

1.

ADRON DUFF  
UPPER BUFFALO  
OWSLEY COUNTY  
KENTUCKY  
OCTOBER 22, 1981

Dr. Garrett: I'll get that down on a tape and then I want you to just go and tell me what that rafting was like from the start of building a raft, how it was built, and what you did with them.

Adron Duff: You want me to tell my name first?

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, give me your name and who your folks were, and where you were born, and when, and all that.

Adron Duff: Well, my name is Adron Duff and my father was Logan Duff and my mother was a Baker, Mary Baker.

Dr. Garrett: Where was she from?

Adron Duff: She was borned on Indian Creek and, let's see, you want me to start....

Dr. Garrett: Tell me about your family. You have children? Who was your wife and so forth?

Adron Duff: My wife was Abner, Annie Abner and we raised five children, three sons and two daughters.

Dr. Garrett: Are any of them here now?

Adron Duff: I've got one son lives out here now, Harry Duff. The other two lives in Dayton and I have one daughter in Florida and one in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dr. Garrett: Has anyone ever come and made a tape of you before?

Adron Duff: No, never did.

Dr. Garrett: O. K. Now I want you to kinda tell me what this country was like when you were little; its big timber, and rafting and the type work and stuff you did.

Adron Duff: Now this old country when I was just a boy, we had no road. They was in the creeks, you know. They just followed the creeks, and it was all horse and buggy days. People all had horses and mules and they hauled these logs to the river on wagons...

Dr. Garrett: With mules or oxen or both?

Adron Duff: Well, both. They used both. They used oxen in the hills you know skidding the logs out of the hills and they used them on the road too.; and the big old log wagons. At that time the tires was about 4 inches wide on them. Big heavy wagons, you know. And they had to haul them to the river and they'd go and cut hickory poles and basket oak poles and split them open and.. and put on the end of them rafts and bore holes through them and make pins out of basket oak timber and tie down through there a raft of logs. In the front, they'd put a cross-piece across there and they made oars, about 36 and 40 foot long and put on each end of the raft you know. Hit was a rugged life.

Dr. Garrett: Now, the work. When did you make the raft up and how did you actually go about it? Did you have to be in the water putting them together?

Adron Duff: Well, you could put them on land and roll them agin each other and raft them and then when the tide would come it would pick them up, you know, and go on with them. You could raft them in the water, either way.

Dr. Garrett: Now you had to mix your logs. You had a lot of heavy logs and you had light logs.

Adron Duff: Yeah, we'd have to put poplars you know in order to float the heavy logs.

Dr. Garrett: How big a logs were you dealing with in those days?

Adron Duff: Oh, we'd have logs with 6 or 7 hundred feet in 'em, 7 or 8 hundred feet in 'em.

Dr. Garrett: How would that be in diameter? 6 feet or bigger?

Adron Duff: No, they run about, oh we had timber around 6 feet. Ah, 36 inches, 24 inches on down, 18 to 20 inches.

Dr. Garrett: How long a log did you raft?

Adron Duff: We cut 'em from 10, 12, 14, and 16 foot long.

Dr. Garrett: Now, how long would a raft be when you got it done?

Adron Duff: Well, they'd be, you could put 8,000 foot to a raft or 10,000, depends on how big your logs were, you know.

Dr. Garrett: Your raft might be 150 feet long.

Adron Duff: Oh, it'd be, oh Lord, 75 or 100 foot long. I'd say 100 feet long.

Dr. Garrett: Now, were you rafting out of the creeks here, or was this on the South Fork River?

Adron Duff: We had to take 'em to the river, raft 'em at the river.

Dr. Garrett: Did you live on Buffalo at the time?

Adron Duff: Oh, yeah.

Dr. Garrett: So you made up the raft maybe at the mouth of Buffalo?

Adron Duff: That's where we'd make the raft, at the mouth of Buffalo.

Dr. Garrett: Now what happened when you got that raft made up? How did you get it out of here?

Adron Duff: Well, they'd come to the house and wait for a tide to come in the river, you know, and take 'em down this river on a big tide. The last un I went out on, the water was out in the field. We had too big a TIDE TO TURN loose on. We tied three of them together, 3 big rafts, and went out on them. They was 9 men on them 3 rafts. And we got down to the mouth of Lower Buffalo. The rivers was out in the field and they was a sycamore tree. I guess it was 60 inches in diameter and they thought we'd hit slack water and the tide was going out over the top of the slack water, and they sat down all but 2 of us and let us hit that tree.

