

Interviewer: Thelma Anest (TA)

Interviewee: Maude Broyles (MB)

Date of Interview: November 16, 1985

Location of Interview: Route 1 Afton, near Greene Ridge Church

TA: Anest, today is 11/16/85. I am now going to interview Ms. Maude Broyles who lives on Route 1 Afton near the Green Ridge Church.

MB: Well, now, what do you mean—I just tell who I am?

TA: I'll ask you the questions—

MB: Oh, okay.

TA: —and then you can answer.

MB: Oh.

TA: Okay, what is your full name?

MB: Maude Jane Gray Broyles.

TA: Are you called anything else? Do you have a nickname?

MB: No.

TA: Okay—uh—what is your address?

MB: Afton Route 1.

TA: Your telephone number?

MB: 2-5-7-2-2-8-6.

TA: And where were you born?

MB: Right here in Greene Ridge Community.

TA: Just across the road from where you live. [laughs]

MB: [laughs] Just across the road from my home.

TA: [laughs] Okay, what's your date of birth?

MB: Uh, January the 3rd, 1896.

TA: What church are you a member of?

MB: Pleasant Hill Methodist.

TA: Alright, any other clubs or organizations you belong to?

MB: No.

TA: Alright. What was the highest grade you completed in school?

MB: High school.

TA: Alright. Did you—um—did you receive any other schooling or training?

MB: No.

TA: Alright. Where do you live within the Horse Creek area?

MB: I live two miles east of Horse Creek [pause] in the Greene Ridge Baptist—in the Greene Ridge Community.

TA: Well, good. [background noises of moving recorder]

MB: Well, am I talking too loud?

TA: No. Where else have you lived beside this place?

MB: Um—in Asheville, North Carolina.

TA: And how many years did you live there?

MB: Until 1930. Let's see—1980—1918 until 1930.

TA: That was quite a while—

MB: Sure is.

TA: that you lived there!

MB: Buddy was born there.

TA: And you lived the other years here at Horse Creek.

MB: Yes.

TA: Yes. Okay, how many generations of your family have lived in the Horse Creek area?

MB: Well, the Broyles have lived in that community and some o' the Thompsons. [pause]

TA: That would be for five or six generations anyway—

MB: [thinking mumble]—yes.

TA: Something like that? Alright, so if two or more generations have lived in this area, could you—well, you identified them by name. The Broyles, the Thompsons, and you'd have to count the Rineharts?

[3:16]

MB: Yes—

TA: Yes, go back to those—

MB: the Rineharts.

TA: Alright, what family members live in your household?

MB: Just myself.

TA: Were your children born here or elsewhere?

MB: The two older ones, Charles Broyles and Mary Broyles—Mary Elizabeth—was born here.

But, uh, L.E. “Buddy” Broyles was born in Asheville.

TA: He’s the youngest right?

MB: Mhm.

TA: Alright. Alright, so which members of your family are natives of Horse Creek?

MB: Well, one son, L.E. Broyles, and a numbers of Thompson cousins.

[pause]

TA: Alright, who in—well, it—it says who now in your family is living in Horse Creek? Too many to mention, almost, isn’t there?

MB: Mhm.

TA: How many of your family—well, let’s just say your immediate family are now living in Horse Creek?

MB: Well, just one son. L.E. Broyles.

TA: So, then, how large would your family have been—how large is your family?

MB: Hmm.

TA: How large? How many? How many sons, and how many grandchildren, how many great grandchildren?

MB: That I have—I have two sons living, one daughter who has passed away. And the grandchildren are Mary Ann Broyles Mitchell and she has two children—a little boy and a little girl which are my great grandchildren. And then L.E. Broyles has—I have two grandsons in his family and two great granddaughters—twins.

TA: How old are they?

MB: They are four.

TA: Alright, now—now that we've talked about your family let's go and talk about the land and the buildings and then we'll come back to the—to the other people later.

MB: Mhm.

TA: Okay? Thinking back across the years, in farming in Horse Creek, when were the crops gathered? Most of the crops?

MB: You mean this year?

TA: No, every year—back when you were young.

MB: Oh, well, corn and wheat and tobacco, and—uh, the wheat was harvested in June, the corn in September, and the tobacco in the fall—late fall.

