

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
CHARLOTTE DILL

23 AUGUST 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.070

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

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
CHARLOTTE DILL**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.070

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith Collection designated as QMS.1995.70. This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mrs. Charlotte DILL:. Today is Wednesday August 23, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the home of Mrs. Dill, located at 1503 Monticello Court in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The tape of this interview, along with the transcripts of this interview will become 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 Mrs. Dill?

DILL: Yes.

FORSYTHE: What is your full name?

DILL: Charlotte Ezell Dill.

FORSYTHE: What is your birth date?

DILL: April 16, 1919.

FORSYTHE: What was your birth place?

DILL: Decatur, Alabama.

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

DILL: James Pettey Ezell. He was a minister.

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

DILL: Alice Dawn Potter Ezell. She was a homemaker.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any siblings?

DILL: I have one living brother, Dr. Kenneth Ezell, for whom one of those buildings [at MTSU] is named. He is gravely ill. My sister is Elizabeth Ezell Prah. She is a graduate STC [State Teacher's College, now MTSU] and is 84 years old. She lives on 312 Second Avenue in Murfreesboro.

FORSYTHE: I'll have to look her up and see if she would like to be interviewed.

DILL: I bet she will.

FORSYTHE: What is your husband's name?

DILL: Madison Dill. He is a retired optometrist.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any children?

DILL: We have two. Charlotte and Barbara.

FORSYTHE: What memories do you have of Q.M. Smith?

DILL: My earliest memory is when I was a child in Cookeville, Tennessee. We moved away from Cookeville in 1929. From 1924-1925 my family was good friends with him. He attended the church where my father was preaching. I just remember him being a warm sweet man. He was a good friend of the family. I do not remember any specific things. I do know that when we moved from Cookeville to Nashville, he and his wife came to visit us several times. When my father moved to Murfreesboro to be the minister of the East Main Street Church of Christ, then he and Q.M. resumed their friendship. Q.M. attended church there, where my father was preaching. Then Q.M. and Laura had children about the ages of our children. We were together a lot and enjoyed them and their family.

FORSYTHE: You said your parents told stories about Q.M. Smith?

DILL: My sister will be able to tell you more than I.

FORSYTHE: You also said you knew Albert Gore, Sr.?

DILL: Yes. When he was in school out here, my father and all of us were living in that home next to the East Main Street Church of Christ. I do not know why this happened, but Albert and his friend Earl Oldham need a place to stay that summer. Daddy let them stay in our guest room. The only thing I really remember about that summer is that I was a little girl and I used to slide down the banisters. Albert thought that was great fun. He used it to his advantage one time. There was a creaking stair and every time someone would walk up or down the stairs, you could hear them. Earl Oldham was very studious, Albert was not. He wanted to slip out one time, so that Earl would not hear him. Earl wanted him to stay in and study. I saw Albert sliding down the banister to avoid the creaking stair. When I met Al Jr., many years later, I said, "Your father and I used to slide down banisters together, but I want to tell you that he was a lot older than I." We saw Albert Sr. in Carthage, Tennessee, not long ago. It was before Pauline had this last stroke. He looks like he is doing pretty well.

FORSYTHE: Since I cannot interview your brother, can you tell me about his connection with MTSU?

DILL: I'm not sure what year he graduated, but he played basketball, and baseball. He received letters on those teams [for his letterman jacket]. Then Kenneth taught for three years in Florida. He was a science teacher and a football coach. Then he decided to go to dental school and attended Northwestern University. He became a dentist and went in the Navy for a while during World War II. When he returned to Murfreesboro, he established his dental practice. He has always been a good friend of the university. He served on the board of regents for about twelve years. He was instrumental in forming this Blue Raider Club.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about the Blue Raider Club.

DILL: It was just an organization formed by former letterman of all the sports. It was athletic and business support of the coach and teams. It went down hill for a while and then it was reorganized. My brother has been a great supporter of the university in many ways. I do not know how many thousands of dollars of free dental work he has done for the football players and basketball players. Coaches would bring them in and he would fix them up. I wish I could tell you more, he has done so much for MTSU.