

FDR and REA:
Bringing Light and Power to Rural America

Sophia Alleman
Senior Division
Individual Documentary
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One of my favorite topics from history class was FDR and his New Deal. I began further researching the New Deal for a potential History Day topic. I discovered the Rural Electrification Administration and was surprised to discover the obstacles created by the private electric utility companies. Through the REA, FDR broke down barriers to power our farms. I felt that FDR and the REA were the perfect fit for History Day this year.

I began my research by searching the internet and visiting the library. I requested all of the books that I could from public and college libraries. I spent the day at the State Library of Ohio, which houses government documents, and scanned many REA publications. I also found many useful historic newspaper articles using the PROQUEST database. Through email, I corresponded with FDR's Presidential Library and received several important resources, including audio and transcripts of speeches. I conducted an interview via Zoom with Jeffrey Urbin, Education Specialist at the FDR Library, which helped me to gain further insight into the importance of FDR and REA. I used a clip from this interview in my documentary.

I chose to do an individual documentary because I thought it would be the best way to showcase the topic of rural electrification. I gathered images from REA publications as well as the Library of Congress, and historic newspapers. I checked out a video, *Power and the Land*, which was made by the REA and portrayed daily life for a rural family in Ohio without electricity in the early 1930s. The video goes through the process of how a REA coop is formed. I used a few clips from this video, some of the family on the farm, as well as a map showing American farms lighting up from 1935-1940.

My documentary about the REA is a perfect fit for the theme because FDR broke the barriers to rural electrification, bringing light and power to millions of rural families. Private utility companies neglected the rural market for decades, and once FDR formed the REA, the

companies actively fought to destroy their efforts. Despite these companies being a barrier, the REA brought down the cost of electricity by redesigning meters, transformers, and conductors. The REA also brought down the rates for electricity and the cost for appliances. By buying items in bulk, the REA received group purchasing discounts and passed on these savings directly to the farmers. By electrifying farms, the REA was able to assist in the war effort by producing more food to feed the country and the troops. They also eased the burden on the wives and children of the rural farmers who went off to war.

FDR and the REA helped to restore the social and economic inequities for rural America, which was not an easy task. FDR's leadership and vision were imperative in order to create a program to address rural neglect as well as to overcome the barriers put in place by the private utility companies.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

"4,247 More Farms To Get Electricity: Rea Approves Loans Totaling \$1,274,084 For Building 1,125 Miles Of Lines. Six Public Entities Aided Areas To Be Served Are Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio, Texas, Iowa And Nebraska." *New York Times*, Nov 05, 1935.
<https://search.proquest.com/docview/101311207?accountid=1075>.

This article discusses the progress of the REA as loans were awarded to coops in several states. These loans gave many farms electricity for the first time.

Ager, Milton, "Happy Days Are Here Again," by Ben Selvin & His Orchestra, recorded 1930, track 5 on Happy Days Are Here Again (Authentic Recordings 1930): Salt and Pepper, Spotify. Accessed March 17, 2020. Spotify:album:4QwjeqGso8DQbEhvb6rALn.
I used this song in my documentary. I chose this song because it was FDR's campaign song for his 1932 campaign, and it expresses the positive feelings of success of the REA.

"Alabama Power Co. Loses Fight On Rea: Federal Court Refuses To Forbid Loans To Cooperative For Building Lines." *New York Times*, Oct 08, 1937.
<https://search.proquest.com/docview/102355693?accountid=1075>.

This article discusses one of the examples of the legal battles between the private utility companies and the REA coops. In Alabama, the court battle went from local to state to federal court. This article reveals how large the barriers were that the electric companies created to try to block the efforts of the REA. I used this article in my documentary.

"Appliance Cuts by REA Expected to Spur Sales." *New York Times*, Mar 19, 1939.
<https://search.proquest.com/docview/102990031?accountid=1075>.

This article discusses the REA's ability to cut the cost of appliances, to make them more affordable to farmers.

Beall, Lester. *Here It Comes Rural Electrification Administration*. n.d. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010650609/>
Lester Beall was a graphic designer who was commissioned to create several promotional posters for the REA. I used this image of a Beall poster of an REA lineman in my documentary.

Beall, Lester. *Light - Rural Electrification Administration*. n.d. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010646236/>
I used this image of a Beall light poster in my documentary.

