

DOCUMENT 3: THE DEPRESSION IN RURAL AREAS

The collapse of the economy in 1929 happened at the same time as a drought that affected Americans who lived on farms. As a

result of the Depression, these Americans were also in need of help. In addition, before the New Deal, few rural areas had electric

power. The following letters were written to President Franklin D. Roosevelt or his wife, Eleanor.



Floyd Burroughs and Tenge children, Hale County, Alabama.

Credit: Walker Evans (summer 1936)
Source: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection, [LC-USF3301-031306-M5 DLC]

To the President of the U.S.A.
Washing D.C.

Dear President I am writing you to let you know we are a family in Need. and are not getting the proper attention. I am a widow left without any thang. I have a boy who was hurt in school he is cripple. We are left with[out] support of any kind we are on the relief but the people here want give us any thang. we cant get any fuel Nothing a long food line they won't give us any consideration at all. Just give us a little money not enough to buy food. Some weeks we don't have anything to get food. My children need every thang to wear. Money is so short I would appreciate all the help I can get I have four children three boys and on girl and havnt a home

[Anonymous]
Parsons Kansas

Source: McElvaine, pp.76-77

November 24, 1935

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I will take the most pleasure in writing to you. I am writing to see if you have any cloths that you could give me. I live in the country and I haven't got enough money to buy for my family and I need a coat if you have an old coat or swetar you can give me. I will be glad to get them. We have had a lot of bad luck. We are on one of the rehabilitation farms and we have made some food this year. We have just been on it one year and are still going to stay on it. I think it is grand and I appreciate every thing the president has done for us. If you have a picture of yourself and Mr. Roosevelt please send me one for I sure do want one. I am wishing the president the best of health and good luck and also you. if you have any thing you can give me please sent it to me.

Sincerely
Mrs. J.N.T.
Athens, Ga