TA: Late—

MB: November.

TA: Okay, where were the crops stored? What did people do with the wheat?

MB: Well, they took it to the mill, a grist mill.

TA: They did that right away, didn't they?

MB: Yes.

TA: And had it ground.

MB: And tobacco when it's harvested goes to the warehouses in Greeneville.

TA: Always has. Did you ever take yours on the train to Bristol?

MB: No, but my father did.

TA: I had heard of that—

MB: Yep.

TA: That some people do that.

MB: Yep.

TA: Before Greeneville became a big tobacco town.

MB: Yes. My father taking his crops to Bristol.

TA: Well, tell me about some of the early machinery that people farmed with.

MB: Well, they had horse-drawn wagons and reapers and [pause] uh, disk...

harrowers—harrowers, inch-thick—

TA: Harrowers, uh-huh.

MB: harrowers. And, of course, the hand hoes.

[pause]

TA: Do you remember your first tractor? Seeing your first tractor?

MB: Do I what?

TA: Do you remember seeing the first tractor?

MB: No, I don't remember the first tractor but I remember the first automobile. [laughs]

TA: Tell me about it.

MB: Well, we were walking down Horse Creek and we saw it coming. It was summer and my cousin and I were carrying an umbrella. [laughs] and she said we better put this umbrella down it might scare the car. [laughs]

TA: [laughs] Were y'all scared?

MB: No, we were not scared but had we not let the umbrella down it would have taken it out of our hands. Maybe—maybe the drag from it.

TA: You had heard about cars—

MB: Yes.

TA: —but you had not seen one.

MB: Yeah. [laughs]

TA: [laughs] What is the main kind of work you and Mr. Broyles did while—while he was living? And what, you know, now?

MB: Where we live?

TA: No, not where you live but what did he do for a living?

MB: Oh, he was a farmer and also worked for the county highway.

TA: Yes.

MB: The highway department of the roads.

TA: Alright. Well, has farming been a tradition in your family?

MB: Yes.

TA: Okay. You farm too.

MB: Up 'til now. [laughs]

TA: [laughs] I remember your beautiful gardens. Tell me about growing iris, how did you get started in that?

MB: Well, it was a fad one year and, uh, I just thought they were so pretty and started ordering the iris and I had two iris gardens and sold the roots, you know.

[9:20]

TA: I remember, first time I ever saw them how beautiful I thought they were.

MB: Mhm.

TA: You still have some of those don't you?

MB: Yeah.

TA: I thought you did. And of course, a garden was just a way of life. Everybody had a garden.

MB: Yes, we had a garden, of course, and we grew tobacco.

TA: And in gardens—there were large gardens, and you grew a lot of your food.

MB: Yes, tomatoes, beans, corn, sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes. We grew practically all our vegetables.

[10:01]

TA: Just about everybody did.

MB: Mhm.

TA: How large is your family's farm?

MB: Well, it's been sold down to six acres.

TA: And you live on the part that is left?

MB: Yes.

TA: Yes. Mokay. So, on your—on your farm, then, you grew tobacco, and corn, and then you had your garden.

MB: Yeah.

TA: Did you ever grow wheat here?

MB: No, but my father did.

TA: Yes. What kind of livestock did people used to have back fifty, sixty years ago?

MB: Well, they had horses and mules to do the agricultural work. And they had their cows for milk and butter and meat—beef—and hogs for pork.

TA: Just about everybody did, didn't they?

MB: Mhm.

TA: Is farming a full-time occupation for members of your family?

MB: Has been, not now.

TA: Okay, what—you said you had two sons, tell what they do.

MB: They worked for the Southern Bell Telephone Company until they retired.

TA: And the article in the *Greeneville Sun* said that L.E. was a tree farmer.

MB: Yes.

TA: Right. When you—when you lived in Asheville what did your husband do?

MB: He worked for, uh I can't think of it now.

TA: Was it factory work?

MB: No, it wasn't factory work. [pause] A shipping company.

TA: A shipping company?

MB: Mhm.

TA: Uh-huh. I bet he enjoyed that.

MB: Yes, he did, and he learned to wrap packages and tie them so well [laughs].

TA: And do it fast. [laughs] Do you remember any stories that you think would be especially interesting like from your parents or your grandparents that they used to tell about the way people live, or anything they used to tell you?