Dr. Garrett: What happened?

Adron Duff: I'm atelling you the logs rolled. They tore them rafts up and they were standing on their ends. 3 or 4 in pieces. That was the nastiest outfit ever you seen.

Dr. Garrett: Did you get hurt on that?

Adron Duff: Nobody got dented but boy was it close.

Dr. Garrett: That was a kind of common thing to happen, wasn't it, to break up?

Adron Duff: There was me and another guy that got out on three logs. Drifted into the bushes and they was some more pieces coming in on us and I told him you get that tree. There was some sycamore trees there and we went out on them trees and these pieces just dropped, knocked the 3 logs out from under us and just went on and left us sticking there on them trees.

Dr. Garrett: Now what happened then? Did you recover those logs? Did you recover those parts of the rafts or did you just lose them?

Adron Duff: Well, they lost a lot of that you know, but they was about there above the Beattyville Bridge and they drifted down there. They pushed 'em in and tied them up, what was left. And then me and this guy must have been 30 or 40 feet out in the river in the bushes, you know.

Dr. Garrett: Was it pretty rough from here down to Booneville? Was it rough around Booneville, and so forth? Where were your bad stretches of water?

Adron Duff: Oh, all them curves, you know, was mean to get around. You had to know just the shape to put your raft in.

Dr. Garrett: When you left a big creek like Island Creek, if that was running heavy and running into the river, what did that do to a raft? Did it shove you out of a mainstream or did it have any effect on you?

Adron Duff: That was what now?

Dr. Garrett: When one of the big creeks like Island Creek or Indian Creek....

Adron Duff: Now they all had to bring their logs to the river.

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, but I mean when that water, when you went down in a raft say by the mouth of Sexton's Creek, what did that Sexton's Creek running do to you? Shove you around a bit?

Adron Duff: See, the back water goes up them creeks and kills part of the creeks you know. There's all these curves. You've got to know just how to put your raft in there to get around you know.

Dr. Garrett: Yeah. Now who was the boss on a raft. Bow man or stern man?



Adron Duff: Well, we always had a what you call a steer man, you know. A man that knowed how to do it. We just about all knowed how to do that, you know.

Dr. Garrett: You'd done it often. How often did you go out for a year?

Adron Duff: Oh, I follered that for years. I don't know how many.

Dr. Garrett: What, 15 or 20 times a winter?

Adron Duff: Well, I left here 25 I guess. Ten or twelve years I follered that business, maybe fifteen. But now I never did go out any further than the mouth of Buffalo. That narrers business was something else.

Dr. Garrett: Was that pretty rough up there?

Adron Duff: Oh, my God alive. That...When you got in there you wasn't nothing to do only just try to hold on to the raft. They'd bore a hole and put a pin down in there to hold to and they was ways they'd be in the water waist deep you know. Them rafts goes through them waves.

Dr. Garrett: The water was THAT ROUGH?

Adron Duff: You had to get in there just right. If you didn't you was ahurting. We had an old feller up there by the name of Allen. What was his name? River Jim Allen. He had a certain place above the narrers he'd get on and put them rafts through for them fellers and down below the black hole they had a place where he'd get off and he'd go back and put another raft through for them. He knowed just how to do it.

Dr. Garrett: What was the black pool?

Adron Duff: The black pool right below the narrers. They call a big hole of water there. It's awful deep.

Dr. Garrett: Is that down near New Found?

Adron Duff: It's awful deep water there into the narrers there.

Dr. Garrett: He'd take them through the narrows.

Adron Duff: Oh, he'd put 'em through the narrers. He'd go through with them, you know. And he'd get off down there and go back and bring another raft through. If you didn't get in just right you was hurting. And he knowed just how to do it.

Dr. Garrett: Did the water have to be awful high to come through the narrows with all those rocks?

Adron Duff: Well, yeah, they had to be several foot of water in the rivers to get through you know, shoals and everything.

Dr. Garrett: They went through there pretty fast didn't they?

Adron Duff: Oh, yeah. That Indian Creek shoal is about the steepest shoal we've got on the South Fork, down at the mouth of Indian Creek.

Dr. Garrett: Was that a problem to get across?

Adron Duff: No, no trouble. It's just a little steeper shoal than any of the others we've got.

Dr. Garrett: You were in snow and ice and everything else weren't you going down?

