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Department of Archives and Manuscripts

Gee's Bend Project **Papers and Photographs, 1930s, 1979-1980**

Background/ Scope and Content:

Gee's Bend, Alabama is a unique African American community situated within a deep bend of the Alabama River in Wilcox County. With no bridges and for many years no ferry service, the river serves as a natural barrier to contact with more populous sections of Alabama's Black Belt region. The county seat at Camden, though only five miles directly across the river from Gee's Bend, can only be reached on land by driving forty miles. Not until the late 1960s was the road in and out of the community paved. Life in Gee's Bend remained unchanged and relatively free of outside influences for decades.

Joseph Gee, a planter from North Carolina, first settled the area now known as Gee's Bend in the early 1800s. Other planters followed, including Mark Pettway, who arrived in 1846 with more than one hundred slaves. More than half the residents of Gee's Bend today bear the Pettway surname. Following the Civil War and emancipation, many former slaves remained in the Bend, choosing to work as tenant farmers. During the Great Depression of the 1930s the federal government purchased large tracts of land from bankrupt white landowners. This land was divided into forty-acre units, with a house and barn, and sold to black residents. Many of the frame houses and barns built during this Farm Security Administration project still dot the landscape.

Life in Gee's Bend began to change after World War II. Military service and wartime employment exposed residents to a life vastly different to that of the past. A dam built on the Alabama River in the 1960s flooded acres of the community's farmland. Other factors, like the closing of the community's school and the impact of radio and television, threatened the fragile interdependence of the residents of the bend.

Realizing the impact of such change and the potential loss of a unique way of life, in 1980 the Birmingham Public Library Archives undertook a project to document the history of the Gee's Bend community. The results of that project are included in this collection: oral history interviews conducted with residents in 1979 and 1980 by Alabama author and folklorist Kathryn Tucker Windham; photographs taken at the same time by Alabama photographer John Reese; and photographs and audio recordings made in the 1930s by photographers working for the U. S. Farm Security Administration. The Windham interviews and Reese photos were funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In 1994, an exhibit entitled *Looking Back at Gee's Bend: The Photographs of John Reese, 1980* was displayed at the Birmingham Public Library. Between 1994 and 2009, the exhibit traveled to several additional locations, including the DuSadle Museum of African American History (Chicago, Illinois); The Sloan Museum (Flint, Michigan); St. Joseph Historical Foundation (Durham, North Carolina); Butler Institute of American Art (Youngstown,

Ohio); Afro-American Cultural Center (Charlotte, North Carolina); and Old Alabama Town (Montgomery, Alabama); and Troy University—Dothan (Dothan, Alabama).

In the decades since the Birmingham Public Library first worked to document Gee's Bend, the community and its quilt makers have become an international phenomenon, featured in museum exhibitions, numerous books and documentary films, a stage play and in at least one novel.

Subject Areas:

African American artists – Alabama – Wilcox County.
African American quilts – Alabama – Wilcox County.
African American women – Alabama – Wilcox County.
Agriculture – Alabama – Wilcox County.
Food habits – Alabama – Wilcox County.
Quilts – Alabama – Wilcox County.

Size: 12 linear feet/foot (21 boxes)

Source: Gee's Bend Project (Birmingham Public Library Archives) and Library of Congress

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions.

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Interviews

398.1.1	Interview with Maggie Bennett (widow of Bunk Bennett (and Mary Etta Calhoun, Gee's Bend, Alabama) Date of Interview: November 13, 1979 Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham
398.1.2	Interview with Maggie Bennett & Nellie Irby Young Date of Interview: November 13, 1980, Gee's Bend, Alabama Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Maggie Bennett and Nellie Irby Young talk about growing up in Gee's Bend. They discuss farming (rice, peas, sweet potatoes, milk) and the government programs begun to help farmers in Gee's Bend. They discuss cooking techniques and food preparation including drying peas, growing cane, making syrup, and killing hogs. They explain how to make "Tom thumbs," collard greens, blood pudding, ash cake, and hog lard, and there is a long discussion about sweet potatoes. They speak about raising, slaughtering, cleaning, dressing, and cooking chickens. They discuss using food products to cure against sickness (lye soap). They discuss other types of domestic work including sewing (making dresses) and shopping.