MB: Well, I can't think of any. Only, out here saying they had their milk cow for milk and butter, and they grew their vegetables and their wheat and their corn.

TA: And they passed all that knowledge onto their children?

MB: Yes.

TA: So, you just automatically learned it—

MB: Yes.

TA: by living in the family.

MB: Mhm.

TA: What buildings aren't—are not here today that were here twenty or thirty years ago?

MB: Well, mostly the grist mills are all gone in the community. And several of the homes—the old log buildings are gone and replaced with modern homes.

TA: Yes.

MB: You see up there where Lois lives was a log cabin to start with. That's where John Thompson and Margaret Rhinehart Thompson lived.

TA: Now that was their home?

MB: That was their home after they came to Tennessee from North Carolina.

TA: I didn't realize that. Alrighty. What kinds of buildings were part of farm life?

MB: Well, the home, of course, and the barns for the cattle, and barns for hay and tobacco.

TA: Corn cribs?

MB: Yes, corn cribs.

[pause]

TA: Are there any old plows or other farm equipment around that you know of that shows the way of life as it used to be?

MB: Not now.

TA: Not now. Alright. Tell me about the churches and the schools. I'll tell you—if you want to talk about the churches—have you got something written about that?

MB: Well, of course—

TA: And the schools?

MB: —all the churches, although the church that I was speaking of in this is Green Ridge.

TA: Why—why—yes, why don't we just come to that part now and you tell us about the churches and the schools—

MB: [mumbles]

TA: —what you have—

MB: [mumbles]

TA: —and, uh, do you have that part handy?

MB: Well, I—I'm not to the churches yet.

TA: Alrighty, what part do you have first?

[15:32]

MB: Uh, pioneer John Thompson was born in Northern Ireland, Ireland and was Scot-Irish. He was born—he came from Ireland to the United States in 1750. They came on a ship—he was just a young man, not married—and they came on a ship with many other immigrants from Ireland. Several months later, the ship reached New York—still in 1750. And several of the immigrants started south in quest of unsettled land. They came down through Pennsylvania and the valley of Virginia and into NC. Pioneer John Thompson settled in Alamance County, once Orange County, North Carolina. And after tending many acres of land, he permanently settled on Hall Creek in Alamance County, North Carolina. There he met and married Miss Woody, and in—in 1752. And together they built a large log home and were parents of nine children, and named one son Joseph was a elder in a Presbyterian church and was called “Elder Joe.” And it is from this Elder Joe when one—Jenny Hunter—that the Tennessee Thompsons came from. Elder Jo was born in

1776 and he had several children, however, it was his son, John, called “Jack” Thompson, who came to Tennessee in 1860. He was a schoolteacher and while teaching in Alamance County he met Margaret Amelia [?? 00:17:29] Rhinehart, who was from Germany, and she was also a teacher in North Carolina.

TA: Isn’t that interesting?

MB: They were married December 26, 1839. And they built a two-room log house. Adjoined by gallery or dogtrot [?? 00:18:00]. And this home was still standing in 1947 when the grandson, Samuel H Thompson, went to visit the Thompson relatives in North Carolina. [pause] John “Jack” Thompson and wife Margaret Rhinehart and five sons and two daughters all borne in North Carolina. Came in—in 1860 they came to Tennessee in a covered wagon over the Blue Ridge Mountains by way of Bristol, Tennessee. At that time, Bristol at that time was called “Goodson’s Depot.” And that—at that point in Bristol they stopped at a little store and asked a merchant where the line between Virginia and Tennessee was. And the merchant replied, “Mister, you are standing and straddling the line now.” [laughs]

TA: [laughs]

