

ALBERT DUFF
Elsmere, Kentucky
7 June 1984

I am going to Elsmere, Kentucky near Erlanger to visit Mr. Albert Duff of 34 Park Avenue. This old gentleman was in Pete's gun shop yesterday. He is 85 years old. He and his wife are both from Booneville. He was telling Pete some stories about Booneville so I thought I would go out today and try to get a little bit of history about Booneville as he remembers it. It is a hot summer day.

Dr. Garrett: Give me you full name and your age.

Mr. Duff: Albert Duff, born in 1895, June 14 and we moved to Booneville in 19 and 01. There was no industries or nothing there then, no electric lights, nothing. So, the only industry they had there was a little old tan yard and the slaughter house.

Dr. Garrett: Who ran the tan yard?

Mr. Duff: Johnny Hogg. He had a little slaughter house there.

Dr. Garrett: Who had the slaughter house?

Mr. Duff: Sam Hogg had the slaughter house, the tan yard and the ice house where they stored their ice through the winter. They cut it out of the river and bring in it. He made saddles and harnesses and bridles and everything.

Dr. Garrett: My great grandfather, Mark Bell, worked for him as one of his saddle makers. This was right across from the Charlie Eversole house, wasn't it?

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: All this, the ice house, the tan yard and the slaughter house.

Mr. Duff: And the slaughter house, had a smaller house where he killed the beef. Dr. Glass and Dr. Anderson lived across from there on that side of the road. I lived in a little cottage right on down. Bruce ~~Willards~~ ^(Woodward) used to run the store there, I lived right the other side of him.

Dr. Garrett: Who were your parents, Mr. Duff?

Mr. Duff: Jim Duff.

Dr. Garrett: Where were you born?

Mr. Duff: I was borned in Ricetown off Indian Creek.

Dr. Garrett: Ricetown. Now who was your mother?

Mr. Duff: Lucinda Frost.

Dr. Garrett: Lucinda Frost. Were you kin to Granville Davidson?

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: By golly. Granville is about 97 or 98 now.

Mr. Duff: I didn't know he was around.

Dr. Garrett: He is still alive and he had been living in Oneida and he moved on up the Redbird River with his son and now he has moved to a daughter in Hazard. Still alive. I taped him. I got a lot of information. Lucinda Frost was his grandmother, I guess.

Mr. Duff: No, it was his aunt. Yeh, and he had a brother Wes. I guess he's dead.

Dr. Garrett: I think he is out in Arkansas or Missouri one. Still alive, I believe.

Mr. Duff: I left there in 19 and 15 when the Peters Cartridge Company making shells for France when they first started in 1915.

Dr. Garrett: Did you know Gene Garrett?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I went to school with him.

Dr. Garrett: That was my uncle, Gene was my uncle. Gene worked up there. You want to tell me something about Gene.

Mr. Duff: He married my wife's first cousin, Bertie.

Dr. Garrett: Aunt Bertie was your wife's first cousin. Kin to Bill Duff.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, Uncle Bill Duff.

Dr. Garrett: Bill Duff was one of your uncles. Well, I'll be darn, small world. I went down and saw Russ, Uncle Gene's son not too long ago. Uncle Gene moved to King's Mill. That was about the same time I guess you did. Where did you go to school with him? Where did he teach?

Mr. Duff: He taught on Indian Creek.

Dr. Garrett: Now, tell me about Ricetown. My great granddaddy, I guess it was, Wash Garrett ran a store up there, rant that post office at one time. Do you remember him?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I remember him. And then Bill McIntosh had it and then Harv Rice had it first. And then Bill McIntosh, and then Harlan, do you Harlan and Charlie? Well, that was their father ran the store there. I lived right up, what was called the Frostdtown Branch.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, now that is where I got a lot of tape about Frostbranch. This is most interesting because Granville always talked about the Frostbranch and how tough it was and his grandmother always talked about the Frostbranch and you lived on it.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I left there though when I was a kid when they built the railroad up through Hazard, Kentucky I went up there and went to work at the depot there. I was there water boy. In 1911 I believe it was.

Dr. Garrett: You were just a youngster then.

Mr. Duff: I was 16 years old.

Dr. Garrett: Tell me, do you know where my grandfather or great grandfather's store, was it Wash Garrett ran a store at Ricetown?

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Do you know anything about him? Where was the store located?

