

Sarah Butler: Way of Life along Vinta Mill Road

SB: We had inside water, I think, but we didn't have electric heat for a long time.

ECS: That seems like that would be the difficult part, keeping warm.

SB: We had a fireplace, when we first moved there, and we would burn, I think we burned coal, coal in that fireplace. Then, we, after, after that, we got a kerosene heater, big heater, you know, that had a blower on it, that was, that helped a lot. And then our, you know, we didn't have washing machines and all that like we do now. We had one of those old wringer types. I had, we had an out building and my washing machine was out there.

Sarah Butler: Cotton Picking Vacations

SB: My Daddy farmed and he had a farm, and he raised cotton and all that. In the, in the fall, you know, school at Elkton would turn out, for cotton picking. Well, Daddy had a lot of cotton, so I would take the children and we'd go down there and stay several days at a time, and help pick cotton.

ECS: So, in the Giles County School system, they had a cotton picking vacation.

SB: Vacation. We would go to Daddy's and help, help him with his cotton.

ECS: How long would the, how long would it last, the vacation.

SB: Several weeks.

CB: Two weeks.

SB: Two weeks, I believe. Well, Christie, she didn't like cotton picking. I didn't like it either, but I always had to do it. And I, I didn't have, it was just three of us, you know, I had two brothers, and it was just three of us. So, Christie didn't like to pick cotton. She said, she made up her mind when she was in the cotton patch, she wasn't going to do that all her life. [laughter]

ECS: Well, what did she end up doing?

SB: Well, she, when she finished school, she went to college.

ECS: And became.

SB: A teacher.

ECS: A teacher. I was going to say, during the cotton picking time, was it done by hand or were there.

SB: Oh, yes, we had to wear a sack, you know, put around your neck, a big old long sack back here, and you picked cotton and put it in this sack, until you'd get a sack full, then you'd go weigh up, and go pick again. I didn't like it either.

Sarah Butler: Family Recreation at Vinta Mill

CB: That's where we spent a lot of leisure time, was at Vinta Mill Dam.

SB: Now, we used to go to Vinta Mill, and carry the kids over there a lot, you know, they could.

CB: Swim and get up under the water and fish.

SB: Matt would fish and they would play in the water. That was a past time.

ECS: That was recreation for the community, then, to go over there, as you say, and fish and swim.

CB: And it's closed now.

SB: My husband used to, he liked to fish, and you know, they used to fish in the creeks, and get in the boat and go down the, and I used to take the kids when they was little, and

I'd get in the boat with him and go down the creek with him when he'd be fishing, and I couldn't swim a lick, and had kids in there with me.