Beall, Lester. *Now I'm Satisfied Rural Electrification Administration*. n.d. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010650602/>
I used this image of a Beall REA poster of a woman sewing by lamplight in my Documentary.

Beall, Lester. *Our Lines Rural Electrification Administration*. n.d. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010650611/>
I used this image of a Beall REA of people standing together in my documentary.

Beall, Lester. *Power on the Farm Rural Electrification Administration*. n.d. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010650606/>
I used this image of a Beall REA power of a farmer in my documentary.

Beall, Lester. *Power for Defense Rural Electrification Administration*. n.d. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/93509005/>
I used this image of a Beall REA poster of a B-17 bomber and searchlight tower in my documentary.

Beall, Lester. *When I Think Back Rural Electrification Administration*. n.d. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010650608/>
I used this image of a Beall REA poster of a man with a radio in my documentary.

Coye, David Cushman, ed. *Electric Power on the Farm : The Story of Electricity, Its Usefulness on Farms, and the Movement to Electrify Rural America*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O., 1936.

This REA publication discusses the benefits of rural electrification. I used several images from this source, which I accessed from the State Library of Ohio, in my documentary.

"Crops 43% Larger than in Last War." *New York Times*, Aug 31, 1943.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/106510311?accountid=1075>.

This article reports that rural farms produced 43% more crops for WWII than they did for WWI. This is a direct benefit of the progress made by the REA, which directly benefited both farmers and the nation as a whole. I used this article in my documentary.

Delano, Jack. Negro Tenant Farmer's House Showing REA (Rural Electrification Administration) Electric Meter on Wall. Greene County, Georgia. May 1941. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017794691/>

I used this image of a meter on a tenant farmhouse in my documentary. The power of the REA is that they provided electricity to even poor farmers, who were neglected for decades by the private utility companies.

Dure, Jr., Leon. "Electric Rates Vary Widely; Washington among Lowest: District Enjoys Favorable Domestic Price; in most Large Cities Municipal Services Provide Low Cost. Electric Rates Differ Widely." *The Washington Post*, Feb 04, 1935.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/150693184?accountid=1075>.

This article described electric rates varying widely before the REA began to work to bring electricity in a more even fashion for rural America. I used this article in my documentary.

"Farmer Gets Chance to Prove Worth of Electric Gadgets: Virginian to Fight Flies, Milk Cows, Shell Corn and Incubate Chickens with Appliances donated by Manufacturers Association." *The Washington Post*, Jun 22, 1936.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/150862348?accountid=1075>.

This article discusses the economic benefits felt by farmers after having their farms electrified. The REA greatly improved the standards of living for rural Americans.

FDR Campaigning En Route to Warm Springs, Georgia Shaking Hands with Farmer C.M. Camp, October 23, 1932. October 23, 1932. Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, New York. Accessed March 7, 2020.

<https://fdrlibrary.tumblr.com/post/175341971119/its-national-handshake-day-franklin-roosevelt>

I used this image of a FDR handshake in my documentary to show his commitment to helping farmers.

"Federal Loans Will Finance Rural Power: Rural Power to be Financed with 3% Loans U.S. also to Advance Funds to Farmers for Appliances." *The Washington Post*, Jul 11, 1935. <https://search.proquest.com/docview/150644556?accountid=1075>.

This article reports that the REA will issue loans for rural electrification. I used this article in my documentary.

Garde, Chester. *Scuse Me, Buddy, Is This the Bread-line or a Run on a Bank?* January 1931. Modern American History, Baruch College, CUNY.

<https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/his1005fall2010/2010/10/28/bread-line-or-bank-run/>

I used this Great Depression political cartoon in my documentary. This cartoon reveals the state of the economy when FDR took office as president.

Harris & Ewing. *FDR Franklin Delano Roosevelt- radio broadcast*. United States, n.d. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2022. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016894434/>

I used this photograph of President Roosevelt giving a radio broadcast from the White House in my documentary for each time I used an audio clip from FDR's radio broadcast given to the farmers.

Highsmith, Carol M. *The "Little White House" in Warm Springs, Georgia, the Town in Which Franklin Roosevelt Sought Treatment for Polio in 1924, Nine Years Before He Became U.S. President*. November 1, 2017. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017884136/>

I used this photograph of FDR's cottage in Warm Springs, Georgia in my documentary.