Mr. Duff: It was located just above the Frostdtown Branch. You know the Ricetown post office, Price Moeller used to have it, well.

Dr. Garrett: Brown ^{MINTOR}~~Metter~~, Brown ^{MINTERS}~~Metter~~'s house is there, now where was the store from Brown ^{MINTERS}~~Metter~~'s house? Up the creek or down the creek.

Mr. Duff: Down the creek, I guess about half a mile. Yeh, me and Brown was good friends. My mother worked for his mother for years.

Dr. Garrett: Were there a lot of people on that Frost Branch?

Mr. Duff: There was about 22 houses.

Dr. Garrett: 22 house. They are all empty, everything is gone now from that country.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, that just grew up, its a wilderness now. Cousin said the grape vines are all over his house.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, I have been wanting to take Granville down there but he has moved to Hazard. He wanted to go back. He is talking about his grandmother, old granny Frost as he called her. That was your grandmother.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, that was my grandmother.

Dr. Garrett: What was her name?

Mr. Duff: I don't remember. Everybody called her Granny.

Dr. Garrett: Do you remember anything about my grandpa's store. Was it out, do you remember how big the buildings were, or what he carried in there?

Mr. Duff: Oh, it was just one big building. He sold groceries, shoes, and a few hardware and like a saddle, a bridle or something like that.

Dr. Garrett: Did you know Lafayette Garrett? He was my granddaddy.

Mr. Duff: No, I didn't know him. I been in George Garrett's store many of a time. He sold everything.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, he had quite a bit. That was kind of rough country just across the creek at Buffalo there, wasn't it?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, oh boy, it was rough, yeh. I hunted all over in Buffalo when I was a kid, I loved to hunt squirrel.

Dr. Garrett: A lot of killing went on over there. Yeh, they were pretty bad. Why were they so bad?

Mr. Duff: I'll be darned if I know, but when if you knowed em and talked with em, they seemed to be the nicest in the world but if they didn't like you, they'd get rid of you. There was Sid and Bill and Dan and I knowed all of em.

Dr. Garrett: Old Bad Grover and everybody else. You ever know Letcher Deaton?

Mr. Duff: Naw, I don't remember him.

Dr. Garrett: Tell me what you can tell me about early Booneville. Did they have any sidewalks in Booneville?

Mr. Duff: Naw, they had board sidewalks in front of their stores is all. They just had them in front of the drug store and all the stores, they had the board sidewalks when I was a kid.

Dr. Garrett: Where was the drug store at that time?

Mr. Duff: It was across from the court house, over there was a two story building.

Dr. Garrett: Was that that old brick building?

Mr. Duff: No, it was a frame building.

Dr. Garrett: Right close to the brick building.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, at that time.

Dr. Garrett: Who ran the drug store?

Mr. Duff: Darn, I can't remember. He had two daughters. I knowed them. I went to school with them, but I, he drank pretty heavy, I remember that.

Dr. Garrett: Who was your teacher at Booneville?

Mr. Duff: Miss Cameron, when I first to school.

Dr. Garrett: Do you remember her first name?

Mr. Duff: No, I don't.

Dr. Garrett: Charlie Seale busy teaching in those days.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, Charlie Seale.

Dr. Garrett: Was my daddy county superintendent when you were in school?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I think he was.

Dr. Garrett: Roads and streets in Booneville got pretty bad in the Winter and Fall didn't they?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, used to drive the cows, they used to have their cows, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Glass and the people would send the cows out to Meadow Creek and I'd go out there and drive them to the pasture.

Dr. Garrett: I used to do that when I was a little boy. I would go out to Ben Harvey's place and get our cow and now they are building a big highway right through that swamp. Yeh, the old Becky Wilder place was torn down and the highway is coming right to the court house, right at the Becky Wilder place.

Mr. Duff: I used to grind that old tan box.

(refers to a tan yard)
(at town mms.)

Dr. Garrett: How did you grind it?

Mr. Duff: Just like a cane mill, had a horse that rode round and round and you just stuck the bark in between two big rollers and it would just grind it up just like you do cane.

Dr. Garrett: How fine would it grind it?

Mr. Duff: Oh, small.

Dr. Garrett: Then what did they do with it?

Mr. Duff: They put it in water and make a ooze to tan the hide with it. First they put it in lime, you see, to take the hair off it. They had big lime tanks and they would put the hides in there and take the hair off it and then they put it in that oak bark ooze.