Young speaks about her youth, going to school, playing games, and the moment when she "got religion" and how the experience related to becoming a member of the church.

Bennett describes at length birthing most of her seven children at home by herself.

398.1.3

Interview with Julian Brown (State Director, Farm Security Administration in the 1930s), Auburn, Alabama
Date of Interview: September 9, 1980
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

398.1.4

Interview with William Brown and Willie Pettway (with some speaking by Margaret Pettway)
Date of interview: July 9, 1980, Gee's Bend, Alabama
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Windham asks William Brown about how he came to Gee's Bend, his career as an agriculture teacher, and his appointment by the governmentally-funded program to improve agriculture and life in the rural South.

Brown speaks at length about the culture of Gee's Bend and residents' attitudes toward outsiders (like Brown), modern farming methods (like fertilizing and pesticides), and going to school versus working at home. He talks about how attitudes and traditions changed because of a new school building. He discusses the church, tithing, and playing sports.

He talks about his own education at Tuskegee as well as the program to take farmers from Gee's Bend to Tuskegee for a course in agriculture.

There is a long discussion with Brown and William Pettway about some of the trades of Gee's Bend, including weaving with government-provided looms and coffin making. Willie Pettway describes the original homes and families of Gee's Bend (Pettway, Vandegraaff, Hargrove, Bully—white families whose slaves took their surnames).

398.1.5

Interview with Minder Coleman (with some speaking by Margaret Pettway and Nellie Young)
Date of Interview: November 13, 1979, Gee's Bend, Alabama
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Coleman and Windham discuss learning how to weave and the government-provided looms in Gee's Bend. They recall weaving a suit for the President of the United States and curtains for the White House. Coleman recalls the "Freedom Quilting Bee," which she says she began.

There is a very long discussion about how the government did or did not spend money on fixing people's homes in Gee's Bend. Coleman explains her beliefs about how the government programs, hurricanes, etc. are rewards or punishments from God.

They speak off and on about a Mr. Cammack, a governmental representative assigned to Gee's Bend. They talk about the government selling the land to "white folks" and making money off of the community.

Coleman briefly describes her youth, her family (Pettway and Branch), and her marriage. She talks about how she bought her house, how much she paid for the rent, her social security check, and her doctor's bills.

398.1.6

Interview with Minder Coleman, Interview 2
Date of Interview: March 24, 1980, Gee's Bend, AL
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Windham continues her interview with 76-year-old Coleman who speaks at length about her church (Pleasant Grove), her beliefs, her conversion experience, and her gift of "being able to tell folks things." Again, she discusses Mr. Cammack (the government project). She talks at length about her belief in God and God's punishment and her financial situation.

Coleman gives insight into her daily routine, her favorite foods

(chicken and greens, peas, stuffing, fish, soup), the foods she doesn't eat, and her children and grandchildren. She speaks about her garden, raising pigs and cows, her land, making quilts, and her home.

Coleman gives insight about her involvement with the march in Selma with Martin Luther King, Jr. and describes when King spoke at Gee's Bend. She talks a lot about the difficult time she had registering to vote.

398.1.7

Worship service at Friendship Baptist Church
Date of Service: November 16, 1980, Gee's Bend, Alabama
Recorded by: Kathryn Tucker Windham

This transcript is a recording of a worship service at Friendship Baptist Church in Gee's Bend, AL. It records singing, scripture reading, speaking from the congregation, praying, and a sermon. The most interesting thing in this file are words to hymns (some seem to be ad-libbed) and full dialogue by people in the congregation who get up to speak as they are motivated.

