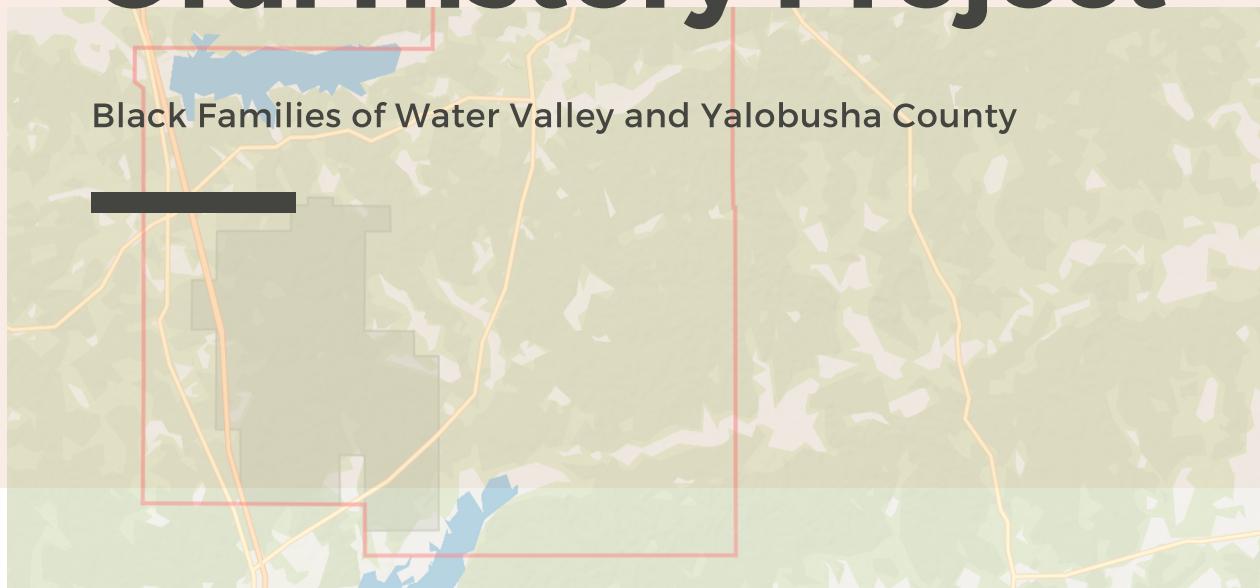


Oral History Project



WHO WE ARE

Professor Jessie Wilkerson and graduate students in her oral history seminar at the University of Mississippi are working in collaboration with Ms. Dottie Chapman Reed to document and preserve Black community history in Water Valley and Yalobusha County through oral history interviews.

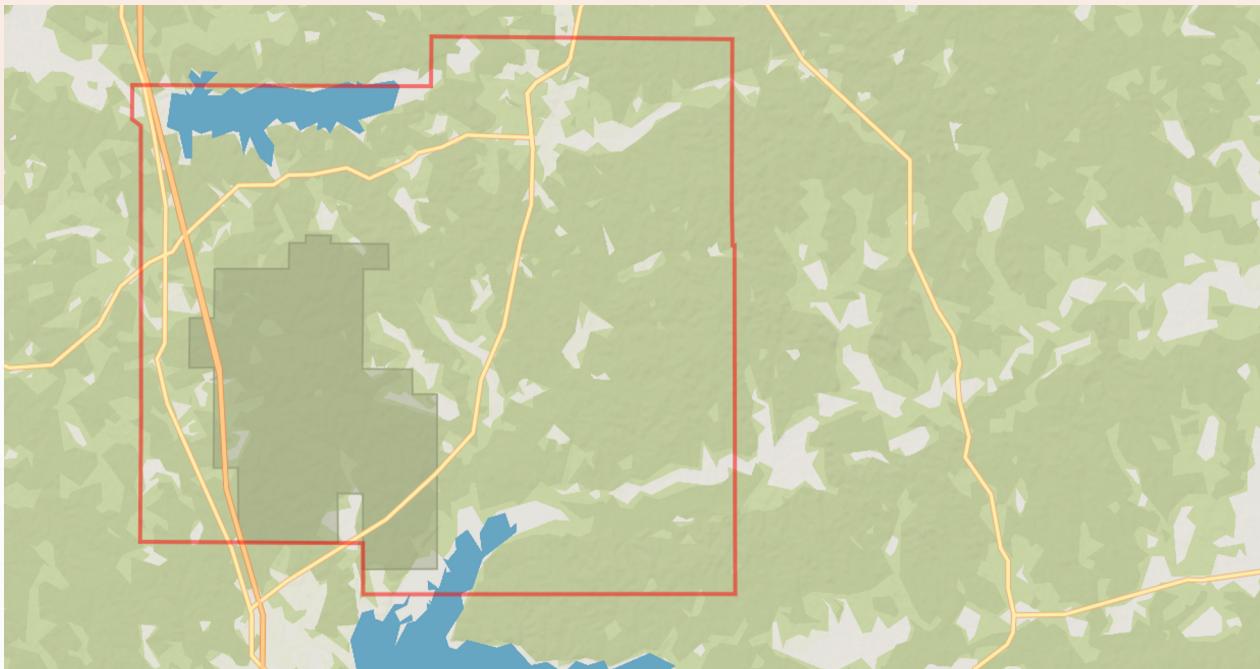
WHAT IS ORAL HISTORY?

Oral history is a method of gathering, preserving and interpreting the voices and memories of people, communities, and participants in past events. Oral history is the oldest form of keeping history. In recent decades we have begun recording and preserving interviews with digital technologies.

OUR COMMITMENT is to use our resources and skills to serve communities in Mississippi and to add to knowledge to Mississippi history, southern history, and African American history.

My students and I will work to document the rich history of Yalobusha County and share our research with the community. The interviews that we collect will help us tell a richer, more diverse, more nuanced story about Mississippi and the South. We hope that you will consider joining us.

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WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN INTERVIEW?

Interviews typically last from 90 minutes to two hours and are a collaboration between the narrator and the interviewer. We will provide narrators with a copy of the audio recording and the transcript, and we will preserve the interviews in a digital archive that is accessible to community members and scholars.

Interviewers will ask general life history questions such as:

- What was your town like when you were growing up?
- Where did you go to school, and what was it like?
- What role did the church play in your community?
- What do you know about your family's history?
- What have been the major changes in your town over the years?

We are interested in talking to anyone who has a story to tell about the history of Black families in Yalobusha County.

If you have any questions about the project, or if you know you would like to participate, please don't hesitate to reach out.

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