MB: This amused the Thompson children and they never forgot it. They then travelled on down to Greene County, Tennessee, and first settled between Afton and Tusculum College, just east of Tusculum. And Professor Rankin of Tusculum College once said, “He had played many days with the Thompson children.” Some few years later, John Thompson, a grandson of the pioneer John Thompson, found land he could buy south of the Nolichucky River in Greene County in

what is now called the Greene Ridge Community. He bought from Henry Burgner a hundred and five acres of land for four hundred and forty dollars. And on this land, him and his wife built a large log home. However, John did not live but nine years after coming to Greene Ridge Community. He died in 1869 and is buried at Pleasant Hill Methodist Church cemetery. The family had joined this church after moving to this community. And they are both buried at Pleasant Hill Church cemetery. And also, two of their daughters, Mary Jane Thompson Broyles and Martha Ann Thompson Gefellers and son John Patterson Thompson. And then I have here more on the children later. John and Margaret Thompson, both being schoolteachers, saw in need for a schoolhouse in this community, and they gave land and logs to build in one room log schoolhouse, which was used for both school and church until Union Chapel School was built. And the Thompson heirs deeded this school land to the Free Will Baptist Association for a church and the neighbors built a small frame church on this land and it is still in use as a Baptist Church. At this time, in 1985.

TA: I'm glad you put that date in there.

MB: Yeah. John's two brothers also helped build the schoolhouse with the help of neighbors.

This log one room schoolhouse was built by—[pauses]—two of the Thompsons brothers with help from the neighbors. And Margaret Rhinehart taught in this school until near 80's.

TA: That would be 1880?

MB: Yeah. And then at that time the Greene County school departments took over the school and provided teachers.

TA: That is so interesting. So vital to the history of this community.

MB: I agree. Let's see. Some of these teachers were Margaret Rhinehart Thompson until about 1879. At that time when the Greene County took over and furnished the teachers. Now, some of these teachers were Baskin Walker, 1891. And Mister Bodin 1892. Byrus [inaudible] in 1894. Samuel Edge Thompson in 1895—he just taught one year. Berry Duck in 1896. Some of these teachers may have taught more than one year. [pauses] This is about Union Chapel School.

TA: That's alright, go ahead and tell us about Union Chapel School.

MB: Union Chapel School's first teacher was Janet—Miss Janet Painter from Horse Creek. She taught two years and then Miss Flora Bowman taught two years. John Locke taught many years at Union Chapel. Johnny Taylor from Camp Creek one year. Red Wilhoit one year. Evelyn Thompson two years. Eula Mitchell one year. Joseph Green Wallen two years. This is all the names of the teachers—

TA: Well, it's important to know those. It's important to have a record of those and to know those.

MB: Now, we come to the children. Do you want to just go on from there? The Thompson children?

[skip 00:25:41]

MB: Margaret Rhinehart and John Jack Thompson all borned in Alamance County.

TA: Read that sentence again.

MB: These are the children of John Jack Thompson and Margaret Rhinehart Thompson all borne in Alamance County, North Carolina. The first child, Mary Jane Thompson, born November 1, 1840, and died November 19, 1881, in Tennessee. Mary Jane's first marriage was to John Prather. I keep saying they have two children; would that be hard?

TA: Yes.

MB: And they have two children, a son and daughter. [pauses] The Prather husband died, and she married William F. Broyles and they had one son that I know of and lived near Moshem, Tennessee. Now, I'll go on to the second child. The second child, Jacob Cornelius Thompson, born in NC in 1841, and died after in 1918 in Tennessee. He married Keziah Broyles. She was born February 26, 1847, and died October 26, 1918, in Tennessee. They had three children: one son, John Thompson, one daughter, Dora Thompson Mitchell, and a second daughter, Mary Cordelia Thompson Gray. [mumbles] Cornelius served in the Civil War with the Confederate Army. He was a farmer and Sunday school superintendent in the church established by his mother and father John and Margaret Rhinehart Thompson. And the third child, Joseph Addison Thompson, born September 21st, 1846, in North Carolina and died April 5th, 1916, in Hartford, Kansas. He married Martha Cannon from the Cannon branch in Greene County, Tennessee. Joseph Addison was a carpenter and cabinet maker and helped build the church in Hartford, Kansas, that his funeral was conducted in. He and Martha Cannon had a large family, sons and daughters, no record of them.

TA: Well.