398.1.8

Interview with Raymond Hall, Co-op Operator, Gee's Bend
1948-52
Date of Interview: February 7, 1980, Camden Alabama
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

This interview with Raymond Hall describes in detail the ferry that crossed the river from Camden to Gee's Bend. He talks about people in the community, specifically the black leadership. There is significant discussion about the co-op.

They have a long discussion about superstitions of the older folks, about inbreeding among some of the older families, and about quilting and canning projects. They talk about an incident in which some black-owned farms were taken away by the land owners because tenants could not pay their rent, which caused tension between the white and black communities.

398.1.9

Interview with Nettles Ivey (County Supervisor, Farm Security Administration),
Date of Interview: November 13, 1980, Camden, Alabama
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

398.1.10

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Bill (W.J.) Jones
Date of Interview: June 24, 1980, Oak Hill, Alabama

Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

The Joneses discuss an incident (1930s) when absentee land owners came to Gee's Bend. Because some of the renters could not afford to pay their rent for several months, the landowners (absentee owners mainly from Tuscaloosa) took nearly everything they had (animals, farm equipment, corn, etc...) and people began to starve. The Joneses, a family from Oak Hill, explain how they helped the residents of Gee's Bend and express their distress at the conditions in which people were forced to live.

The Joneses explain that things improved slightly when the WPA and the Red Cross came to the area. They talk about some of the governmental intervention (programs) that helped to improve Gee's Bend. They discuss the people who lived in and around Gee's Bend at the time and those who came to work on the government projects.

398.1.11

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Hargrove Kennedy
Date of Interview: July 30, 1980, Gee's Bend, AL
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Williams

Mr. Kennedy speaks generally about Mr. VandeGraff (who owned much of the property at Gee's Bend) and his family and people who worked on his farm.

They talk about the community and the church and Mrs. Kennedy sings a hymn for the interviewer. They talk about farming, their first home, and her cooking stove. This leads to a discussion about how they made hoecakes and ash cake.

They talk about quilting and look at some of the quilts Mrs. Kennedy made.

There is a long discussion about work and finding work and how difficult times were in the 30s.

They talk a big about a "Burial Society" in Gee's Bend where members pay dues and then when one dies, they are buried and the surviving family members helped.

398.1.12

Nettie Kennedy singing.

398.1.13

Interview with Dr. Renwick Kennedy (and Mrs. Kennedy)
Date of Interview: June 23, 1980, Camden, Alabama
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Dr. Kennedy of Camden discusses his relationship with the people of Gee's Bend, mainly the landowners (VandeGaaff, Cammack), and their business in Gee's Bend.

He gives some detail about the Gee's Bend Project. He describes how the government built the houses and other buildings and the community and was supposed to take over ownership of these places over time, but the buildings reverted back to government ownership. He mentions Mr. Street, the black county agent, and Dr. Pierce, who opened up the first black school after the government project started. He speaks about the isolation of Gee's Bend and the ferry.

Dr. Kennedy gives some history of Gee's Bend and the original Gees, who eventually sold their property and slaves to the Pettways and moved to Arkansas in the 1840s. The Kennedys tell the story of when the Rentz family came into Gee's Bend and took residents' possessions, food, livestock, etc. because of the large debt residents owed. They also mention some about the other landowners in the area (Pettway, Hargrove Vandegraaff).

They discuss Dr. Kennedy's articles he wrote about Gee's Bend, which appeared in journals including the *Christian Century*.

398.1.14

Interview with Braxton LeCroy

Date of Interview: September 30, 1980, Camden, Alabama

Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Mr. LeCroy speaks about the Farm Security Project Manager at Gee's Bend in the 1940s, William A. Cammack. He speaks about the "project" and how residents would eventually own their property through a 40-year lease with the government.