Dr. Garrett: How long did they leave it in there, you know?

Mr. Duff: No, I don't know just how long.

Dr. Garrett: But they ended up with good leather, didn't they?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, they made real pretty saddles.

Dr. Garrett: Where did they do their saddle work and all?

Mr. Duff: They had a little shop right across from Dr. Anderson's, across the street. In that house there. Had a little shop and Sam done most all the work. I know, he had a couple of guys working for him.

Dr. Garrett: When I was a little boy, those tanks were still in the ground, big deep pits. And, we were afraid to get around them, they were pretty deep, pretty dangerous. You had a lot of electricity, neon lights and everything when you moved to Booneville.

Mr. Duff: No, we didn't have nothin. My oldest brother and...

Dr. Garrett: Now your oldest brother, what was his name.

Mr. Duff: Dan Duff and Wood Meyers and Moore, they put the first electric lights ...

Dr. Garrett: Bent Moore?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, Bent Moore. They owned a saw mill and a grist mill just below the bridge on the river and they bought a generator and they put the lights into Booneville and my brother he sold that out and went to West Virginia.

Dr. Garrett: Well, how long ago was that, do you have any idea?

Mr. Duff: I think it was around 19 and 10 or 11.

Dr. Garrett: Did many places have electricity?

Mr. Duff: No they didn't have any then until they put it it and then they put it in all the stores.

Dr. Garrett: How long did that last? That didn't last too long did it?

Mr. Duff: No, I don't remember. In 1915 I went to King's Mill and I was never back there very much. Only when into World War I, I was drafted into the Army out of Booneville. Me and Clarence Moore and Jim Bob Harvey and Delbert Cook and I guess 15 of us went from Booneville all at one time.

Dr. Garrett: Do you remember who the others were?

Mr. Duff: Not all of them. It's been so long, I forgot.

Dr. Garrett: Did you serve in France?

Mr. Duff: No, I didn't stay in the service but about a little over seven months and then the war was over. I went in on July 15 and discharged January 22.

Dr. Garrett: Where did they put you in camp?

Mr. Duff: Camp Meade, Maryland.

Dr. Garrett: Camp Meade, what were you in?

Mr. Duff: Infantry.

Dr. Garrett: Tell me, anything else about Booneville. Was there a hotel in Booneville at that time?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, they was a couple of hotels. Gabbard, old man Gabbard ran a hotel there and some lady, and I don't remember her name, they called them boarding houses. I don't remember her name. Gabbard, Whit Emery was his son-in-law, I mean Brown Mentor was his grandfather.

Dr. Garrett: Were they up toward the Odd Fellows building, on that side.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, they was one up there. I don't remember who run that, there was about three.

Dr. Garrett: They were up toward where the old Odd Fellows hall and later on the Armory was built. On that side of the street. That was near my dad's store.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, and they had, it was really rough when I was a kid there. Had a lot of livery stables there. They had one big livery stable down there just below the tan yard.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, Wilson's.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, the kid would drive the horses down to the water and then ride them back.

Dr. Garrett: Did you ever see any auctions?

Mr. Duff: Oh yeh, sure, I saw em and I helped in the log woods with em. Albert Gaines, old Jeff Gaines boy and my brother-in-law worked for them and they would auction. They would pull the logs out of the woods and rode em on a wagon and take em down on raft.

Dr. Garrett: Did you ever do any rafting?

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Where did you raft from?

Mr. Duff: There at the mouth of Island Creek. Albert Gate bought a farm up on the left at Island Creek up there and we hauled logs down there and they would bring them out of the pit and then they would load them on a wagon and take em down the river.

Dr. Garrett: Where did you raft to?

Mr. Duff: They'd go from there to Heidelberg.

Dr. Garrett: You go to Heidelberg with them?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I never did go but one trip. With my brother-in-law. I was nothing but a kid.

Dr. Garrett: That was pretty quiet water down there, wasn't it?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, after you got down below Booneville, down there next to Beattyville, they had that dam in down there and just glide down there easy.

Dr. Garrett: Put a boom in. Do you rememer Charlie Hogg?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I knowed Charlie and Ed, they was lawyers. I knowed both of them.

Dr. Garrett: Now ^{wood} Whit Meyer was my grandfather's identical brother. Did you ever know Stuart Meyer?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, lived at Milltown, yeh, I knowed them. I worked for them. I thinned corn. John Breeden that lived up on the hill. You know Mort Breeden, his son.

