

Family and Cemetery Relocation

The damming of the river created lakes and permanently flooded some areas. This necessitated the need to acquire portions or the whole of people's properties – their farms, sometimes their homes. Mapping and surveying served the purpose of identifying parcels within the "taking" line. Those residents living along the river were visited by case workers who would assess how much the resident would be affected by the construction, flooding, and/or relocation. Landowners and

(Below) A Family of Color Standing in the Doorway of Their Home before TVA Relocation (Tennessee Valley, Historic Photograph Collection, 1933-1980, Circa 1935; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta)



tenants alike were evaluated for their ability to relocate, to find a new landlord, or to purchase new property. Case workers would fill out an extensive, multi-page questionnaire detailing the family's lives including their race, whether they owned or rented or rented out, what crops the family grew, and what income this afforded. The family was casually assessed for literacy by noting how many books were in the home and

(623)

TVA 970, 7-10-35
Tennessee Valley Authority

Social and Economic Division

Schedule No. _____ INFORMATION Fieldman Howell
Map _____ County Lauderdale
Date 7-19-35 CONCERNING FAMILIES Beat _____

1. Name John Johnson

2. P. O. address Wetzel, Ala 3. Key map number 128

4. Years lived at present residence 14 In present community Life

5. Information concerning house:
Rented or owned Owned Material Board Telephone _____
No. of rooms 7 Heating facilities Stove Bath facilities Yes
No. sleeping rooms 7 Fuel used Wood Condition, house Good
Age of house 14 Use of basement _____ " other bldgs. _____
Type of house 1-1/2 Electricity _____ " yard _____

6. Source of water supply: Well Cistern _____ Spring _____
Other _____ Distance from house 120 yards.

7. Toilet facilities: Inside _____ Outside None _____

8. Marital status: M. S. _____ D. _____ Sep. _____ W. _____ Race Negro

9. Information concerning husband and wife:

	Age Now	Age When First Married	No. Times Married	Birthplace		Highest School Grade Reached	Condition of Health or Physical Defects
				County	State		
Husband	39	20	1	<u>Lauderdale</u>	<u>Ala.</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Good</u>
Wife	36	17	1	"	"	<u>5th</u>	<u>Good</u>

10. No. of children born: Boys 1 Girls 4 No. who have died: Boys 0 Girls 0

11. The newspapers and magazines that the household receives regularly:
Newspapers: _____ Magazines: _____

12. The approximate number of all books in the home 12

13. Denominational preference Methodist Name and location of church attended, if any, _____ Membership in other organizations Masses

14. Amount of insurance: Life \$150.00 Accident and Health _____
Burial _____ Other _____ Total \$150.00

15. Liabilities: Mortgages on real estate \$ _____ Other mortgages \$ _____
Taxes \$ _____ Other debts \$ _____ Total \$ _____

16. Information concerning deaths in the family during past ten years:

Name of Person Who Died	Date of Death	Relation	Residence at Time of Death	Cause of Death	Where Buried
<u>Fannie Jordan</u>	<u>9-7-1935</u>	<u>wife</u>	<u>Wetzel</u>	<u>Heart Failure</u>	_____

17. How many members of family had malaria 1934-35? None

18. Does the family own a car? No If so, state the make _____
Age _____ How many years have they owned it? _____

what magazines and newspapers they subscribed to. The family's debts and incomes were tallied along with a description of the house and its facilities. Even the informant's perception of the TVA itself was recorded; very little was overlooked. Oftentimes the worker would need to check back with the family and ensure they were resettled and assess whether they were well-adjusted to their new circumstances.

(Left) Example of a Handwritten Questionnaire for TVA Family Removal, John Johnson of Waterloo, Lauderdale County, 1935 (Tennessee Valley Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) List of Cemeteries Surveyed for the Wheeler Reservoir, Lawrence and Lauderdale Counties, Circa 1935 (Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Files, 1933-1990, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

CEMETERYS SURVEYED
WHEELER RESERVOIR
HUNTSVILLE UNIT

- Name: Private(Negro) Owner: Andy Cowan. Graves: 35. Elevation of lowest corner 570. Location: Photo 478-70 in middle of S 1/2 of NE 1/4 Sec. 2, T6S, R2W.
- Name: Moores Cemetery, (Negro) Owner: T. J. Young. Graves: 109. Elevation of lowest corner 580. Location: Photo 478-34 on west line of section in SW 1/4 of Sec. 31, T4S, R1W.
- Name: Private(White) Owner: Stella Tolbert. Graves: 12. Elevation of lowest corner 575. Location: Photo 477-77 in the NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec. 20, T6S, R1W, and south of the Triana Road.
- Name: Rowe Cemetery, (White) Owner: W.C. & R.H. Rowe. Graves: 22. Elevation of lowest corner 575. Location: Photo 479-96 in the NW corner of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 8, T6S, R2W.
- Name: Public(Negro) Owner: J.B. Harris. Graves: 105. Elevation of lowest corner 572. Location: Photo 478-14 in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 20, T6S, R1W.
- Name: Private(White) Owner: J.B. Harris. Graves: 8. Elevation of lowest corner 595. Location: Photo 478-14 in the S 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Sec. 20, T6S, R1W.
- Name: Private(Negro) Owner: Mary Toney. Graves: 89. Elevation of lowest corner 588. Location: Photo 478-69 at SE corner of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec. 2, T6S, R2W, or at the NE corner of NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 11, T6S, R2W.
- Name: Fennel Cemetery, (White) Owner: William G. Jordan. Graves: 32. Elevation of lowest corner 595. Location: Photo 471-31 in the SE corner of Sec. 17, T7S, R3E.
- Name: Black Cemetery, (White) Owner: E. P. Couch. Graves: 11. Elevation of lowest corner 588. Location: Photo 475-28 in the W 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Sec. 21, T6S, R1E.
- Name: Public(White) Owner: J.P. Couch. Graves: 175. Elevation of lowest corner 625. Location: Photo 475-79 in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 6, T7S, R2E.
- Name: Wiggins Cemetery, (White) Owner: J.R. Stevens. Graves: 16. Elevation of lowest corner 570. Location: Photo 479-98 in the SE corner of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 5, T6S, R2W.
- Name: Cloud Cemetery, (White) Owner: C.A. Cloud. Graves: 47. Elevation of lowest corner 575. Location: Photo 474-31 in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26, T6S, R1E.