Adron Duff: Yeah.

Dr. Garrett: How did you stay on the raft when it got slick? Was that pretty rugged duty to stay on them?

Adron Duff: No, it wasn't no trouble to stay on 'em from here down more than just to keep your raft where it needed to be.

Dr. Garrett: You tied up every night?

Adron Duff: Oh yeah, we'd always tie up at Beattyville you know. They's one time that little Dave Bishop and my brother and myself, we dropped one out of the mouth of Buffalo. It's a little shallow there down below the mouth of the creek. It's what they call the Bishop Bend and in order to get started the next morning we pulled in and my brother jumped out on the steep bank. They was a big big beech standing there to tie the raft up to and he threwed his cable around there and it uprooted with him. There went Henry, cable and all and the tree in the river. They called it the tickle pin what they hung the oak on, and that had broke. And Henry had on a pair of gum boots and he was a trying to get ahold of the oar and I looked back and could see that he couldn't do that and I hollered for Dave and said reach him that oar Dave. He had started to the bank then. Dave raised the oar up and he got ahold and got back up on the raft and he came pretty near cutting his hand off with that cable. We drifted on around and little Dave got around that oar with his arms and held it and let Henry paddle the raft in and we hopped out down there and tied the raft around a stump there that was down there. They had cut a tree down. We tied up around that tree. But that was a pretty close call on Henry in them heavy clothes and gum boots in the water.

Dr. Garrett: What were your heavy logs? What did you use for floaters and what did you call your sinkers? What type of timber mainly did you take out? and how did you mix it on the raft? Like oak and beech and all that stuff. That was heavy, wasn't it?

Adron Duff: There was beech and sugar tree, that's called hard maple you know and red oak, and white oak, poplar, ash, lind, all that kind of stuff.

Dr. Garrett: Did you use your lind and your poplar, your light stuff to float the oak? Did rafts ever sink?

Adron Duff: Yeah, you take a.....I went down on one, one time that was....we got out of it but hit was heavy in the water all the way down. Hit was hickory. That's something else that was heavy.. and that chestnut oak, tha's awfully heavy timber. Oh, it was a real good life.

Dr. Garrett: It sure must have been. Were you raised on Buffalo?

Adron Duff: No, I'se borned on the head of Indian Creek. Dad scattered around. I'se raised on Indian Creek and different places. Lived at Oneida when I was 6 year old. That's where I went to my first school. We had an old feller by the name of Professor Burns and he told me how to spell my name. I spell it Adron. He said it was a big A little dron, was the proper way to spell that name. I don't know where that name come from. It sounds like an Indian name or something. I don't know.

Dr. Garrett: I guess it's more of an English name really, Adron, I think. You don't remember how many times you would go out in a year. You'd go out on every tide maybe and you got paid real well didn't you?

Adron Duff: No, we didn't get paid too much money.

Dr. Garrett: About \$2.00 a day in those days?

Adron Duff: Let me tell you about all of our timber that went out of here. Our poplar timber was 40, 50, and 60 inches in diameter. Way back in my dad's younger days they had to cut that; go back to the hill and cut and take the bark off off of it; haul it out of the hills and take it to Frankfort and they got \$9.00 a thousand for it delivered at Frankfort. \$9.00. Now what did them poor men make?

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, they didn't make much. Most of the men I've talked to told me they got like \$5.00 or \$6.00 to go from here up on this country to Beattyville and then they had to walk back. For three days, they got \$5.00.

Adron Duff: Yeah, something like that. We always had to walk from Beattyville you know. I've walked from Beattyville in here many, many times.

Dr. Garrett: The roads in here weren't much in those days were they?

Adron Duff: Back in those older days, I was telling you about, they could get a train over at Lexington. They could get a hack over to Richmond and from Richmond they walked on into the head of these rivers from Richmond.

Dr. Garrett: That's when they took them down to Frankfort?

Adron Duff: Yeah, now them four guys would go down there with a raft of 10,000 feet in it of that big fine poplar and come back with \$90.00.

Dr. Garrett: They furnished the trees and got it there for \$90.00.

Adron Duff: Whilst the feeding of the cattle and the horses, and all that work.....

Dr. Garrett: Took a chance of getting killed every day didn't they? How long did it take to fall with an axe and crosscut saw, how long did it take to cut a five foot big tree, two or three hours?

Adron Duff: It didn't take too long to saw the end of a log off that way. I couldn't say., 15 or 20 minutes maybe.