LeCroy recalls the people of Gee's Bend, their superstitions, ducation, and way of life. He talks at length about the residents of Gee's Bend buying their farms from the government and about mortgages and making payments. He recalls when the project began, the government project managers, and the reaction of the community to the project. There is some discussion about the Barrett-Holman Lumber Company and the timber industry in the area. He describes the co-op, particularly the government-provided gin and canning machines, and the people Mr. LeCroy had contact with in Gee's Bend.

This interview is particularly interesting because LeCroy goes into

great detail about the different families of Gee's Bend (Ottaways, Pettways, Haynes', Bendoff/Bendolph, Benning) and their relationships to one another.

398.1.15

Interview with Edgar Mooney
Date of Interview: June 25, 1980, Gee's Bend, Alabama
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

This interview is with a man who lived in Gee's Bend in 1937 when the government project began. He talks about going to school for only three months out of the year and describes growing up in Gee's Bend as "miserable."

He also discusses the residents of Gee's Bend getting "broken up" (Land owners/merchants to whom residents owed money came into Gee's Bend and took all of the people's belongings/livestock/food as payment.). He speaks about working for the ferry and on the river on various projects. He gives insightful commentary on how the place changed once the government intervened. Life improved significantly according to Mr. Mooney.

398.1.16

Interview with Lulu Palmer (WPA nursery school supervisor
Date of Interview: May 19, 1980, Montgomery, Alabama
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

398.1.17

Interview with Arie A. Pettway
Date of Interview: July 30, 1980, Gee's Bend, Al
Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Arie Pettway discusses the government project and the manner in which the government built the buildings (homes and barns) on each lot.

Pettway gives great insight into the types of food and cooking techniques she and her contemporaries used in Gee's Bend. She describes how to cook "Tom thumbs," collard greens, "chitlins," black eyed peas and "cracklins." She identifies who were the best cooks in the community and why.

The most interesting thing in this interview is her explanation of where the Gee's Bend quilters got ideas for designing quilts: from patterns they saw in the newspapers. She goes into detail about making quilts.

398.1.18

Funeral Services of Deacon Birden Pettway

Date of Services: March 12, 1981; Pleasant Grove Baptist Church,
Gee's Bend, AL
Recorded by: Kathryn Tucker Windham

This is the recorded funeral service of Deacon Birden Pettway. It includes speaking about the deceased by friends and family, hymns, and prayers, and a sermon by the minister.

398.2.1

Interview with Clint Pettway

Date of Interview: September 25, 1980, Gee's Bend, AL

Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Clint Pettway explains his relationships to the other Pettways of Gee's Bend. He discusses the Hargroves and VandeGraaffs, and the government project. He talks about when Mr. Rentz and his wife (landowners) seized their tenant's possessions (most of Gee's Bend). He talks about medical problems (Diabetes) and the doctors he has seen and knows. He talks about joining the church later in life, which evolves into a long discussion about the church, God, visions, and being a "witness" or a "preacher."

Mr. Pettway ends by speaking more about his family and his grandfather, who lived to be 120 years old and was one of the original slaves in Gee's Bend (came from NC and was a "Johnson" whose name was changed to Pettway).

398.2.2

Interview with Indiana Pettway

Date of Interview: May 1980, Gee's Bend, AL

Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Indiana Pettway provides many details about domestic life, and women's life in particular, in Gee's Bend in the mid-20th century. She describes the houses (particularly the kitchens) where her family and others lived before the government built new housing in Gee's Bend. She describes raising food (hogs, chickens, corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts, peas), domestic chores (washing clothes, working in fields with children in tow, gardening, cooking), and the domestic roles of women and men. She talks about recreational activities like playing games and fishing. She talks about raising chickens, dealing with snakes eating their chicken's eggs, and cooking over an open fireplace. She provides a long and animated description of completing all of her chores while in labor with one of her children.

She speaks at length about families in Gee's Bend who helped each other raise children and bury children and shared food during

very difficult times.