Historic American Buildings Survey. *Springwood, Hyde Park, Dutchess County, NY*. 1933. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ny1240/>

I used this photograph of FDR's mansion in Hyde Park, New York in my documentary.

Ickes, Harold L. *Secret Diary of Harold L. Ickes*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1953.

Harold L. Ickes served as FDR's Secretary of the Interior for the entirety of FDR's presidency. In this book, Ickes discusses FDR's passion for rural electrification, and his work to ensure its success despite the attempts by the private electric utilities to crush his efforts.

Lange, Dorothea. *Destitute Pea Pickers in California. Mother of Seven Children. Age Thirty-two. Nipomo, California*. 1936. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/fsa.8b29516/>

I used this image, commonly referred to as *Migrant Mother*, in my documentary to represent the rural neglect faced by farmers and farm workers across the country.

Lange, Dorothea. *Rural Electrification. San Joaquin Valley, California*. November 1938. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017770971/>

I used this image of REA men on a REA pole in my documentary, taken by the notable photographer Dorothea Lange.

"Law 'Freezes' Utility Claims, REA Head Says: New Mexico 'Protection' Robs Farms of Power Carmody Aserts." *The Washington Post*, Jun 17, 1937.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/150800791?accountid=1075>.

This article discusses one of the examples of the legal battles between the private utility companies and the REA coops. New Mexico tried to block REA cooperatives from receiving power. This article indicates how large the barriers that the electric companies created for the REA. I used this article in my documentary.

"Norris Sees Fight To Block The REA: Nebraskan Charges Power Interests Attempt To Halt Rural Electrification." *New York Times*, Oct 29, 1936.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/101682619?accountid=1075>.

This article discusses the attempt in Nebraska by private utility companies to halt rural electrification. I used this article in my documentary.

Phelps, Thomas W. "Public Ownership to be Fostered in Work Relief Program: Rural Electrification Administration Will Give Second Place to Loan Application from Private Companies." *Wall Street Journal*, Jul 25, 1935.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/128764914?accountid=1075>.

This article reports on the farmers cooperatives that will drive rural electrification. I used this article in my documentary.

Power and the Land, directed by Joris Ivens (1940; Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1940).

This film, made by the REA, portrays an Ohio farm family without power, and the difficulties of farm and home work without electricity. The film was made to promote rural electrification by explaining the process of farmers forming coops and planning for power. I used several clips of the family in my documentary, as well as a clip of a farmers coop being formed, and the US map being lit up as farms were electrified from 1935 to 1940.

"Power Lobby is Accused of Blocking Bill: Grange Head Charges Representatives of Utilities Fighting Act to Permit Co-Operative Set-Ups." *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 25, 1939. <https://search.proquest.com/docview/515160370?accountid=1075>.

In this article, it was reported that The National Grange, a farming organization, worked to provide electricity to 13,000 remaining rural homes because the private utility companies were fighting to block REA coops. I used this article in my documentary.

"President Proud of Newest Gadget; Every Man His Own Meter Reader." *The Christian Science Monitor*, Oct 25, 1939.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/515400043?accountid=1075>.

This article discusses a newly designed electric meter that was half the cost as the original. FDR was very pleased with this development, and it indicates the effectiveness of the REA to drive down costs.

"REA Aiding Defense, 1941 Report Shows: Agency Also Added 230,878 New Consumers In Year." *New York Times*, Jan 30, 1942.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/106216473?accountid=1075>.

This article discusses the role that the REA played in war efforts, as well as its success in bringing electricity to more rural areas. I used this article in my documentary.

"REA Interference Charged." *Wall Street Journal*, May 04, 1937.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/129815570?accountid=1075>.

This article reports on the Senate asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the interference from private electric companies to rural electrification. I used this article in my documentary.

"REA Seeks Reduction in Prices to Farmers of Standard Appliances: Electrical, Plumbing Manufacturers Asked to Cooperate in Quantity Production of Items Seeks Appliance." *Wall Street Journal*, Jun 11, 1936.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/128856360?accountid=1075>.

This article reports how the REA sought to decrease the costs of appliances to farmers so that they could implement as many modern conveniences as possible.

"Roosevelt Forms Agency for Rural Electrical Works: R.E.A. Given Eminent Domain Right with Purchase of Plants Or Lines to Aid T.V.A. Held Possible Rural Electrification Started By Roosevelt". *Los Angeles Times*, May 12, 1935.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/163378676?accountid=1075>.