Dr. Garrett: No, the Breedens had just about died out when I was there. I wanted to ask you about Plez ~~Hatcher~~ Mill. Was that operating as a flour and a grist mill at that time. (ABshEAR)

Mr. Duff: Yeh, and they, at one time that was the biggest mill in that country. They had a winch and a cable to pull the logs up out of the river, now when I was a kid, I would go up there and I thought that was something.

Dr. Garrett: I never did see that flour mill work but of course I watched the saw mill but now where that saw mill stood there are four foot diameter sycamore trees growing. You'd never know there had been anything there. And, the old Bill Hardy mill dragged the logs up out and he ground one day a week, I guess. He ground corn there. That was always fun. I would go over and shell out corn and take it home. Mother loved that, she didn't like the brought on stuff as well.

Mr. Duff: I liked the grist mill corn.

Dr. Garrett: Well, you were pretty self-sufficient raising your own food in those days, weren't you.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, everybody had it, you had to raise it.

Dr. Garrett: What did you raise?

Mr. Duff: Oh, we raised taters and corn, beans, cabbage, everything we eat, we had to raise it and save it.

Dr. Garrett: The old paling fence is never seen anymore but that was important in a garden in those days.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, you had to keep the chickens out. They let the chickens run loose and they would eat your garden up if you didn't have a paling.

Dr. Garrett: Nobody ever thought to coop a chicken did they? I would run them down and kill one of them for supper or breakfast or whatever. I've seen paling fences so tight that you would wonder if a snake could get through them.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I have too.

Dr. Garrett: They didn't use any fertilizer in those days, did they?

Mr. Duff: No, no fertilizer.

Dr. Garrett: And the crops really weren't the greatest down there. The land. The one thing I always liked was Court Day.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, that was when the crowd would be there.

Dr. Garrett: Everybody in the County would get in. The first Monday of the month, wasn't it?

Mr. Duff: Yeh. I was Brown Mentor's best man when he married, him and Fanny, up on Wolf Creek.

Dr. Garrett: Up on Wolf Creek.

Mr. Duff: Married at a Deaton house. I don't remember his first name, but his daughter and Brown

Dr. Garrett: Brown is still alive and doing well. He hit an oil field recently up there.

Mr. Duff: Well, I'll be darn.

Dr. Garrett: I don't know how much.

Mr. Duff: I was back there, oh, its been ten or 15 years ago when George Duff had a little store and me and my wife and my brother-in-law was going up Buckhorn, my wife used to live there, and we just wanted to drive up there and I stopped there and thats the last time I been in Owsley County.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, you ought to go back, its changing now. It is not as neat a town as it was in the old days. You have any pictures of Booneville at all. I would love to have a picture of my dad's old store.

Mr. Duff: Well, I haven't got any pictures at all.

Dr. Garrett: You knew George though.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I knew him well. I been in his store a lot of times. Really had a full store, everything, harnesses, whips, dry goods, ironin tools, hardware, hats, shoes. You could buy anything you wanted in there.

Dr. Garrett: You ever shoot a muzzle load rifle?

Mr. Duff: Oh yeh, hey. I owned one.

Dr. Garrett: You grew up with them, didn't you? That was one thing that always interested me, was the number of weapons they had on Court Day. Half of the men were armed.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, they carried guns most all the time.

Dr. Garrett: Every now and then someone would come out with a banjo, guitar and stuff and give you a little music down on the courthouse square. Who were county officers, do you remember back when you were there.

Mr. Duff: Film on Green was County Attorney and Bud Smith was the Sheriff and I knowed Art Behymer was his deputy, I remember that.

Dr. Garrett: Right across toward, you remember, you don't know where Sherman Roland and them lived but

Mr. Duff: Yeh,

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, in Booneville, oh who lived there before, oh, Bill, used to fish all the time, Bill Sanders. Alright, now between the Sanders house and the courthouse was the old Sebastian house or I believe the Meadow place, can you tell me anything about those people, who lived in that big house there.

Mr. Duff: No, I don't know.

Dr. Garrett: It would be on the side towards the river, down to the side to the end of Booneville rather than over towards the school house there.

Mr. Duff: I know old man John Stepp~~o~~ ran a ferry down there at the end of, I remember that, but I don't remember about the houses very much about where the people lived.