Dr. Garrett: How did the mules and the oxen compare in their ability to work? Was a mule better than an ox or vice versa? Which was best the oxen or the mules, when you come to dealing with logs?

Adron Duff: Well, oxen was awfully slow. Mules would get around them a dozen times but that old ox was pretty, you could do some hauling with them.

Dr. Garrett: I remember when I was a boy, I used to see these 5 or 6 yokes of oxen come hauling wagons through Booneville on the way to Upper Buffalo with oil rigging. They were slow but they were powerful.

Adron Duff: Yeah, I've worked them many days. I've worked oxen.

Dr. Garrett: When you were a little boy and you farmed up here what kind of yield did you get on your corn? Did you make much on it? Did you make 25 bushels to an acre or more? or did you get that much?

Adron Duff: Well, I don't know. These new grounds...They cleared new ground you know and they raised big corn. Them new ground put out corn.

Dr. Garrett: The trouble is that in 2 or 3 years they washed away, didn't they?

Adron Duff: Oh, they'd clear these hillsides off and plant them and everything. They just wash off. The land would, yeah.

Dr. Garrett: Actually it got so that raising corn in this country, the yield got pretty low, didn't it?

Adron Duff: They didn't have no fertilize or nothing like that in them days. It was just, they go in these into that new ground on these hills and clear it out. Go in these with a weeding hoe and dig that in and tend it with a hoe.

Dr. Garrett: Of course, you had to raise 90% of what you used then didn't you. Stores weren't that close and you didn't have the money to buy it. One thing I've run into is that a lot of these people tell me how much maple sugar they used to make.

Adron Duff: Sugar?

Dr. Garrett: Sugar, maple sugar. Did you all do a lot of that sugaring up here?

Adron Duff: That's that hard, hard maple sugar tree we were talking about. Did you ever eat any of it?

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, did they make a lot of it here in Buffalo, up in this country?

Adron Duff: No. Not in no big way, they never did. Ike Peters on Indian Creek, he made more of that then any man I knowed of. He had some sugar trees, I guess they were 50 inches. Theys awfully big, and I forget how amny he had of them; and every spring he'd, he had an evaporator like making molasses, and he'd make that sugar. It was the best sugar in the world, I reckon.

Dr. Garrett: When you were on the river, were there a lot of rafts on the river at one time?

Adron Duff: Yeah, yeah.

Dr. Garrett: Just one right after another when the tide went out?

Adron Duff: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Dr. Garrett: That went on for 50 years....didn't it?

Adron Duff: Yeah, oh yeah.

Dr. Garrett: Did many men get drowned or killed on rafts?

Adron Duff: Yeah, they was a ....., this happened on the Middle Fork. They was some boys got drowned and the last they seed of him, he waved his hand; they seed his hand. That's the last they seed of the boy. They had a fellow of the name of Elihu Reynolds. They was out on that flood we had, the one I was telling you about when we hit the tree. Elihu Reynolds his mother was a Gabbard, a sister Preacher Ike. You remember Preacher Ike, and he hit a tree there just above Booneville, and went out. He went out on that tree and they was some boys, railroad boys. They rescued him with a boat. They went to him with a boat and got him out. Got him offen that tree.

Dr. Garrett: Did you have any troubles getting around those bends at Booneville or the bends there at Meadow Creek and then below Booneville where the big cliffs were, the bends down there? Did that area give you any trouble?

Adron Duff: No, not too much. Right in below Booneville was a pretty stiff curve. It was on the left going down.

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, that's what we called the big bend there.

Adron Duff: Yeah, a pretty stiff curve. On this side of the town hill, there at the foot of town hill on this side, was another pretty stiff curve.

Dr. Garrett: That was the mouth of Meadow Creek. Yeah. Why then you logged in the winter. You did your logging in the early fall and then got ready to run out in the winter or when did they do their logging mainly?

Adron Duff: Well, we always figured on tides in February. You'd always, back in them days, get about 3 tides in February and through March. In the spring was when we planned on running our tides. In June we'd always have a little dragout in June. you know, because that's when we take our ties out. We always figured on a little, we'd get one every June, a little tide.

Dr. Garrett: You took your ties out? Now tell me about that. You hewed or sawed your ties up here.

Adron Duff: Yeah, they was made you know. We sawed ties too and you'd put them on, use No. 40 nails to tie them together with.