This article reports on FDR creating the REA. I used this article in my documentary.

Roosevelt, Franklin. "Address." August 11, 1938. Barnesville, Georgia. FDR Presidential Library.

FDR gave this speech where his home in Warm Springs is located, and he discussed how it was the birthplace of the REA because of the high rate charged for electricity for his small cottage compared to his Hyde Park estate in New York. I used an image of his handwritten first draft of the speech as well as text from the speech in my documentary.

Roosevelt, Franklin. "Radio Address to American Farm Dinners." March 8, 1940. Washington D.C. FDR Presidential Library.

I used several audio clips from this speech, in which FDR discusses the farm relief programs he used to address the social and economic inequities prevalent in rural America.

"Roosevelt Praises Rural Electricity: Sends Message To St. Louis Meeting Of Cooperatives' Association." *New York Times*, Jan 20, 1943.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/106542809?accountid=1075>

This article indicates FDR's continuous support of electrifying America's farms.

Rothstein, Arthur. *County Agent with Electric Waterpump Made Possible by Rural Electrification Administration. Grundy County, Iowa*. September 1939. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017778542/>

I used this image of a water pump in my documentary.

Rothstein, Arthur. *Dunklin County, Missouri. Son of a U.S. Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Cooperative Member at an Electric Refrigerator*. July 1942. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017835193/>

I used this image of a refrigerator with a boy and cat in my documentary.

Rothstein, Arthur. *Hayti, Missouri. Erecting a new pole on a U.S. Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Line*. July 1942. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017835068/>

I used this image of a pole being erected in my documentary.

Rothstein, Arthur. *Hayti, Missouri. Members of the U.S. Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Cooperative at the Annual Meeting*. July 1942. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017835090/>

I used this image of a REA coop meeting in my documentary.

Rothstein, Arthur. *Hayti, Missouri. U.S. Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Lineman Examining Transformers of a Substation*. July 1942. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017835072/>

I used this image of a REA lineman examining transformers in my documentary.

Rothstein, Arthur. *Wesby, Vernon County, Wisconsin. Eddie Saugstad and His Son, Teddy, Leaving the U.S. Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Cooperative*. August 1942. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Accessed February 22, 2020.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017834954/>

I used this image of a dad and his son leaving a Wisconsin REA coop office in my documentary.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Electric Power on the Farm: The Story of Electricity, its Usefulness on Farms, and the Movement to Electrify Rural America*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1936.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication explained REA services to potential farmers. I used several important images and photographs from the publication in my documentary, most importantly the line drawings of a house with electricity and without electricity.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Electricity Comes to Rural America*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1945.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication reviews the success of the REA and highlights the usefulness of rural electrification for potential customers.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Electricity for the Farm through REA*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1940.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication explained REA services to potential farmers, describing how to form coops and the process of planning for and obtaining electricity. I used an image from the publication in my documentary.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Electrifying Your Farm and Home*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1936.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication explained REA services to potential farmers, and I used several images from the publication in my documentary.

Rural Electrification Administration. *A Guide for Members of REA Cooperatives*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication explained REA services by providing a question and answer section, as well as diagrams explaining how electricity can improve the quality of life and production on the farm.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Light and Power for the Farm: Plug in on REA Electricity*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1935.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication explained REA services to potential farmers, and I used an image from the publication in my documentary.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Profits from Farm Power*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1940.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication discussed the potential savings and equipment available to farmers through the use of electricity. I used several photographs from the publication in my documentary.

Rural Electrification Administration. *REA Electric Service at a Price the Farmer Can Afford*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1936.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication discussed the need for rural electrification, and compared the United States with other countries. I used several images from the publication in my documentary.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Report of Rural Electrification Administration*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This report detailed the progress of the REA in 1937, including the number of loans and coops and the barriers being faced from the private electric companies. I used images from the publication in my documentary.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Report of Rural Electrification Administration*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This report detailed the progress of the REA in 1938, including the number of loans and coops and the barriers being faced from the private electric companies. I used images from the publication in my documentary.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Rural Electrification News: A Summary of Rural Electrification Activities*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1935-1944.

I accessed these government documents from the State Library of Ohio. This monthly REA publication explained REA services to potential farmers and reported the successes and obstacles being faced by the REA. This publication also highlighted different REA cooperatives and their activities. I used many photographs, advertisements, covers from the newsletters, and images of articles in my documentary. The articles describing barriers faced by states were from these publications.