Dr. Garrett: Let's see, I had a lot of things I wanted to ask you. The old jail there was, Rob Wilson was jailer there at one time about your time, I guess.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, yeh, Rob Wilson.

Dr. Garrett: How did you get around there, on horse or on foot?

Mr. Duff: Horseback and walked, that was the only way you could get anywhere. My brother carried the mail from Booneville to Tyner, rode there on horseback from Booneville to Tyner everyday for I don't know how, I think it was about three year.

Dr. Garrett: How much did he get a day, about a dollar a day.

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Mr. Duff: I think it was about 75 cents a day and Bill Harvey and ~~Klee~~ Harvey they ran a store there and they had the mail route and then they had the mail route going from Booneville to Beattyville in a buggy. They carried the mail there in a buggy and then they would take passengers down to ride on the train.

Dr. Garrett: After you left then, Cash Brandenburg rode that for years with a wagon.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, yeh, I knowed Cash.

Dr. Garrett: And then they ran a route to Tallega. Carried the passengers. Owsley still has never had a railroad put in it, don't need it I guess.

Mr. Duff: Never will, I guess.

Dr. Garrett: No. The road wasn't very good in those days, was it?

Mr. Duff: Oh, gosh no, they was nothing but, hard to get a jolt wagon over.

Dr. Garrett: Where was the school in Booneville when you were little?

Mr. Duff: It was righ on the hill right there, you know the old Breeden place, the Wilson boy bought that, the school up on the hill there, that's where I went to school.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh. Do you remember that old Presbyterian Church that stood up there?

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Up on the graveyard hill.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, the graveyard was up above it.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I lived right down over that hill from that graveyard in a little cottage when I lived there then.

Dr. Garrett: That was right near the Doc Glass place.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, yeh.

Dr. Garrett: That is still standing, Charlie Eversole house, the Anderson house, all those houses along there, dang near everyone of them is still standing.

Mr. Duff: I'll be darn. I talked to my daughter the other day from New Hampshire and she said she'd like to go to Booneville some time and see where we lived.

Dr. Garrett: Well, sometime if she wants to go down, I guess I could show them about as much about it as anyone because I can't get anybody else interested in doing anything about the history down there. That is the reason I wanted to talk to you. Now, Pete says you see my boy every now and then over at this gun shop. What is your interest in guns?

Mr. Duff: I worked on guns a little, after I retired, made stocks and refinished them and then I moved out to Arizona and I worked on guns out there. We made the High Chaparral, you know? Big John and _____

Dr. Garrett: The guy that made those movies.

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Who was that?

Mr. Duff: Well, they called him Duck and Big John, I don't know their names. And then, but the guy that I worked for, he controlled the renegades, you know, the Mexicans and Indians when they would have those, making the pictures. I finished some of the guns where they would throw them off, they tried to throw them in the sand and they'd throw them and hit a rock and knock a little chip out of 'em. I'd just put a fiberglass on that the color of the wood and then

Dr. Garrett: When was this, what years were these?

Mr. Duff: Well, hasn't been but about six or seven years ago. I lived in Tucson, yeh.

Dr. Garrett: You were basically a gunsmith at that time.

Mr. Duff: No, no, I just took it up after I retired. The guys we used to hunt. I worked at the rolling mill and a lot of us guys hunted all the time and I just worked on their guns sometimes and then ...

Dr. Garrett: Which rolling mill, over in Newport?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I worked down there 28 and 1/2 years.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, and I got, I had gun clubs all the way to Hamilton that I done work for. They'd bring their guns down and I'd finish them and work on them.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, Pete got interested in that when he was in high school and went off and took a three year course and he came back and I don't think he is making much money on it yet but he is having a lot of fun, meets a lot of interesting people.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, yeh, he's got a nice store.

Dr. Garrett: Did you know Arthur Garrett?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I knowed Arthur.

Dr. Garrett: Did he have a store up there at Rice^{town} at that time?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, yeh, up towards Stewart, Sturgeon, I mean. Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Where was the high school in Booneville?

Mr. Duff: It was across the river.

Dr. Garrett: That is the same place it is now. If the river got up a little bit, you couldn't get to school, could you?

Mr. Duff: No, no, you couldn't. Before they built the bridge there I can remember before they built the bridge.

Dr. Garrett: Oh, do you remember before that bridge?

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: We didn't have a single bridge out of Booneville at that time then. When did they build that bridge, do you have any idea?

Mr. Duff: Darned if I know. It must have been before 19 and one.