Dr. Garrett: Like a raft?

Adron Duff: Yeah, it was a raft.....

Dr. Garrett: How deep did you put them? Would you stack them one on another?

Adron Duff: Oh no, you just put them side by side just like your logs.

Dr. Garrett: Then you'd float that down.

Adron Duff: Yeah, then you had your oars and everything. I was on one one time. I went out, the boys hit slack water above Beattyville that part from Lower Buffalo. I turned them back and I was 7 hours agoing from there to Beattyville. That's how fast that slack water was agoing. And at 11 o'clock in the night I tied that raft up above that bridge there at beattyville. 11 o'clock at night. That was the longest hours I ever spent in my life.

Dr. Garrett: I'll bet. No Lights?

Adron Duff: Nobody....I could hear people sing and playing organs along the river road. Hills you know. I'd pick me out a tree and see how fast I was agoing and boy you can't hardly tell you was amoving.

Dr. Garrett: Must have been that the main Kentucky River was high, backing up backwater.

Adron Duff: Yeah, boy when you hit that slack water you didn;t need no help you know.

Dr. Garrett: Was there a lot of fish in the river and the creek when you were young?

Adron Duff: Oh, yeah.

Dr. Garrett: What kind and how big werethey?

Adron Duff: Big fish come up in this creek.

Dr. Garrett: This creek was big at that time wasn't it?



Adron Duff: Yeah, we had fish. You could get a mess of fish anytime you wanted to. Down there just below the creek there was a fellow named Sam Abner. There was a big fish come up and his back was asticking up out of the water and boy he just run away with him. He would have been a big one. Down there just above the river one day we was out agigging you know, and that brother of mine, they was alaying there and he throwed a chunk of wood. Oh, he must have been 3 or 4 foot long. He just pecked him with his gig and away he went and that was the last we seed of him.

Dr. Garrett: You had wild turkeys up here too didn't you?

Adron Duff: Anymore, they put rotenone in up here. They got to putting that rotenone on in and I'm atelling you they destroyed our fish. We'll never get them back.

Dr. Garrett: No, and there's so much sewage and garbage in the streams anymore.

Adron Duff: We got a hole of water up here they call the Pandy Hole. It's a deep hole of water and they went in above that and poured it in there.

Dr. Garrett: Poisoned the fish?

Adron Duff: I'm telling you. Big, long bass. They'd come out on the banks. They'd leave the water and come out on the banks and die...you know, on the banks.

Dr. Garrett: Someone just poisoned them for the.....

Adron Duff: Yeah, that rotenone , they put it in and they couldn't live in it. We had our grand-daughter here at that time and she came in with her little dress tail full of them big long bass.

Dr. Garrett: You know, that's funny. I didn't know they used it here. I was in the Marine Corps. during World War II. I was in Samoa and the natives down there would take what Rotenone was made from and they would pound it up in banana leaves and they would go out on the reefs and dive down right under a head of coral and they would open that up and these fish in just a couple of minutes all the fish under these would float belly up and they pick out the fish they wanted for eating and would leave the rest and shortly most of them would come back and and float away. I never heard of them using it here. That's the reason I knew it would do it because I'd seen it done down there and they would go under a great big coral head like a mushroom and there'd be 500 fish float with their belly up from this size to a good size one and they'd pick out all they wanted. They weren't poisonous or anything AND THEY'D eat them. Now you had wild hogs up here too. They were just regular hogs thatw ent wild weren't they?



Adron Duff: Yeah, just turn 'em out and they'd go wild. Wasn't no herd law then. This country was full of hogs. I know one man, I don't know if I'm right or not, sent in 400 or brought in here. Had Morris Daniel take care of them. Then the cholera got among 'em. They lost an awful lot of them hogs. Yeah, those hogs would live on that mast you know, got fat on mast.

Dr. Garrett: Did your family come in here way back into this country. Were there Indians in here when they came in?

Adron Duff: No, no. Our forefather that came in here, Baker. I'm half Baker, you know my mother was a Baker. His name was Randy and he settled under this cliff down here that you come under where that is, across from where that house is burnt. That's where he settled. He come out of North Carolina and settled under that cliff in 1770 and he had three sons, Bob, Jack, and Andy, and they lived from along down here up the mouth of what they call Gable I'd say. One of them was buried up there and these three sons was all nicknamed. Bob he had to be boss wherever he's at so that they called him Boston Bob. You've heard of him I know. Jack, he messed everything up he done so they called him Mucker Jack and Andy, that'd be my great grandfather, they called him Andy Panda and this hole of water up here is the only thing I got to go by on that, the Pandy hole.