Rural Electrification Administration. *Rural Electrification on the March*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938.

I accessed this government document from the State Library of Ohio. This publication described the history of the REA, including the obstacles overcome to provide electricity to rural America. I used the cover of the publication in my documentary.

Slattery, Harry. *Rural America Lights Up*. Washington D.C.: National Home Library, Foundation 1940.

This book, written by the third REA Administrator, was one of my most important sources. Slattery discussed the history leading up to the REA, and went into detail about the inner-workings of the administration. Most interesting was the information about how the REA worked to bring down prices for the construction and building of rural lines, as well as how REA engineers worked to redesign transformers, meters, and farm | equipment to make electrification more affordable for farmers.

"Spiteline Tactic Laid to Utilities: Rea Chief Sends Protest to Bond and Share on Type of Rural Competition. Sees 'Anti-Social' Action Carmody Cites Western Colorado Company as Apparently Using 'Feudal' Methods." *New York Times*, Jun 24, 1938.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/102547840?accountid=1075>.

This article discussed efforts by private electric companies in Colorado to block efforts by the REA to electrify farms.

"Texts of Two Addresses made by President Roosevelt in Georgia: Barnesville Calls it REA Birthplace Wants "Unbalance" Righted Urges Critic to Give Substitute Halls State Cooperation State Primary is Cited Discards Tenure Argument Dictatorships Assailed Wants George as Friend Makes Plea for Camp Athens New School of Thought Appears Lack of Money Hit Schools States should Bear Burden." *New York Times*, Aug 12, 1938.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/102455713?accountid=1075>.

This article that reports on FDR's visit to Barnesville, Georgia where he gave a speech that described how he became an advocate for rural electrification. I used this article in my documentary.

"Unscrambling the Alphabet." *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 29, 1935.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/513771111?accountid=1075>.

This article has a listing of the New Deal programs, commonly referred to as alphabet soup. I used this article in my documentary.

"The Use of Electricity on Maryland and Virginia Farms shows Sharp Gain: REA Encourages Farms to use Power to Boost Income." *The Washington Post*, Feb 25, 1940.

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/151265480?accountid=1075>.

This article reports on REA efforts in Maryland and Virginia to electrify farms.

Secondary Sources

"The 1930s." Tennessee Valley Authority. n.d. Accessed March 1, 2020.

<https://www.tva.gov/About-TVA/Our-History/The-1930s>

I used an image of TVA workers in my documentary.

Albertson, Dean. *Roosevelt's Farmer: Claude R. Wickard in the New Deal*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1961.

This unauthorized biography of Claude R. Wickard, FDR's Secretary of Agriculture, discusses the importance of the REA and providing electricity, despite the opposition from private utility companies.

The Associated Press. "TVA Seeks Volunteers for Public Lands Day Events." Alabama Public Radio. September 23, 2013. Accessed March 1, 2020.

<https://www.apr.org/post/tva-seeks-volunteers-public-lands-day-events>

I used the Tennessee Valley Authority logo in my documentary.

Bachorz, Paul. "The Farms Issue." Niskayuna High School. 1996.

<http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/fdr/FDRfarmissues.html>

I used several political cartoons about FDR's farm program in my documentary.

Brown, Clayton D. *Electricity for Rural America: The Fight for the REA*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1980.

This book was very helpful in providing detailed information about the REA after 1940, as it related to WWII. This source discussed the obstacles faced by farmers and coops as private electric companies fought the REA and its efforts. Brown also discussed the historic perspective of rural electrification, and how Hoover and his administration were not in favor of government aid for electrification.

Brubeck, Dave, "Variations on Brother, Can You Spare a Dime," by Dave Brubeck, recorded 1994, track 4 on Just You, Just Me: Telarc International, Spotify. Accessed March 17, 2020. Spotify:album:0fZpLD5vBpya3smQHfztX2?highlight=spotify:track:7ChPXAz2jtwyKusUL6fthO.

I used this song as the soundtrack for the first part of my documentary. I chose this song because it was the anthem of the Great Depression and expresses the rural decay depicted in my documentary.

Carey, Liz. "Federal Efforts to Help Rural Hospitals Could Hurt Urban Ones, Opponents Say." The Daily Yonder. August 8, 2019. Accessed March 25, 2020.

