Lally, Kelly A. (FA 81)

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a United States public work relief program that operated from 1933 to 1942 for unemployed, unmarried men from relief families. A part of the New Deal of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, it provided unskilled manual labor jobs related to the conservation and development of natural resources in rural lands owned by federal, state and local governments. The CCC was designed to provide employment for young men who had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression, while at the same time implementing a general natural resource conservation program in every state and territory. Over 2.5 million young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five worked in CCC camps in the nation’s rural areas and national, state, and local parks.

One of the largest CCC projects in Kentucky was the development of the Mammoth Cave properties. In the 1930s the CCC accelerated the transition of Mammoth Cave from a state run site to a national park. There were four different CCC camps stationed at Mammoth Cave, one of these was Company 510 (also known as Camp #1), which was made up entirely of African Americans.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection includes 29 recorded interviews with people employed in the Civilian Conservation Corps at Mammoth Cave. Also included are indices and transcripts of the interviews, as well as the final paper Kelly A. Lally wrote on the history of the CCC at Mammoth Cave. Lally wrote the paper in 1987 after receiving a grant from the Kentucky Oral History Commission to document the work of the CCC at Mammoth Cave by conducting interviews with those involved. The paper concentrates on five different areas: the background of the men who worked in the CCC at Mammoth Cave; work projects; camp life; the relationship of the Corps with the local population; and the general evaluation of the success and effectiveness of the CCC by former enrollees. Obituaries of 13 of the informants are also included.

Interview transcripts and audio recordings have been made available for download through TopSCHOLAR. It should be noted that materials are also available through the
Kentucky Oral History Commission, a branch of the Kentucky Historical Society. The catalog entry is accessible through the following link:
https://khscatalog.on.worldcat.org/search?queryString=1988OH01.1#oclc/85776944

**SHELF LIST**

**BOX 1**  
**CCC research paper and interviews**  
June 8, 1987 - Oct. 21, 1996  
51 items

To read interview transcripts or listen to interviews, click on the hyperlinks in each folder.

Folder 1  
Inventory & obituaries of informants  
14 items

Folder 2  
“A History of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Mammoth Cave National Park” (photocopy)  
Dec. 1987  
1 item; 28pp

Folder 3  
Interview indices  
June 8, 1987 - Sept. 8, 1987  
25 items

Folder 4  
Oral Lee Thomas interview (CT-1&2) and transcriptions  
June 8, 1987  
3 items

Folder 5  
Joe Kulesza interview (CT-3) and transcription  
June 9, 1987  
2 items

Folder 6  
Lt. Col. Henry B. Scott interview (CT-4) and transcription  
June 11, 1987  
2 items

Folder 7  
Joseph Hall interview (CT-5) and transcription  
June 12, 1987  
2 items

Folder 8  
Smith Meredith interview (CT-6) and transcription  
June 19, 1987  
2 items

**BOX 2**  
**CCC interviews**  
June 24, 1987 - July 26, 1987  
18 items

To read interview transcripts or listen to interviews, click on the hyperlinks in each folder.

Folder 1  
Hobert Vincent interview (CT-7) and transcription  
June 24, 1987  
2 items
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Interviewee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Items</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>James Dennison</td>
<td>June 27, 1987</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ellis Jones Sr.</td>
<td>July 1, 1987</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>H.B. Jackson</td>
<td>July 9, 1987</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Troy E. Davis</td>
<td>July 14, 1987</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Ray Scott</td>
<td>July 16, 1987</td>
<td>4 items</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Vernon Wells</td>
<td>July 26, 1987</td>
<td>4 items</td>
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<td>July 29, 1987-</td>
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<td>Aug. 14, 1987</td>
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</table>

To read interview transcripts or listen to interviews, click on the hyperlinks in each folder.
To read interview transcripts or listen to interviews, click on the hyperlinks in each folder.

Folder 1  James Ashby interview (CT-23&24) and transcription  Aug. 19, 1987  4 items
Folder 2  Donald Hazellett interview (CT-25) and transcription  Aug. 20, 1987  2 items
Folder 3  Reubin Vincent interview (CT-26) and transcription  Aug. 26, 1987  2 items
Folder 4  Dawson "Doss" Davis & Vida Davis interview (CT-27) and transcription  Sept. 2, 1987  2 items
Folder 5  Elmer Britt interview (CT-28) and transcription  Sept. 4, 1987  2 items
Folder 6  Lewis Cutliff interview (CT-29) and transcription  Sept. 8, 1987  2 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

FA  LALLY, Kelly A.  1987-1996
81

A history of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work at Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. Paper and interviews with twenty former CCC enrollees from the four camps at Mammoth Cave and five other related people. 4 boxes. 28 folders. 97 items. Cassette tapes, transcriptions, and photocopies. 1987.188.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Ashby, James D., b. 1915  B4,F1
Britt, Elmore, 1910-1996  B1,F2,3
Bush, Gilbert, 1917-2008  B1,F2,3; B3,F4
Childress, Georgie Oscar, 1919-1996  B1,F2,3; B3,F3
Civilian Conservation Corps
Coats, Albert A. "Shorty", 1916-1996  B1,F2,3; B3,F2
Cutliff, Lewis D., b. 1931  B1,F2-3; B4,F6
Davis, Dawson "Doss," 1913-1990  B1,F2-3; B4,F5
Davis, Troy, 1922-1990  B1,F2-3; B2,F5
Davis, Vida, b. 1920  B1,F2-3; B4,F5
Dennison, James, b. 1921  B1,F2-3; B2,F2
Depressions – 1929 and after – Personal narratives
Hall, Joseph T., b. 1917  B1,F2-3,7
Hazlett, Donald C., b. 1905  B1,F2-3; B4,F2
Jackson, H. B., b. 1918  B1,F2-3; B2,F4
Jones, Ellis M., 1898?-1989  B1,F2-3; B2,F3
Kadel, Kathryn Allison (Curd), 1918-1995  B1,F2-3; B3,F7
Kadel, Richard "Dick," 1904-1983  B1,F2-3; B3,F7
Kulesza, Joseph, 1914-1999  B1,F2-3,5
Mammoth Cave National Park
Meredith, Smith, 1911-1995  B1,F2-3,8
Moffitt, Sherman, 1921-1994  B1,F2-3; B3,F2
Sanders, Gilbert L., 1909-1993  B1,F2-3; B3,F6
Scott, Henry B., 1902-1989  B1,F2-3,6
Scott, W. Ray, b. 1913  B1,F2-3; B2,F6
Thomas, Oral Lee "O.L.," 1918-1995  B1,F2-4
Thompson, Clint, 1921-2011  B1,F2-3; B1,F4
Vincent, Charles Hobert, 1920-1992  B1,F2-3; B2,F1
Vincent, Reubin, b. 1918  B1,F2-3; B4,F3
Wells, Vernon P., b. 1914  B1,F2-3; B2,F7
Youth – Employment, 1930s

SEE AND SEE ALSO CARDS

Vincent, Hobart, 1920-1992
See:
  Vincent, Charles Hobart, 1920-1992

Kadel, Dick
See:
  Kadel, Richard "Dick"

Knight/Jeffrey  07/09/2012