Dr. Garrett: Now this Boston Bob, that's not the Boston Bob Baker over in Clay County is it? Is that the same man? He was in the Civil War and so forth?

Adron Duff: Yeah, he's the man now that settled right here and back in them days it was all Clay County. You know this country. Jack, he raised his family on the head of the left hand fork they call Courtland, and Andy, my great grandfather, he when he left, he lived on Cow Creek.

Dr. Garrett: Did you ever hear about the time Boston Baker decided to fight the bulldog?

Adron Duff: Yeah

Dr. Garrett: Somebody was telling me about that. I'll bet it was really something.

Adron Duff: Yeah, they said he whipped the bulldog. He got him by the ear I guess and just eat his ear off.

Dr. Garrett: They said that bulldog never would fight again after that.

Adron Duff: He made his getaway.

Dr. Garrett: I didn't realize that was the same one. You know they have a Boston Baker day every year over in Jackson county. Jess Wilson, who is with the REA over there, had one about 6 or 8 weeks ago. They have that every year. You ought to go over there sometimes.

Adron Duff: He's a relation in there. He's been here.

Dr. Garrett: Fred Gabbard told me one time that the first two settlers in here were a fellow by the name of Abner and a fellow by the name of Baker and that there were three Indian families here on the creek and that they killed them all. So there isn't any problem on the land, but I ran into a Robertson over at Teges and he tells me that his great grandfather married one of those Indians and he was an eighth Indian from that.

Adron Duff: Whether they killed them or not this old man that settled here, my forefather, he killed one and buried him out by the side of his cabin and just dug a hole and put him in there; and later on my wife and daughter was around there; I had a mill on Indian Creek, and they was awaiting for me to come in and they built a road through there and cut into that grave and they found that grave, and then me and Wilse Gabbard, we raked the bones out. We linked up some of his  
(This side of tape runs out)

(Other side of tape continues)

He came over here and he wanted to see Wilse Gabbard and Wilse was back in here somewhere and I told him he was back here in these hills and I didn't know if he could find him or not. Finally he said, I wanted to find out where Randy Baker was buried. He said, "He was my great-great-grandfather". "Well", I said, "he just might be my great-great-grandfather". Well, that fixed things right there. I said that I knew the spot of ground he's buried on and I'll take you down and show you. I don't know just where the grave's at, but I know where he was buried. I taken him down there and showed him. Oh, we walked up a storm and he said I've had that old Mucker throwed to me all my life and I never did know where it come in and I told him about them all being nicknames and boy he set that down. Everything I told him, he wanted it in writing of course. He got it all.

Dr. Garrett: Could that have been Jess Wilson maybe?

Adron Duff: Yeah, and he's the one told me about his grandmother. She was a grand-daughter of Randy's and she lived to be about 100 and she'd set around and tell them all these big tales. She told them about him akillin this Indian and burying him aside, he said he built him a cabin back under this cliff and buried him down aside his cabin, that's how we knowed it was an Indian.

Dr. Garrett: There have been a few people killed on this creek in time haven't they?

Adron Duff: Oh, they have been peoples killed on this creek, yeah, yeah.

Dr. Garrett: It was sort of a loaded subject for along time wasn't it?

Adron Duff: There was three people killed at one time right out at the forks of the creek. That's when your uncle Gene was in here.

Dr. Garrett: Do you know anything about that. I've never been able to find out the story about that. Do you know the story? What happened?

Adron Duff: Well, I don't know. The Gabbards and the Rices was all in there confused someway. And they was waylaying one another. Had two or three different squads of men, you know. And how Gene got in on that, I don't know. He was teaching school at Lerosé here, at that time and what happened and got him in on that I never did know, unless they said something to his wife someway.

Dr. Garrett: How many were killed in that?

Adron Duff : Well, there was three killed there in that battle. Then later they waylaid Doc, that was Fred and Wilse's father. That was on the other fork of the creek and he was killed there. And then when Fred was elected principal down there, I guess that must have been back in '37, was that right?

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, way back.

Adron Duff: Over there at the election they was Sid, and Albert and Mose. They were three killed over there that day.

Dr. Garrett: Was that when I.S. McIntosh got into it with them?