MB: They never did come back here. The fourth child, William Pickney Thompson, was born April 27th, 1848, in North Carolina, and died August 1893. He married Florence Gefellers and to this union was born four sons and one daughter [mumbles]. Pickney was a fine brick mason; he made his own bricks and built buildings with the bricks he made. [chuckles]

[30:17]

TA: That's important. [chuckles]

MB: And he did the brickwork on Chuckey Methodist Church and the auditorium for the Wesleyan Academy School at Chuckey, and he also built the Herman Church—Herman Methodist Church, and many homes in the community. These two churches, Chuckey Methodist and Herman Methodist are still in use, and they are beautiful brick buildings. Now, this is the fifth child, James Thompson, born 1850 in North Carolina and died 1935 in Tennessee. He was buried in Chuckey, Tennessee. He was a farmer and worked some in the Chuckey Post Office. He married Susan Bitner and he had two daughters Lula and Janet. Now this would be the sixth child. The sixth child John Patterson was born May 1853 in NC, died in 1923 in Tennessee. He married Mary Jane Broyles, and they had two sons and two daughters.

TA: Tell about Evelyn.

MB: The youngest child was Evelyn Thompson, and she was born February 2, 1886, and died July 2, 1984. She never married and she taught school most of her adult life. This is the seventh child. Martha Ann Thompson born 1856 in North Carolina and died in 1888 in Tennessee.

Martha married John Gefellers of Greene County, Tennessee. They had one son and two daughters. One daughter and one son were schoolteachers.

TA: Is that pretty much now what you have in your notes?

[33:55]

MB: Yeah.

TA: Well, that's good Maude! You summarized that well.

MB: Well, have you picked off?

TA: No, no. I wanted to ask you a few more questions, and then we will take a break. [pauses]

Tell me about some of the cemeteries, Maude, around, where your people are buried. Name some of the cemeteries and tell who's buried there.

MB: My Thompson relatives are mostly buried in Pleasant Hill United Methodist Cemetery. The Grays are buried in Union Chapel Cemetery. The Broyles—most of them—are buried at Pleasant Hill, on Horse Creek.

TA: Those three cemeteries—those would be the three main ones for members of your family?

MB: I believe that one of them is buried at that church over at the river—oh, what is that church?

It's a Methodist church, too.

TA: Well, that's okay. When you think about Horse Creek and all your memories that you have of it, what physical memories or buildings have the strongest memories for you?

MB: Well, I think the churches and the schools, and then the homes of our relatives on Horse Creek.

TA: Is there a place in Horse Creek that has special meaning for you?

MB: Yes, the church and the Thompson homes and the old grist mill at Horse Creek. And it was once a grist mill, country store, and a post office.

TA: Where was it located?

MB: Where the store is now over there.

TA: Now, you talking about Hamptons or—

MB: No, no. It was the Painters that had the grist mill and the store and the post office.

TA: And where was it located?

MB: Well, close to the Pleasant Hill Church.

TA: In Pleasant Hill? That's the one that Mr. Dunham used to own later, right?

MB: Mhm.

TA: Now, that goes way back doesn't it? It has a history.

MB: And at that time, Chuckey was called Chuckey City. And they sent the mail out to Painters' store and mill and we walked and went that distance to get our mail.

TA: And you didn't think that was too far did you? [laughs]

MB: No. [laughs]

TA: And now people would have to ride. [laughs] Tell me something about the Hampton Mill.

Who used to own it before Davy?

MB: Well, you through with this now (motion to her papers)?

TA: Do you have more to add?

MB: Wait a minute and I'll tell you. What did we do with it Thelma, have we lost it? [pauses]

This is a tribute to John and Margaret Rhinehart Thompson. John called Jack Thompson was a grandson of pioneer John Thompson, and his wife Margaret Rhinehart came from Germany.

Being schoolteachers, they would be pleased to know there was from one to three schoolteachers in each family of their children except one, and in that family was a minister. Their grandson

Samuel Thompson, son of Pickney Thompson and Floris Gefellers Thompson was a well-known educator and author. Samuel H. Thompson taught his first school in 1895 in a one-room log

schoolhouse that his grandmother Margaret Rhinehart Thompson established as the first school in the Greene Ridge Community. When he was—he taught school there when he was nineteen

years old. He later was principal of Wesleyan Academy School in Chuckey, Tennessee, from 1899-1910. He was a graduate of Appalachia University. [pauses and mumbles] Samuel

Thompson was also a state superintendent of public schools from 1913-1915. [pauses] In 1906, he married Birdie Maltzburger, a schoolteacher, and she taught with him at Wesleyan Academy

in Chuckey, Tennessee. Samuel was also superintendent of city schools in Athens, Tennessee, and was later appointed by President Calvin Coolidge to the Office of the Supervisor of Indian

Education. Two years later, he was placed in charge of public-school relation of Indian service in the United States and Alaska. From this assignment he was retired in 1946. He and his wife lived

in Washington, D.C., where he died in 1952 at the age of 76. He is buried in the Chuckey Methodist Church cemetery in Chuckey, Tennessee. Also, his wife is buried in the same

cemetery. [pauses and mumbles]

TA: No history of Horse Creek wouldn't be complete without including this—

MB: No.