Pettway recalls Christmastime and her family's traditions at home and at church. She talks at length about God, her faith, and her vision in the woods that made her a member of the church.

398.2.3

Interview with Lucy Pettway

Date of Interview: April 24, 1980, Gee's Bend, AL

Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Lucy Pettway speaks at length about her home, domestic chores such as cooking, and being without money.

Pettway discusses growing peas, peanuts, and corn (there is a long discussion about peanuts and peanut varieties). She talks about cooking on a stove versus cooking in the fire. She recalls working in the fields with her father, brothers, and sisters (milking cows, churning butter, killing hogs, rendering lard, and preparing cracklins). They have a conversation about sugar cane, ribbon cane, and sorghum.

They talk about some typical diseases (chicken pox, mumps, whooping cough) and remedies (special tea, sardine rub, Epsom salts).

Pettway describes games she played as a kid (picking and eating mulberries, hide and seek, skin the cat) and holidays like the Fourth of July.

Pettway talks a little bit about going to school for a few months out of the year and what she carried for lunch.

398.2.4

Interview with Margaret Ann Pettway and China Pettway

Date of Interview: October 18, 1980; Gee's Bend, AL

Interviewer: Kathryn Tucker Windham

Margaret Ann Pettway and China Pettway recall growing up in Gee's Bend. They describe taking care of their siblings, what they ate for dinner (collard greens, corn bread, salt pork, biscuits, and peas, hoe cakes, sweet potatoes, buttermilk, cabbage, and rice), playing games ("catch a doodler," "knocking rings," "jump the plank," "easy saw").

She talks about going to work in the field to pick cotton at 12 or 13 years old. She explains in detail the process of picking cotton, how early they'd get up to do it, how much they'd pick, etc...

She talks about how important singing and praying was to them when they were working and sings a little for Windham.

China joins them and they talk more about working in the fields, lunch breaks and taking naps on their cotton sacks in the shade, picking cotton barefooted, drinking water from springs, and eating watermelons.

They recall the “rolling store”: a man from Camden would bring a mobile store to Gee’s Bend and sell chickens, white potatoes, meal, and sugar; “The Raleigh Man,” who sold different kinds of salve, ointments, shampoos, etc; and the “ice cream man” who sold buttermilk, juice, eggs, whole milk, pure butter, and ice cream.

Photographs: Alberta, Alabama

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398.8.7 Maylene Bennett.
398.8.8 Maylene Bennett.
398.8.9 Maylene Bennett.
398.8.10 Maylene Bennett.
398.8.11 Rev. Bennett with grandson.
398.8.12 Rev. Bennett with grandson.
398.8.13 Rev. Bennett with son, Zeb.
398.8.14 Rev. Bennett with son, Zeb.