Adron Duff: That was over on that other fork when that killing happened over there. When Albert shot Sid the boy opened fire on him you know. Swung the gun around and got him in the leg and it raised on him and he was afalling, that was all that saved him.

Dr. Garrett: Is Grover Gabbard still alive?

Adron Duff: No. no. Both them Grovers is gone. Yeah, they had Gover up for the killing of that, what's their name over there? And on the witness chair he got up from there in the witness chair and walked back to where they were sitting and passed away. You know in a way, he was a likeable man, Grover was. I liked Grover in a way. He was always nice to me.

Dr. Garrett: I used to know a lot of these people way back but I left here for all intents and purposes around 1941 when I went in the service and haven't been back in a long time so I've forgotten a lot of people. I remember names. There was an Abner Baker at one time that I knew from up here too. I thought that with an Abner Baker coming in they must have intermarried and had and must have been a descendant of the original people in here. This was apparently the first settlement in Owsley County. It was on Upper Buffalo.

Adron Duff: The Bakers and the Abners, the first settlers, yeah.

Dr. Garrett: Well, I guess I have taken up enough of your time. I didn't realize it was dinner time. My watch is not working today and I don't even know what time it is.

Adron Duff: I don't either. There's a clock in there, I don't know what time it is.

Dr. Garrett: I've got to get back to Fort Thomas tonight and I wanted to come up and talk to you. Dr. Clark at the University of Kentucky said one day he'd like to use some of my material to do a paper or book on rafting on the streams and since I was raised on the South Fork, I've been interested for forty years and trying to gather materials and these tape recorders didn't come on early enough but the old timers are about gone.

Adron Duff: Yeah, I know, I know.

Dr. Garrett: Did you ever know old man Granville Davidson who was raised over on the Frost Branch of Indian Creek? Moved to Oneida?

Adron Duff: Yeah

Dr. Garrett: I have some material from him. He rafted a lot from out of up here.

Adron Duff: Me and him was kinfolks.

Dr. Garrett: Those Davidson's are real fine people and boy everywhere you go up there it's Davidsons.

Adron Duff: Yeah, my grandmother was one of those Davidsons.

Dr. Garrett: Did you know my grandpa Stuart Moyers up at Milltown? Do you know where the Pleas Abshear mill was above Booneville?

Adron Duff: Who Was That?

Dr. Garrett: Stuart Moyers. Did you ever know Stuart Moyers who ran a store at South Fork, above Booneville at South Booneville or Turin, Milltown they called it?

Adron Duff: Moyers?

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, Stuart Moyers was my grand-daddy, run a store up there. You know Willard Campbell. His mother and my mother were sisters so they had 4 girls and 1 boy. Henry Campbell's wife was one of them, jEssie Seale, and then Mable married Oscar Judd on Buck Creek and Tom was the boy and he lived in Jackson County. You might have known them. You knew my dad George.

Adron Duff: Yeah, Lord yeah, I knowed George and all them boys.

Dr. Garrett: He died in 1950 and then Uncle Gene died, and I don't know if his wife was related to you or not. She was a Combs.

Adron Duff: She was a Combs. Now Harlan and those two girls...

Dr. Garrett: Julie and Gertie. Yeah.

Adron Duff: She was a pretty girl. Do you remember her?

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, I remember her quite well. She only died 3 or 4 years ago in Florida. She was about 90.

Adron Duff: She lived to be old, didn't she?

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, her sons are about 72 or 73 now. My brother used to come up here and so some medical work for Dr. Gibson when he was in medical school. He came up here once when there was some boys, were they Moseleys, got killed up here hunting and he killed two or three of them and shot a woman. I remember he rode up here to dig bullets out of them for the court. That was way back in the late '30s wasn't it? I think it was Moseleys, if I'm not mistaken.

Adron Duff: And Smiths too I guess. That happened I believe right across the head of Buffalo didn't it? They was ALL KIN FOLKS, FIRST COUSINS. I guess, yeah, I guess one of the Moseley aunts got killed. Was that right?

Dr. Garrett: Got shot in the face. Did you ever know my grand-daddy Wash Garrett who had a store over on Indian Creek?

Adron Duff: Wash Jarrett? I remember something about a Jarrett.

Dr. Garrett: Garrett, George Garrett's daddy. That was way, way back.

Adron Duff: That's getting way way back.

Dr. Garrett: He's about where Ricetown was.

