

Recording the Voices of Mooresville, Alabama: An Oral History Project

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Defining Oral History

Oral history is the practice of conducting interviews with an individual in the effort to preserve their memories for posterity. This is often done one-on-one with an interviewer, an interviewee, and a video camera or audio recorder.

Laying Out My Mission

My goal for this project was to develop a program where members of a community could discover their shared heritage through oral histories on a limited budget. Even though this program would lay the foundation for Mooresville's bicentennial, it would also serve as a test balloon for the statewide bicentennial in 2019.



Photo by Jimmy Emerson

Paving the Way for Future Research

This is an ongoing project. There is much more research that still needs to be done before 2018, but the results will be well worth the effort. **By preserving the memories of those who are living now, future generations can learn history directly from those who lived through it.**

Acknowledgements

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Completed Goals:

- Familiarize myself with town and residents
- Gather supplies while adhering to limited budget
- Conduct oral histories
- Collect digital materials for archives
- Generate report for the Alabama Bicentennial Commission



Photo courtesy of Jerry and Kathryn Davis

Listening and Learning

With the help of the members of the community, I was able to conduct interviews with several long-time residents. Their fascinating stories shed light on how life in Mooresville has changed over the last several generations.

I was also able to host two public scan events in Mooresville where residents could bring their historic documents/photos/letters to be digitally scanned. These materials will become part of a digital archive that will be hosted by Mooresville's bicentennial website.