398.8.15 Zeb Bennett.

398.8.16 Zeb. Bennett.

398.8.17 Zeb Bennett.

398.8.18 Brown and Brown's store.

398.8.19 Brown and Kathryn Windham at Brown's store.

398.8.20 Brown and Kathryn Windham at Brown's store.

398.8.21 Mary Etta Calhoun.

398.8.22 Mary Etta Calhoun.

398.8.23 Minder Coleman.

398.8.24 Ben Irby.

398.8.25 Ben Irby.

398.8.26 Ben Irby.

398.8.27 Ben Irby.

398.8.28 Ben Irby.

398.8.29 Ben Irby.

398.8.30 Hargrove Kennedy.

398.8.31 Hargrove Kennedy.

398.8.32 Hargrove Kennedy.

398.8.33 Rev. Edgar Mooney.

398.8.34 Amos Pettway.

398.8.35 Amos Pettway.

398.8.36 Barry Pettway.

398.8.37 Eddie Pettway.

398.8.38 Eddie Pettway.
398.8.39 Ethel Mae Pettway.
398.8.40 Indiana Pettway.
398.8.41 Indiana Pettway.
398.8.42 Indiana Pettway.
398.8.43 Lucy Pettway.
398.8.44 Lucy Pettway.
398.8.45 Lucy Pettway.
398.8.46 Lucy Pettway.
398.8.47 Lucy Pettway.
398.8.48 Lucy Pettway.
398.8.49 Lucy Pettway and Kathryn Windham.
398.8.50 Lucy Pettway and Kathryn Windham.
398.8.51 Lucy Pettway and Kathryn Windham.
398.8.52 Mama Lu Pettway.
398.8.53 Margaret Pettway.
398.8.54 Margaret Pettway.
398.8.55 Martha Jane Pettway.
398.8.56 Martha Jane Pettway.
398.8.57 Monroe and Roman Pettway.
398.8.58 Monroe Pettway.
398.8.59 Nathan Pettway.
398.8.60 Parzie Pettway.

398.8.61	Penula Pettway.
398.8.62	Reuben Pettway.
398.8.63	Roger Pettway.
398.8.64	Roger Pettway.
398.8.65	Roger Pettway.
398.8.66	Roman Pettway.
398.8.67	Roman Pettway.
398.8.68	Rev. Spurling Pettway.
398.8.69	Rev. Spurling Pettway.
398.8.70	Rev. Spurling and Indiana Pettway.
398.8.71	Golsby and Mattie Ross.
398.8.72	Golsby and Mattie Ross.
398.8.73	Mattie Ross.
398.8.74	Mattie Ross.
398.8.75	Mattie Ross.
398.8.76	Mattie Ross
398.8.77	Mattie Ross
398.8.78	Mattie Ross
398.8.79	Magaline Wilson
398.8.80	Magaline Wilson

Miscellaneous Activities

398.8.81	Lucy Pettway teaching quilting
398.8.82	Lucy Pettway teaching quilting
398.8.83	Lucy Pettway teaching quilting
398.8.84	Lucy Pettway teaching quilting
398.8.85	Arie Pettway quilting
398.8.86	Arie Pettway quilting
398.8.87	Arie Pettway quilting
398.8.88	Arie Pettway quilting
398.8.89	Arie Pettway quilting
398.8.90	Cleaning carp
398.8.91	Cleaning carp
398.8.92	Zeb Bennett's lounge
398.8.93	Zeb Bennett's lounge
398.8.94	Zeb Bennett's lounge
398.8.95	Zeb Bennett's lounge
398.8.96	Zeb Bennett's lounge
398.8.97	Zeb Bennett's lounge
398.8.98	Zeb Bennett's lounge
398.8.99	Zeb Bennett's lounge
398.8.100	Perkins Pettway – stonemason
398.8.101	Perkins Pettway – stonemason
398.8.102	Perkins Pettway – stonemason
398.8.103	Amos Pettway with brush broom

Baptism

398.9.1	Pre-baptism prayer
398.9.2	Pre-baptism instruction
398.9.3	Ride to the river
398.9.4	Ride to the river
398.9.5	Pre-baptism rite
398.9.6	Pre-baptism rite
398.9.7	Pre-baptism rite
398.9.8	Pre-baptism rite
398.9.9	Rev. Perkins and Deacon John entering the water
398.9.10	Baptism rite
398.9.11	Baptism rite
398.9.12	Baptism rite
398.9.13	Baptism rite
398.9.14	Baptism rite
398.9.15	Baptism rite
398.9.16	Baptism rite
398.9.17	Baptism rite
398.9.18	Baptism rite
398.9.19	Baptism rite
398.9.20	Congregation at the site
398.9.21	Congregation at the site

