

Gift and Release Agreement

We Jerald Mitchell and Tyson Green  
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

Fort Payne

on the date(s) of ~~March 28~~ April 02

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

Jerald Mitchell  
Interviewee's signature  
Address 213 Alabama Ave  
Fort Payne, AL  
Phone (205) 845-0844

Date 3/28/95

Tyson Green  
Interviewer's signature  
Address 508 Market St  
Scottsboro, AL 35768  
Phone (205) 259-5487

Date 3/28/95

1. Where were you born?
2. What is your date of birth?
3. What is the highest level of education you have?
4. What was/is your occupation?
5. Why did you choose a state job as a career?
6. Did this job require alot of traveling, if so how far and how long?
7. How was your family affected by your being away from them?
8. Were you a part of any highly publicized event during the movement, and if so what part did you play in it?
9. How did that particular incident affect your life?
10. What was the purpose, in your opinion, of the march to Selma?
11. How does that compare with what the media publized?
12. Was the country in general support of what was happening?
13. How do you think the Civil Movement changed you and the United States?
14. How do you feel about the governments views about civil rights these days?

Mr. William Jerald Mitchell  
by: Tyson Green  
April 2, 1995  
508 Market St.  
Ft Payne, AL  
Civil Rights March

- I. Birth Place
- II. Date of Birth
- III. Education
- IV. Occupation
- V. Traveling the State
- VI. Explaining His Job
- VII. Family Life
- VIII. Duties During the Movement
- IX. Birmingham
- X. Selma
- XI. The Bridge Crossing at Selma
- XII. Weapons He Was Issued
- XIII. Motel Bombing in Birmingham
- XIV. Ratt Brown
- XV. March to Montgomery
- XVI. How the March Changed His Life
- XVII. George Wallace
- XVIII. Purpose of the March
- XIX. Media

XX. Bull Conner

XXI. Training School for Marchers

XXII. Explaining His Experiences in Selma

XXIII. Resentments Against Blacks

XXIV. Changes in Society

**Civil Rights Movement**

**Tyson Green  
Dr. Marshall  
April 17, 1995**

There is a lot of history that people miss because the text books of today are usually one sided. This is why I chose the Civil Rights Movement. I interviewed William Jerald Mitchell.

*Double space  
not  
triple*

Mr. Mitchell was born and raised in Fort Payne, Alabama. During the time he was born not many people went to college. Mr. Mitchell finished high school and went to the Police Academy. This is where he got his higher education on becoming a state water patrol officer. He said that many times he would have to leave early in the morning to get to the site to which he would patrol. His job consisted of keeping the waters safe so everyone could enjoy them. Mr. Mitchell continued with talking about his family. His family consisted of himself, a wife, and a young daughter. His family was affected by his being gone so much during these days, but he still made a little time for them whenever possible.

Mr. Mitchell explained his duties during the movement as being those of a military personnel. All he was supposed to do was follow orders. The State of Alabama called all law enforcement officers to Birmingham. There the state gave all these officers the powers to arrest. They told them not to attack unless attacked. If one of the new officers attacked before being attacked they were automatically fired. From Birmingham, the state set all of them to the Selma where the Blacks were planning on crossing the bridge at Selma. Upon arriving at Selma, the state sent all

the officers to the bridge. The purpose of all the law officers was to keep the peace while the march was going on. The march continued on to Montgomery. While on the way, the Blacks would just stop and camp wherever people would let them. The law officers were to just follow and make sure all laws were abided. While in Birmingham, the Blacks would hold training camps in a park to teach people how to be hit and not get agitated, or even how to get hit by a car and not get hurt.

*was this the 1st or 2nd march*

*Need historical context*

When the Blacks finally got to Montgomery, they asked to see the governor. They were denied because there is no way the governor would see all them at once. So the Blacks started marching around the capital until at least a few of them got in to see George Wallace.

The media during this time was changing the stories dramatically, so Mr. Mitchell said. He said that there was people from all over the world taking pictures, and sending them to their home offices. There were people as far as from England there photographing the march. Mr. Mitchell started talking about his resentments towards blacks. He was very resentful about Blacks, not for the color of their skin but for the way the Blacks treated the people in Selma. Also, the way they were acting toward the innocent people in each town they crossed. He also said in today's society that the government is too giving. He referred to if you give an inch they will take a mile.

I feel that the history books of today are very one sided. I think that the young people of today are being robbed of a well-rounded history education. If no one ever made tapes of personal interviews, the other side of many stories would be lost.

Paper is short -  
triple spaced & only  
2 1/2 pages at that.  
You had a lot more  
to work w/ & had enough  
context.  
TS