Dr. Garrett: You were a small boy.

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: But you can remember before it went in. Do you happen to know anybody who might have any early pictures of Booneville?

Mr. Duff: No I don't, I don't know a soul.

Dr. Garrett: How many children do you have?

Mr. Duff: I got three.

Dr. Garrett: And where do they live now?

Mr. Duff: My son lives with me, he is a World War veteran, World War II veteran and my oldest daughter lives in California.

Dr. Garrett: Where in California?

Mr. Duff: At Guna Beach (Laguna Beach). And the other daughter lives in New Hampshire, right on the coast in New Hampshire. They's just as far apart as they can get.

Dr. Garrett: Well, I got one boy in Oregon and one in Florida. which is a far piece. Was Charlie Seale a school teacher when you were there?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, he married my wife's first cousin, Julie ...

Dr. Garrett: No, now Charlie married Mayme Wilder.

Mr. Duff: Oh yeh, that was Mike Wilder's daughter. I knowed that.

Dr. Garrett: Did you ever happen to know, you can't remember when Owen Reagan Meyers built that big store in Booneville, can you?

Mr. Duff: No, I don't remember that.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, that was down toward where Elmer Seales store was. In between Elmer Seales store and the bank up at the corner.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Do you remember that old bank? You ever know Charlie Eversole?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, knowed Charlie.

Dr. Garrett: His boy Lester married my sister and then you know John M. Campbell? One of my sisters married Everett Lee.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I knowed John M. Campbell well.

Dr. Garrett: And Charlie Rose's son A.T. married one of my sisters.

Mr. Duff: Knowed Doc Gibson.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh. Doc Gibson, when did he start practice there, do you have any idea?

Mr. Duff: No I don't, I don't remember.

Dr. Garrett: When did you leave Booneville?

Mr. Duff: I left in 19 and 15.

Dr. Garrett: 1915, was Doc Gibson there then?

Mr. Duff: I don't believe he, don't know, Doc Anderson and Doc Glass both were there but Doc Gibson come on later. I knowed my mother had him for a doctor.

Dr. Garrett: Was there a Bill Sanders, was there a Doc Sanders in Booneville when you were there?

Mr. Duff: I don't remember.

Dr. Garrett: Did you happen to know my mother, Lucy Garrett.

Mr. Duff: Lucy Garrett, no I don't remember. I might have knowed her. I knowed Mary ~~Branberg~~^{Brandenberg}, you know. I went to school with them.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, my mother went to the Greenhills School up at Milltown. I was telling the boys that old road to Milltown, you went under lots of big cliffs going up there. Wished they would have left it that way.

Mr. Duff: It's probably gone now. Oh yeh, we used to go around them big cliffs on the right and over the river.

Dr. Garrett: And you knew Henry Slick, of course. I think everybody knew Henry Slick.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, there weren't very many black people there then.

Dr. Garrett: No, still aren't. The Caywoods, a few Jetts, and so forth.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, Jetts, I knew the Jett boys. They used to live up there at the holler there there from little old Milltown.

Dr. Garrett: The whole county has changed now. You was talking about the Frost Branch, had 22 houses, used to all those hollers were full of houses and farms. People made a living on them, didn't they?

Mr. Duff: Oh yeh, yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Ate, educated children, but they had to get out and work and nobody wants to do that anymore.

Mr. Duff: They done it by hand, boy, what I mean they had to put your cabbage in a hole, taters, hole them up and everything, apples and everything that you wanted to keep why you covered them with straw or grass or something and then put dirt over them, that was so they wouldn't freeze.

Dr. Garrett: When you were young canning wasn't too extensive was it?

Mr. Duff: Oh yeh, they canned a lot of stuff, berries and apples and stuff like that.

Dr. Garrett: But it was all work. I remember in the 30s we could buy a bag of blackberries at ten cents a gallon.

Mr. Duff: Oh yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Today they would be four or five dollars a gallon. I have always said one of the best ~~oldies~~ ^{odors} I ever heard in my life was bottled fodder.

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: And nobody does it anymore. You had old log barns and it was packed full of every thing that smelled good.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, hay and fodder. You know they put up everything for your livestock to have and for yourself too.

Dr. Garrett: You ever cradle anything.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I cradled oats and oats. Very seldom anybody ever raised wheat up on that Frostdown Branch. No wheat ever around there but they raised oats and corn.