398.9.22	Coming out of the water
398.9.23	Coming out of the water
398.9.24	Coming out of the water
398.9.25	Coming out of the water
398.9.26	Coming out of the water
398.9.27	“Intermission”
398.9.28	“Intermission”
398.9.29	“Intermission”
398.9.30	“Intermission”
398.9.31	“Intermission”
398.9.32	Back to the church
398.9.33	Back to the church
398.9.34	The congregation
398.9.35	New Christians and sponsors gather
398.9.36	The entry
398.9.37	Rev. Perkins welcomes new Christians
398.9.38	Presenting the offering
398.9.39	The choir
398.9.40	The choir
398.9.41	The choir
398.9.42	“Got religion”
398.9.43	Rev. Perkins
398.9.44	Barry and Yancey Pettway

398.9.45	Deacons bench
398.9.46	Counting the offerings
398.9.47	Sleeping baby
398.9.48	“Mother”
398.9.49	“The Hat”
398.9.50	“The Hat”
398.9.51	Rev. Perkins’ prayer

Farm Security Administration Photographs

Note: During the course of this project, 2 collections of photographs were found that were made by the FSA photographers in the late 1930s and early 1940s. These are photos that are not part of the collection held by the Library of Congress.

Wilcox County Courthouse Collection

398.9.52	Men working on building
398.9.53	Man working on wooden frame
398.9.54	Lumber shed
398.9.55	Woman pumping water
398.9.56	Woman canning vegetables
398.9.57	Woman stirring iron pot
398.9.58	Man and woman shelling peas
398.9.59	Group shelling peas
398.9.60	Woman standing by china cabinet
398.9.61	Children standing on porch
398.9.62	Group posing near house

398.9.63	Family on porch
398.9.64	Family posing in front of home
398.9.65	Woman cooking in fireplace
398.9.66	Woman walking with water bucket
398.9.67	Woman with bundle on head
398.9.68	“Bath time”
398.9.69	Men plowing field
398.9.70	Man repairing plow
398.9.71	Blacksmith

Roman Pettway Collection

(These photos apparently were given to Pettway by an FSA photographer who considered them rejects.)

398.9.72	Band rehearsal
398.9.73	Band rehearsal
398.9.74	Group of teenagers
398.9.75	Two women fishing
398.9.76	Baptism
398.9.77	Woman standing in flowers
398.9.78	Woman in pantry
398.9.79	Woman canning
398.9.80	Two women admiring canned product
398.9.81	Woman adjusting pressure cooker
398.9.82	Two girls sewing

398.9.83	Girls at school
398.9.84	Girls at school
398.9.85	Man on mule outside barn
398.9.86	People outside building (church?)
398.9.87	Checking corn crops
398.9.88	Checking crops
398.9.89	Man checking livestock
398.9.90	Livestock
398.9.91	Man at the well
398.9.92	Man with horse and mule
398.9.93	Woman drawing water from stream
398.9.94	Man at hen house
398.9.95	Woman with children at fireplace
398.9.96	Man on mule-driven buggy
398.9.97	Man and woman picking beans off vines
398.9.98	House
398.9.99	Man coming out of shed
398.9.100	Family outside of home
398.9.101	People outside of home
398.9.102	Doctor performing procedure on patient
398.9.103	Making the bed
398.9.104	Doctor examining young boy
398.9.105	Doctor administering ether on patient

- 398.9.106 People standing on porch
- 398.9.107 Nurse tending to patients

FSA Photographs from the Collection of the Library of Congress

FSA photographers made at least two trips to Gee's Bend – Arthur Rothstein in 1937 and Marion Post-Woolcott in 1939. For the most part, photos taken at these two times document conditions in Gee's Bend before (1937) and after (1939) the government's building project there.

