

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW  
WITH  
LAWRENCE FREEMAN

3 JULY 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE  
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
INTERVIEW #QMS.018

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert Gore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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# ABSTRACT

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH  
LAWRENCE FREEMAN  
Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
INTERVIEW #QMS.018**

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith Collection designated as QMS.1995.18. This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mr. Lawrence Freeman. Today is Monday, July 3, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the home of Mr. Freeman at 1010 Lytle Street. The tape of this interview, along with a transcription of the interview, will be part of the Quintin Miller Smith Collection and will be available to the public. Future researchers may include portions of this interview in their publications. Is that all right with you Mr. Freeman?

FREEMAN: Yes.

FORSYTHE: What is your full name?

FREEMAN: Lawrence Freeman

FORSYTHE: When is your birthday?

FREEMAN: May 20, 1911, Murfreesboro.

FORSYTHE: What was your father's name and occupation?

FREEMAN: J.B., furniture

FORSYTHE: Your mother's name and occupation?

FREEMAN: Sally, housewife.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any siblings?

FREEMAN: No.

FORSYTHE: Your wife's name and occupation?

FREEMAN: Isa Lee. She is a housewife.

FORSYTHE: Your children's names?

FREEMAN: Jim and Sue.

FORSYTHE: Did anyone else in your family go to MTSU?

FREEMAN: No.

FORSYTHE: Why did you choose to go to MTSU?

FREEMAN: It was local and the money.

FORSYTHE: What degrees do you have?

FREEMAN: BA, Vanderbilt. I majored in accounting. Minored in economics.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about going to school at MTSU?

FREEMAN: I remember two or three good teachers, Mr. Horace Jones was my math teacher. He was an excellent teacher. Mr. Cummings was I believe a science teacher. Mr. Faulkinberry was the coach of both basketball and football.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about Old Main. What was it like?

FREEMAN: It was called "The Main." That was it. All the administrative offices were in that building. Of course all the classrooms too except the library.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about the library.

FREEMAN: The only thing was that my wife was librarian there from 1934 to 1940.

I. FREEMAN: When you were a student did you use the library?

FREEMAN: No.

I. FREEMAN: I didn't think so.

FREEMAN: I wasn't encouraged to use the library, or do any reading actually. I think it was a not very good say of the teachers.

I. FREEMAN: The library was little and didn't have very much room.

FORSYTHE: What did the students do on the weekends?

FREEMAN: Go to the picture show. Every Saturday afternoon.

FORSYTHE: What was parking like on campus?

FREEMAN: Well there wouldn't have been ten cars I don't guess. The entrance was over here on Bell Street that was the main entrance.

FORSYTHE: Was there a dress code?

FREEMAN: No, anything goes. Most of them came in jeans or farm clothes or whatever.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Mr. Lyon?

FREEMAN: He was a great man. As a person, I think he did a good job as the second president of the school, but I would say a mediocre administrator. He played to many politics. I guess he had to at that time.

FORSYTHE: What about Mrs. Lyon?

FREEMAN: She stayed in the background all the time, but she supported him.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about Mr. Faulkinberry.

FREEMAN: He was quite an athletic man, and all the boys liked him. He was a fine coach, and he coached boys, girls, basketball, football, whatever.

FORSYTHE: Mr. Cummings.

FREEMAN: I believe he was a science teacher. Very likable.

FORSYTHE: Dr. George Davis?

FREEMAN: Great man, he was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Dean Beasley?

FREEMAN: He was outstanding. In fact, he held the school together back in the early years.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Neal Frazier?

FREEMAN: One of the greatest teachers. I believe he was English.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about Albert Gore.

FREEMAN: He was a real politician from day one. He was very likable. I think he spent most of his time politicking instead of schooling. But anyway, he was a very likable man.

FORSYTHE: What did you do after you left MTSU?

FREEMAN: I couldn't get accounting I wanted, so I went to Vanderbilt.

FORSYTHE: What are you doing now?

FREEMAN: I am retired from furniture. I play golf and work in the yard. Do some church work.