</sup> amendment concerning the repeal of Prohibition was ratified.
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democrat, elected president.
  - The federal government created the Tennessee Valley Authority.
- 1935 - Bibb Graves re-elected governor.
- 1939 - Frank M. Dixon, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1941 - World War II.
  - The federal government established the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.
- 1943 - Chauncey Sparks, Democrat, elected governor.

- 1944 - Alabama's first producing oil well began operating in Gilberttown.
- 1945 - World War II ends.
  - Harry S. Truman, Democrat, elected president.
- 1947 - James E. Folsom, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1949 - Alabama's first television station, WABT-TV, was established.
  - WBRC-TV was established.
- 1951 - The 22<sup>nd</sup> amendment concerning the limitation of the president to two terms was ratified.
  - Gordon Persons, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1953 - Dwight D. Eisenhower, Republican, elected president.
- 1955 - Rosa L. Parks was arrested when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man.
  - Martin Luther King, Jr., directs the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
  - James E. Folsom re-elected governor.
  - Alabama establishes the first state-owned educational television system in U. S.
- 1956 - A federal court ordered Montgomery to desegregate its buses.
- 1959 - John M. Patterson, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1960 - The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center was established in Huntsville.
- 1961 - The 23<sup>rd</sup> amendment concerning the suffrage in the District of Columbia was ratified.
  - John F. Kennedy, Democrat, was elected president.
  - Mobile College in Mobile was accredited.
- 1963 - John F. Kennedy was assassinated.
  - Lyndon B. Johnson, Democrat, elected president.
  - George C. Wallace, Democrat, elected governor.
  - Desegregation of public schools began.

- Governor Wallace tried to personally halt integration in Alabama public schools.
- University of South Alabama in Mobile was accredited.
- 1964 - The 24<sup>th</sup> amendment concerning poll taxes was ratified.
- Barry M. Goldwater was first Republican presidential candidate to carry Alabama since 1872.
- University of Alabama in Huntsville was accredited.
- 1965 - Martin Luther King, Jr., led a 5-day march due to voting discrimination from Selma to Montgomery.
- 1966 - University of Alabama in Birmingham was accredited.
- 1967 - The 25<sup>th</sup> amendment concerning presidential disability and succession was ratified.
- Lurleen Wallace, wife of George Wallace, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1968 - Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated.
- Albert P. Brewer, Democrat, elected governor.
- 1969 - Richard M. Nixon, Republican, elected president.
- 1971 - The 26<sup>th</sup> amendment concerning suffrage for 18-year-olds was ratified.
- George C. Wallace re-elected governor.
- 1974 - Gerald R. Ford, Republican, elected president.
- Governor Wallace was first Alabama governor to be elected to a third term.
- 1977 - James E. Carter, Jr., Democrat, elected president.
- 1979 - Forrest H. James, Jr., Democrat, elected governor.
- 1980 - Alabama legislature increased taxes on cigarettes and alcohol to raise money for medical program services for low-income people.

PERSONAL CHRONOLOGY INFORMATION

- 1893 - November, Myrtle Ethel Currey was born.
- December, Samuel Doster Griffith was born.
- 1903 - Samuel Doster's father died.
- 1915 - May, Myrtle finished college.
- 1917 - (?) They were married.
- 1918 - July, first son, Samuel Doster, Jr., was born.
- Samuel Doster, Sr., went to France in World War I
- 1920 - Myrtle began voting.
- (?) - Second child born, but died after three days.
- 1922 - September, second son, William Currey, was born.
- 1923 - Myrtle's mother died.
- 1924 - November, first daughter and last child, Catherine Louise, was born.
- 1927 - Moved to Mobile.
- 1929 - The Great Depression.
- 1936 - Moved back to Hokes Bluff.
- Samuel Doster, Sr., worked as a guard at the Steel Plant in Gadsden.
- 1941 - Samuel Doster, Sr., worked as a custodian at the County House for the Indigent (Poor House).
- 1945 - Myrtle's father died.
- 1946 - Samuel Doster, Sr., worked as a deputy sheriff in Etowah County.
- Samuel Doster, Sr., bought his estate from his mother and the other heirs of the entire Griffith estate.
- 1949 - Samuel Doster, Sr.'s, mother died.
- Samuel Doster, Sr., worked as a member of a maintenance crew at the Etowah County Courthouse.
- 1969 - Myrtle Currey Griffith died.



1975 - Samuel Doster, Jr., died.

1979 - Samuel Doster, Sr., died.

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was your mother's birthdate? father?  
When did your mother die? father?
2. What was your mother's parents' occupations?
3. How many siblings did your mother have?
4. What was your mother's childhood like and do you know of any stories?
5. What level of education did your mother reach?
6. Do you know when they married?
7. How many children did she have and when were they born?
8. Did she vote in 1920? What did your father think of suffrage?
9. What were her daily activities?
10. What was her religion?
11. What are some memories you have of her?
12. Do you remember any stories she would tell?
13. Could you describe your mother?
14. What was your father's parents' occupations?
15. How many siblings did your father have?
16. What was your father's childhood like and do you know of any stories?
17. What level of education did your father reach?
18. What type of jobs did your father have during his life?
19. Did your father serve in World War I and what were his feelings about the war? Any stories?
20. How did your father feel about World War II?
21. What was life like for you and your family during the depression?
22. What were his daily activities?
23. What was his religion?
24. What are some memories you have of him?
25. Do you remember any stories he would tell?

26. Could you describe your father?
27. What type of marriage did your parents have?
28. Did your family go out together? Only your parents?
29. Do you know of any stories about their courting one another?
30. Did both of your parents have good relationships with their children?