- 398.10.1 Man plowing a field
- 398.10.2 Man plowing a field
- 398.10.3 Tending the crops
- 398.10.4 Tending the crops
- 398.10.5 Tending the crops
- 398.10.6 Woman feeding livestock
- 398.10.7 Farming and gardening
- 398.10.8 Two kids with vegetables from the field
- 398.10.9 Children plowing field
- 398.10.10 Feeding the livestock
- 398.10.11 Farming and gardening
- 398.10.12 Farming and gardening
- 398.10.13 Farming and gardening
- 398.10.14 Farming and gardening
- 398.10.15 Cable ferry between Gee's Bend and Camden

398.10.16 Cable ferry between Gee's Bend and Camden
398.10.17 Cable ferry between Gee's Bend and Camden
398.10.18 Cable ferry between Gee's Bend and Camden
398.10.19 Cable ferry between Gee's Bend and Camden
398.10.20 Cable ferry between Gee's Bend and Camden
398.10.21 Cable ferry between Gee's Bend and Camden
398.10.22 Cable ferry between Gee's Bend and Camden
398.10.23 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.24 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.25 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.26 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.27 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.28 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.29 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.30 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.31 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.32 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.33 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.34 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.35 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.36 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.37 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.38 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.39 Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill

398.10.40	Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.41	Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.42	Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.43	Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.43a	Project co-op, cotton gin and grist mill
398.10.44	School
398.10.45	School
398.10.46	School
398.10.47	School
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398.10.75	School
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398.10.80	School
398.10.81	School
398.10.82	School
398.10.83	School
398.10.84	School

398.10.85	School
398.10.86	Clinic
398.10.87	Clinic
398.10.88	Clinic
398.10.89	Clinic
398.10.90	Clinic
398.10.91	Clinic
398.10.92	Clinic
398.10.93	Clinic
398.10.94	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.95	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.96	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.97	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.98	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.99	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.100	Miscellaneous structures
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398.10.116	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.117	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.118	Miscellaneous structures
398.10.119	Miscellaneous structures
398.11.1	Miscellaneous people (some are identified on back of photo)
398.11.2	Miscellaneous people (some are identified on back of photo)
398.11.3	Miscellaneous people (some are identified on back of photo)
398.11.4	Miscellaneous people (some are identified on back of photo)
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398.11.11	Miscellaneous people (some are identified on back of photo)

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398.11.40	Miscellaneous people (some are identified on back of photo)
398.11.41	Miscellaneous people (some are identified on back of photo)
398.11.42	Miscellaneous photos – source unknown
398.11.43	Miscellaneous photos – source unknown
398.11.44	Miscellaneous photos – source unknown
398.11.45	Miscellaneous photos – source unknown
398.11.46	Miscellaneous photos – source unknown
398.11.47	Miscellaneous photos – source unknown
398.11.48	Miscellaneous photos – source unknown

Tape Recordings from the Library of Congress

(Tapes recorded in Gee's Bend in 1941 by Robert Sonkin – from the Archives of American Folk Song)

398.11.49 through 398.11.53

398.12.1 through 398.12.7

398.13.1 through 398.13.13

(Note: Copies of recordings on cassette tapes are in Box 15)

“They Call it Gee’s Bend”

Narrative history of Gee’s Bend written by Alabama folklorist Kathryn Windham.

398.14.1 Manuscript

398.14.2 Notes

Background Material on Gee’s Bend

398.14.3 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1978-1980

398.14.4 Articles written by Renwick Kennedy:
“Life at Gee’s Bend”. Christian Century, September 1, 1937.
“Life Goes on at Gee’s Bend”. Christian Century, December 14, 1938.

398.14.5 Helping Alabama’s Needy Farmers Toward Security: An Outline of the Program to Assist Tenants, Sharecroppers and Other Low Income Rural Families to Become Self-Supporting and Independent. USDA, Farm Security Administration. 1939.

398.14.6 Up From the Bottom: A Rehabilitation Program Pays Off at Gee’s Bend. Extension Division Bulletin #108. Charlottesville, VA., June, 1949.

398.14.7 Outline of research by Olive Stone, 1942-1944

398.14.8 Miscellaneous news articles, 1937-1949

398.14.9 Miscellaneous news articles, 1968-1979

398.14.10 News articles relating to busing, 1972-1980