Dr. Garrett: That cradling got to be work, didn't it?

Mr. Duff: Yeh, it was and you see, had all those bows stick out there to hold it when you, around that way.

Dr. Garrett: You tried to make one bundle in one sweep usually. My dad was good with a cradle.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, that was hard work.

Dr. Garrett: Did you know Mark Garrett? My uncle Mark, dad's brother.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, knowed him.

Dr. Garrett: He lived out towards Levi, the other side of Booneville there.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, out towards Beattyville.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh. Were there any cars in Booneville when you first got there?

Mr. Duff: Naw, no, you never saw a car then. In fact, I never saw a car for years.

Dr. Garrett: We owned the second car and the first radio in the county, I think. I think Charlie Rose had the first car.

Mr. Duff: I knowed Charlie Rose. He lived up on Meadow Creek.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh. You burn mainly wood or coal when you were little.

Mr. Duff: Well, we burned coal when I was in Booneville but when I lived in Indian Creek, we burned wood all the time. Had a big fireplace, big log house. My father and my uncle built that house years and years ago. Had one big room, had three bedrooms and in the bedroom across the end of the house and then had a kitchen and dining room built off on the side.

Dr. Garrett: Sort of a lean-to. Most of them had a lean-to added on.

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: It was good living.

Mr. Duff: Oh yeh.

Dr. Garrett: Did you ever see any wild turkey up there in Buffalo and Indian Creek.

Mr. Duff: Oh yeh, I killed one wild turkey in my life.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, killed it up there.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, right on Buffalo, guy had a corn field and I saw him one morning in there and I told my mother about it and I had a 32/20 Winchester lever action rifle and I told her I am goin to kill a wild turkey and I went over there before daylight and layed down behind a log they had shuck corn cut up and this turkey walked up and started to peck from that corn and I let him have it and boy, I had to carry that thing home and when I got home I was wet with sweat.

Dr. Garrett: Big turkey.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, it must have weighed 20 pounds. Good God mother said, I don't know what I'll do with it. She had to cook it in a big cast iron kettle.

Dr. Garrett: Did you cook on a fireplace?

Mr. Duff: Yep when I was a kid she done a lot of bakin on fire-place, had a oven and lid and kettles that hung right across the fire. Had an iron rod across the front and she would hang them kettles on and cook beans, potatoes and everything but later we got a stove.

Dr. Garrett: Any evidence of the property still down there, you reckon.

Mr. Duff: No.

Dr. Garrett: Chimneys and stuff must be still standing.

Mr. Duff: Not a thing was standin there. Steve Combs, my cousin was back there and he wanted to go back, he lived the next door to me, Lee Combs son and they tore down the old log cabin house down and he took the big poplar logs and sawed into weather board and weather boarded his house. He said I went back there and the grape vines had gone out all over the house and he said white weather boarding still had the paint on it.

Dr. Garrett: How long ago was that?

Mr. Duff: That has been about eight or ten years ago.

Dr. Garrett: That was up on the Frost Branch. I have not really explored Frost Branch but I got to get up there one day.

Mr. Duff: Well they's a lot to ...

Dr. Garrett: That run back to upper Buffalo, didn't it?

Mr. Duff: Ours was the last house in Frost Branch. Our line ran right up along the little farm that adjoined Buffalos and Island Creek.

Dr. Garrett: What did you say mother's name was?

Mr. Duff: Lucinda Frost.

Dr. Garrett: Lucinda Frost. They got married right on that creek there, well if you lived on Frost Creek and she did, you were just close neighbors, weren't you?

Dr. Garrett. Where did you all do most of your trading, at Ricetown.

Mr. Duff: Ricetown, yeh. Garrett's had a store up there and then Howard Bryce he did have it and then Bill McIntosh and Price Moore, Price Moore bought that out.

Dr. Garrett: Harve Moore and his brother and Gene Garrett got into some trouble when Garrett was up there. I've never known what really happened.

Mr. Duff: I don't neither. I remember Gene Garrett.

Dr. Garrett: I don't know whether Gene killed Gabberd or not but I assume he did.

Mr. Duff: There was six of them together I think and they killed Doc right there in front of Sid Gabbard's house. Yeh, I remember that.

Dr. Garrett: After that they killed a whole bunch after that. Ancil Vires, did you ever know Ancil Vires.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, I knowed him.

Dr. Garrett: He's still alive and doing well.