[41:37]

TA: Because Sam Thompson is a famous son of Horse Creek.

MB: Mhm.

TA: Right. I'm so glad we are including that.

MB: And I'll tell you, Thelma, he helped so many boys and girls get located in schools because at that time we didn't have our high school and buses.

TA: Right. [pauses]

MB: I'm afraid to try this—I'm afraid of repeating.

TA: It's alright if you do repeat some. That would be alright. [pauses] I think you've done a wonderful job getting all this together.

MB: Well, I was gonna bring in about their only son.

TA: Who is still living?

MB: Yes.

TA: Yes.

MB: Did I bring this in about him being principal of Wesleyan Academy?

TA: Yes, yes you put that.

MB: I thought I did.

TA: We need a good picture of Sam.

MB: Well, I think we'll get one. 'Course, we got one. [pauses] Did I bring in in 1906 he married Birdie—or is that the last thing?

TA: I believe it was.

MB: Samuel Thompson—do you want to start?

TA: Yes.

MB: Well, Samuel Thompson and wife Birdie Maltzberger Thompson had one son, William. He is still living at this time. He is a retired brigadier general and him and his wife live in Washington, D.C., at this time in 1985. He was graduated from U.S. Military Academy and did service in the United States and in Germany.

TA: Mhm.

MB: I believe that's all. I don't think I got that brought in just right.

TA: Okay, and now let's repeat that he is the son of Sam and Mrs. Thompson.

MB; Well, I just brought in that one son.

TA: I think you should have.

MB: He is still living and lives in Washington, D.C.—him and his wife.

TA: Do they have children?

MB: No children.

TA: No children.

MB: He is a brigadier general. A retired brigadier general.

TA: Well, I know Sam was proud of him. I know Sam was proud of him. [pauses] Do you have other notes?

MB: No, I don't.

TA: That covers a lot of territory, Maude.

MB: Yes. It does for the Thompsons. And the only reason Thelma I wanted to bring in that tribute for them because they added so much to education in this county.

TA: Not only for this county but for the state. And then went on to a federal job.

MB: Yes.

TA: Isn't that something? A good Horse Creek person. [laughs]

MB: I don't know whether I brought that in or not, but Sam was principal of city schools in Athens, Tennessee—

TA: I remember you mentioned that—I believe you did.

MB: Now, we have this picture of Sam.

TA: That would be a good picture to go in this history.

MB: Yes, and I wouldn't care to let it go.

TA: Oh, that's great.

MB: And, also, I wouldn't care for this...

[static]

[46:57]

TA: ... I do hope you get a copy of that made.

MB: I'm going to, if I didn't want to risk letting it go that photographer was coming back up—

TA: That's good.

MB: And I will ask him if he will make it. Now, he made for Buddy the picture—

TA: Making a picture and making a copy of an old picture would be two different procedures.

MB: They took a copy—he made a copy of this big Jeff the Carpenter, which was Ludy's grandpa and Evelyn's grandpa, and all that, made a copy of his picture and his wife with their (mumbles).

TA: While he was there at Buddy's house?

MB: While he was there.

TA: Well, that is the way to do it.

MB: It ought to be done that way. I've got to let this cat out. It won't. The Cannon girl. I tell you, Gladys tell about the Hamptons. Well, I went down to talk to her about it, and it is just hitting her about Pearl's death. She was in the bed one day last week—she's not well—and, between me and you, I'm afraid the cancer is back on her. Anyways, I went down and talk to her about it and she said, "Aunt Maude, I was so young back then that I don't remember. If you know anything worth telling you tell it."

TA: Well, what about that.

MB: So, I don't know whether I can tell you—what would you say—

TA: Who owned the mill? Who built the mill, to start with?