<https://www.dailyyonder.com/federal-efforts-help-rural-hospitals-hurt-urban-ones-opponents-say/2019/06/25/>

This website article discusses the obstacles rural Americans face to receiving healthcare. I used a pictograph of rural hospitals and a rural advocate image in my documentary.

Four Freedoms Park Conservancy. Accessed February 8, 2020.

<https://www.fdrfourfreedomspark.org/blog/2015/4/7/forgotten-man>

I used several images from this website in my documentary. This site also provided me with information about the farm crisis and the impact of the New Deal and farm programs.

Fried, Albert. *FDR and His Enemies*. New York, NY: Palgrave for St. Martin's Griffin, 1999.

This book provided a background about FDR's political prowess and his opponents.

Ganzel, Bill. "A New Deal." Wessels Living History Farm. 2003. Accessed February 18, 2020.

https://livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/money_13.html

I used a political cartoon from this website about FDR's New Deal in my documentary.

Geraldino, Duarte. "COVID-19: Are Rural Hospitals Prepared for the Pandemic?" *WNYC*.

March 23, 2020. Podcast, 00:06:54. Accessed March 23, 2020.

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/segments/rural-hospitals-covid-19-coronavirus>

I used an audio clip from this podcast in my documentary. This story mentions rural electrification, as well as the current rural neglect in regards to access to broadband and health care.

Hanes, Sharon M. and Richard C. Hanes. *Great Depression and New Deal Almanac*. Farmington Hills, MI: The Gale Group, 2003.

This reference book provided a general overview of the REA, including information about FDR using rural electrification as part of his election platform, the importance of the TVA leading up to the REA, and the lasting importance of electrifying farms.

History.com, ed. "Dust Bowl." *History.com*. February 21, 2020. Accessed March 4, 2020.

<https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/dust-bowl>

This website article discussed economic impact of the Great Depression as well as the Dust Bowl on rural America. Also discussed were the measures FDR took to combat both soil erosion and rural neglect. I used an image from this website to portray farm decay in my documentary.

Hurt, R. Douglas. *Problems of Plenty: The American Farmer in the Twentieth Century*. Chicago, IL: Ivan R. Dee, 2002.

This book discusses the history of agriculture in America and it recognizes the REA as being the most important federal program for improving agriculture.

Johnson, Ben. "Farmers' Holiday Strike of 1932." Council Bluffs Public Library. November 6,

2018. Accessed February 20, 2020.

<https://www.councilbluffslibrary.org/blog/farmers-holiday-strike-of-1932/>

This website article provided me with a background on the state rural decay at the time that FDR became president.

Katz, Noah. *Abandoned Farm Barn*. Digital Image. Fine Arts America. April 4, 2019. Accessed March 4, 2020. <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/abandoned-farm-barn-noah-katz.html>
I used this image of a modern-day abandoned barn in my documentary to depict rural neglect occurring across rural America today.

Knopf, Taylor. "Lawmakers Look for Ways to Reduce Barriers to Rural Broadband." North Carolina Health News. May 1, 2019. Accessed March 19, 2020. <https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2019/05/01/lawmakers-look-for-ways-to-reduce-barriers-to-rural-broadband/>
This website article discusses the barriers to broadband faced in North Carolina rural communities. It is argued that broadband is an essential utility, and that the government should assist in bringing access to rural areas just like FDR and the REA did with electricity starting in the 1930s. The legacy of FDR and the REA are strong as modern day rural America faces barrier to modern necessities, and rural advocates and lawmakers are working to follow the model from the past to break barriers today.

Maksim. *Scandals Alphabet Soup*.

<https://thepeoplescube.com/peoples-blog/obama-scandals-alphabet-soup-t11264.html>

Accessed February 20, 2020.

I used this image of alphabet soup in my documentary.

McBride, Brandon. "Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration." U.S. Department of Agriculture. February 21, 2017. Accessed March 20, 2020. <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2016/05/20/celebrating-80th-anniversary-Rural-electrification-administration>

This website article reviews the successes of the REA and how it is being carried on today. I used an image of farmers coming together to electrify their farms in my documentary.

Nair, Kusum, George Ordish, Wayne D. Rasmussen, George Edwin Fussell, Kenneth Mellanby, Gary W. Crawford, and Alic William Gray. "Origins of Agriculture." Encyclopædia Britannica. February 4, 2020. Accessed February 8, 2020.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/agriculture/Electricity-in-agriculture>

This website article provided me with a background on the history of rural electrification in the United States as well as around the world.