Mr. Duff: Killed his wife too.

Dr. Garrett: Killed his mother and father.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, killed his mother and father, thats right.

Dr. Garrett: He lives up near, he's up on the Lucky Fork now. At Buffalo. That cut is awfully pretty. I go wagon riding up there, three days in the Fall.

Dr. Garrett: Do you collect weapons, guns?

Mr. Duff: No, I don't. Used to have a bunch of them but they got so strict with it, I just quit messing with it. I done a lot of work on them but I just, heck, you had to get Federal Firearms license, occupations license and then you give out a list of everything you do on a gun and turn it in. I said I retired and I don't have to do it.

Dr. Garrett: You ever see a hog killing?

Mr. Duff: Oh law yeh, I helped with those, killed many.

Dr. Garrett: What was the first piece of meat you ate when you killed a hog?

Mr. Duff: Back bones and ribs. And liver.

Dr. Garrett: We talked about that yesterday at the table. I said usually at our house the first thing we did, mother fried the liver for dinner, that was at noon. And then the next thing was the tenderloin and the back bone. Did you boil the back bone?

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: That's good eating. You know, theres people never heard about them.

Mr. Duff: Oh boy, get it good and tender.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, just suck it right off the bone. Have some mashed potatoes and gravy and stuff like that.

Mr. Duff: Green beans and tomatoes.

Dr. Garrett: Really was good. Somebody asked me yesterday if I ever ate fresh shoulder. Well, I did, but that was after the war, after World War II when my dad started freezing a lot of that stuff. Up to that time we always had the salt ham, salt cured ham.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, we had, we used to eat the shoulders while they was fresh, you never did cure them.

Dr. Garrett: We always ate the shoulder and then saved the ham. Well, listen, I am probably, your wife wants to go shopping and your wife wants you to go shopping. So, I had better let you go and some of these days, I will probably have this taped and sent out to University of Kentucky, is that all right with you.

Mr. Duff: Oh, yeh.

Dr. Garrett: I am going to go down and try to see Granville Davidson again. He is one of the nicest men I have ever met.

Mr. Duff: I never knowed a better man, him and Wes either one.

Dr. Garrett: I went down about ...

Mr. Duff: I wonder if his sisters are alive.

Dr. Garrett: I don't think his sisters, I think he still had a brother alive out in Missouri or Arkansas one.

Mr. Duff: That's Wes.

Dr. Garrett: Granville would go rafting quite a bit. Did you ever know an old man by the name of Green ~~Bear~~ Moore who lived up the mountain road?
Green ^{BERRY}

Mr. Duff: Yeh.

Dr. Garrett: He's 87-years old.

Mr. Duff: Yeh, Green ^{BERRY} ~~Bear~~ Moore, I know him.

Dr. Garrett: Green ^{BERRY} ~~Bear~~ saved his garden for me and he showed me how to shuck corn. I made a movie of it and of him bundling fodder. Something that nobody does anymore. Too piddling work now for anybody to do.

Mr. Duff: And then strip it off the stalk and then tie it up and bundle it.

Dr. Garrett: Yeh, tie it with a leaf and stick it in the barn. Pretty good roughage. Well, I do thank you for talking to me and giving me what information you could here because I am just trying,, as I said, find out stuff about early Booneville and you have told me a lot of things. I didn't realize that the bridge had been built that recently. Thought maybe it had been built earlier than that. Was Green Wilson ever sheriff when you was...

Mr. Duff: Yeh, yeh, Green Wilson was sheriff. Bud Smith, that was long later. Claude and Harlan McIntosh and Charlie.

Dr. Garrett: Had a bunch of good men in there. I wouldn't want to tangle with that Charlie McIntosh.

Well, this is a little bit later, I am back home. I had to speed up my questioning and the whole thing because Mrs. Duff was very sick with heart and wanted her husband to go to the store and I didn't want to have to go back out or take a chance on missing him, so I tried to sort of rush through this tape to get his information down. It is just interesting how they did live. I was interested in how they used to cook on the hearth when he was young up on the Frost Branch. I want to get a tape one day and go up and sort of do a documentary maybe on that Frost Branch country because there were a lot of good people raised in there and they really worked. You look at that place"

was to make a living. I am eating some strawberries here. Dropped by Pete's shop and saw Pete and Kathy and I am going to take little tabs out so this tape cannot be ruined and add it to my growing collection. Pete wants to listen to it, too.