

Keith Smith
320 North Pine Street
Foley, AL 36535

April 7, 2014

Dear Mayor and Council,

I hope this note finds you doing well. I am working to try to finish a product, and I need help to do so. In the early 1970s, my dad, Lester Smith, started researching scores and players of former Foley football teams. He would go to the Onlooker and borrow newspaper volumes to take home to find more information about the origins of our football program. As I got older, I would read the articles as well and help him in searching for great games and moments in school history. In 1986, I started writing former players and coaches to gather more information. We were able to correspond with and interview Thurston Adams, Foley coach from 1928-1930, on several occasions. In 1993, I conducted a two-hour interview with Jip Howell about his recollections of Foley High School during the six years that he played from 1931 to 1936.

I set the work aside for a number of years, as I got more and more busy with teaching and coaching. Around 2007, Coach Watson and the Booster Club asked me to write a summary of the football history. Writing a brief blurb about each team and some great moments quickly turned into 17 pages and that got me thinking of writing a book on the subject. Over the last several years, Rusty Pigott and I have conducted numerous interviews in person and by phone and have collected some great stories. Recently, I have been gathering more write-ups from the newspapers of our opponents' hometowns through the state archives in Montgomery. I have also gone back through Onlooker articles to gather information about the start of Foley Schools and the start of the town of Foley. I propose to write a volume on the history of Foley football and Foley Schools through 1954.

There are a lot of great stories that need to be told but I do not have the funds personally to publish this volume. My wife has been a stay at home mom for the past nine years. I am grateful that she has been able to do that but it has made it tough financially to make it from month to month. I have spent a lot of money that I don't have on this project and I certainly do not have the funds to pay for the printing of this book myself. I need financial help to make this dream a reality.

I thought with the Centennial of our town coming up in January that this project might be of interest to the City as another slice of the pie in telling the story of Foley. I do not know of any other events in our local history that have drawn crowds in our town like Friday night football has over the years. I think people would find it interesting to read about how it all began. I have a lot of work to do on it but with financial backing I think I could get it completed by January.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith L. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Keith".

Keith