Adron Duff: Eh. law, there's old Charlie Hogg and all them old people. I was just thinking today about the people since I've been in this old world the people that have passed away and gone.

Dr. Garrett: Yep, a lot of them. When I was a little boy, Charlie Hogg used to set in the courthouse yard and everytime us boys would go through he'd hook us with his cane and pull us over and give us a quarter. Everytime we'd go through there we'd have to fight. They'd always sick us on each other. All those loafers setting there. They couldn't stand two boys or two dogs going through the courthouse yard without a fight.

Adron Duff: He was at Beattyville one day getting his shoes shined and he was laying off deaf and dumb. They was some little colored boys there and they asked who he was and this fellow said it's Lawyer Hogg from Booneville and they looked straight at him and said he's a big son of a bitch aint he?

Dr. Garrett: My dad was in Lexington with Charlie Hogg once and Charlie was drinking. He was walking down the street reeling a little bit and a policeman come up to arrest him. He said you're drunk and you're going in. He said, no, I aint. So the policeman pulled out a pearl handled pistol and held it on him and said you're going in. Charlie says I got a pistol just like that and reached in and damned if he didn't have a pearl handled pistol and he pulls it out and points it at the policeman. Policeman holsters his gun and walks off. He didn't want to fool with Charlie.

Adron Duff: He was a tough old booger.

Dr. Garrett: He could have rough. He was. Big man....

Adron Duff: Ed, he....

Dr. Garrett: Was Ed a lawyer too?

Adron Duff: Yeah, he was a big lawyer.

Dr. Garrett: I don't remember Ed Hogg but I remember Charlie real well. I was a young kid then.

Adron Duff: He raised a bunch of children, Ed did. Charlie was never married.

Dr. Garrett: He married Prescovy somebody later when he got older. Remember he married Prescovy somebody from out in the county somewhere. Yeah and had a daughter named Earlene. That was way late. How old are you? I don't think you told me how old you are.

Adron Duff: 85

Dr. Garrett: I'm 62. Last time I was down here talking to some oldsters I went home and was laughing to myself and my wife said what are you laughing at and I said hell, I'm one of the oldsters anymore because I have been trying deliberately to get a lot of information together on Owsley County. I have gotten to know a little bit about it because one of these days when oldsters die out nobody will be able to tell them any of the interesting stories. And the kids today, hell, I talk to them and they don't know where Indian Creek is. In Booneville kinds can't tell you where Indian Creek is. And I think they are losing a lot. They'll come back to where they'll want to know but the reason I'm trying to do this is just to get the material together while I've got time to do it and am interested in it.

Adron Duff: Well, they's some things that ought to be done in different places. The mouth of the creek is just like it was 200 years ago. No roads, no way to get out and they's a patch of road up here between Gable on up to the head of the creek and there's another patch of road just like it was 200 years ago. Them poor people had to go through Buckhorn or Oneida to get into Booneville.

Dr. Garrett: Back in the '30s Lester Eversole and Little Ed Campbell and I drove an old Model A Ford up to Clay Hacker's place at Whoopflarea and that was about the first time a car had ever been up here. We met a boy pulling a sled down the road with a mule and his mother was in the sled and by God, she was scared of the car. I don't think she had ever seen one. Fact of the matter, my brother-in-law said, son, get out and help the boy get his mule by and the boy said, I can get the mule by, you help get maw by.

Adron Duff: I'd love to see things done just once. I'd just love to see things left alone.



Dr. Garrett: Leave things alone. Leave the damn plastic and stuff out of it. I get so aggravated when I see all this plastic floating down and hanging in trees clorox...

Adron Duff: If they's a way to get out of the mouth of this creek you could be at Oneida by the time you get to Booneville.

Dr. Garrett: Let's hope it stays right like it is. I was down through there last weekend on a wagon train with Willard Campbell. We went down and crossed , went down to the mouth of Buffalo, went down the river and crossed it about 4 different times before we got back to Booneville. It was a fun trip. It really was.

Adron Duff: Did you go down that river road?

Dr. Garrett: Yeah, and the funny thing was we were setting out there in the middle of the river and I thought I had heard a lot of old sayings up here and they were talking of greasing their wagons and keeping the wheels wet and all and Willard said we always said up here that one soaking is worth 3 greasings. I had never heard that before. Well, you are on record now. 100 years from now people will be able to listen to your voice and hear what you thought about these things and I think that will be of interest.