Novak, Matt. "How the 1920s Thought Electricity Would Transform Farms Forever." Gizmodo. June 3, 2013. Accessed March 13, 2020.

<https://paleofuture.gizmodo.com/how-the-1920s-thought-electricity-would-transform-farms-510917940>

This website discusses the early history of rural electricity in America. The site discusses what farms could look like in the 1920s if they had electricity, with electric hay loaders, cultivators, and lights.

Pence, Richard A., ed. *The Next Greatest Thing: 50 Years of Rural Electrification in America*. Washington D.C.: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 1984.

This book provided me with a historical overview and a great visual depiction of the REA. I used several images from this book in my documentary.

Popeson, Pamela. "Lester Beall and the Rural Electrification Administration." Inside Out: A MoMa/MoMa PS1 Blog. March 22, 2012. Accessed February 22, 2020.

https://www.moma.org/explore/inside_out/2012/03/22/lester-beall-and-the-rural-electrification-administration/

This blog discusses the series of posters designed by Lester Beall for the REA. These posters helped to promote rural electrification efforts to improve the standard of living for farmers in the 1930s. Six of Beall's REA posters were shown at MoMA in November 1937, and another six in March 2012.

Rohatyn, Felix. *Bold Endeavors: How Our Government Built America, and Why It Must Rebuild Now*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2009.

This book discusses ten major innovative investments made by visionary leaders in our nation's past. One of the investments discussed is the Rural Electrification Administration. Rohatyn discusses the need for our current leaders to re-invest in our infrastructure. This book gave an insightful analysis of the REA and FDR's role in bringing electricity to America.

"Rural Communities." Speed Matters. n.d. Accessed March 25, 2020.

<https://speedmatters.org/speedmatters-2/rural-communities>

This website states that "high speed internet breaks down the barriers of distance of time, allowing residents of rural areas to participate in economic and civic life far beyond their geographic region." I also learned that cost is a big problem for rural Americans to access broadband, just like cost was a barrier to farmers getting electricity 100 years ago.

"Songs of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl Migrants." Library of Congress. n.d. Accessed February 20, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ih.200197402/>

This website article from the Library of Congress discussed music from the Great

Depression, and mentioned “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime” as one of the most popular songs from this time period. I decided to use a jazz variation of this song in my documentary.

Sparrow, Paul M. “FDR and the Dust Bowl.” *Forward with Roosevelt: The Blog of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum*. June 20, 2019. Accessed March 4, 2020. <https://fdr.blogs.archives.gov/2018/06/20/fdr-and-the-dust-bowl/>

This blog discussed how FDR handled the environmental disaster of the Dust Bowl by bringing together scientists, businesses, community leaders, and government policies to address the problem. The photograph, *Migrant Mother*, appears on this website, but I used the Library of Congress as the source for this image that appears in my documentary.

Urbin, Jeffrey. Zoom interview with the author. May 8, 2020.

I interviewed Jeffrey Urbin, Education Director at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY. I had been hoping to visit the library in the spring, but was unable to do so due to the pandemic. Mr. Urbin agreed to a virtual interview using Zoom. Mr. Urbin gave me a broad perspective on FDR and how he worked tirelessly to accomplish his vision for a better future despite serving as president during the Great Depression and World War II. Mr. Urbin also discussed how FDR did not allow the barriers put up by the private electric companies discourage him from achieving his goal. I used a clip from this interview in my documentary.

U.S.D.A. *Rural Lines: The Story of Cooperative Rural Electrification*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1974.

This publication provided me with information about the history of the REA, especially the barriers faced from private electric companies. I also learned about the process farmers took to form a cooperative and the work done to plan and implement electrical service for their farms.

Wheeler, W. Bruce. “Tennessee Valley Authority.” *Tennessee Encyclopedia*. March 7, 2018. Accessed March 4, 2010.

<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/tennessee-valley-authority/>

I learned more about the TVA from this website, and I also used several photographs in my documentary.

Woolner, David. “Rural Electrification Administration.” *Roosevelt Institute*. February 11, 2011. Accessed December 28, 2019.

<https://rooseveltinstitute.org/rural-electrification-administration/>

This is one of the first sources I used when I began preliminary research on the REA. This article described the significance of the REA.