MB: Davy's father.

TA: And his name was?

MB: Davy's father came from North Carolina like the Thompsons did. I don't know what country they were from.

TA: Which Hampton was he?

MB: James Hampton.

TA: James Hampton.

MB: And then he married a Greene County girl, Margaret Cooter. James Hampton married Margaret Cooter. Let me look through those Hampton pictures I can show you. Davy's daddy and his mother and he was James Hampton and this was Margaret Cooter Hampton. This was just a neighbor. And this is Davy. And D's daughter thought her daddy looked like Earl.

(mumbles and explains who people are in photograph and laughs] And this old lady lived down below. They looked after them. A big snow came and they were uneasy about her and Mr. Hampton and didn't think he could walk down there. And you know what they did? They were so worried. What you would call it, to take care of themselves. But anyway, he wanted to go see about this old lady. She was Mrs. Reynolds and he didn't think he could walk down there. So he turned a milk cow out and let her in front of him and he walked in the tracks (laughs). And of course, this is her spring house, log spring house. Of course that's a home, you know about that. This is the mule race. We still haven't found—we found one picture to see if they can take it for the mule race. [mumbles] I'm afraid to send them off. And that's the mill.

TA: You know, we really should have a picture of that—you take that up to Buddy's.

MB: And this is the race that goes right up through there. But these are all (inaudible) pictures and I promised him faithfully I would take care of them. But this one would be the only one—

TA: Well, how many years did Davy keep the mill?

MB: Well, we know that it was running in 1938, and that's the last we know. In 1930, the (inaudible) as they called it—is that German? Or French?

TA: I don't know.

[52:35]

MB: It was—I believe she said French. The mill was two stories high and went on above and that's Davy's little store.

TA: What a shame that we don't have a picture of that mill.

MB: I thought once about running an ad in the paper, somebody might have it. This is when I think they tore the mill down.

TA: Yes.

MB: See all that right there?

TA: Yes.

MB: And this little picture of mine—this is mine—[inaudible) in front of a mill race.

TA: Tell me about some of those good times you had out there.

MB: Oh, Thelma, Pearl married into that—I know this much. 'Cause she said she was way too young to know about it. But, Mister James Hampton—you're not taking this down?

TA: A little bit of it. I turn it off and on—when you were telling about the pictures, yes.

MB: Well, this is a home—this spring house is out there, it's torn down now. I will take them and put them up before I lose them. James Hampton came from North Carolina and married Margaret Cooter in Greene County. And he bought this farm with a big spring on it from Marson's and it was called Marson's Springs before the Hampton's bought it.

TA: That's interesting.

[55:00]

MB: Then it was changed to Hampton's Springs. And it is the heavy metered creek, you know. And Mr. Hampton built this mill, a grist mill. I don't think they ground wheat but they did ground corn. And that was where they got their bread, and they had their milk cow and that was their milk and butter, and they had their chickens which furnished fryers and eggs, and they raised all their vegetables and made their apple butter and their blackberry jam, and all of that. I don't think that family had to buy anything back then but sugar and coffee and sodium salt.

TA: And that was about what years?

MB: It would be way back—I really don't know. I suspect it was the late 1800s. In this mill—in this grist mill building, he had a carpenter shop and he made chairs, and beds, and caskets, and after Pearl married Davy, their son, she would pad and line the caskets.

TA: Tell me about how she did that.

MB: Well, she padded them with cotton, and she lined the baby caskets with twine on the insides and had eyelet rumpling all-round the inside.

TA: Don't you know the parents appreciated that?

MB: And, the baby caskets—they covered them on the outside with white cloth, and I think it was called cambridge, it was slick you know. And of course the older people caskets—he painted black or brown, which she padded and lined them with white.

TA: And your own sister did that?

MB: And she was married into that family at sixteen. She said Mrs. Hampton practically raised her. Well, I went out there so much, and after [inaudible] and Earl were born, I would go out and take care of them while she could go work. And that's why I know as much as I do about it. And they raised their vegetables, they had their fruits, their milk and butter, their beef, and their pork. So, they didn't have anything to buy.

[57:55]

TA: Really?

MB: And Mrs. Hampton was such a good, old-fashioned cook. Jesse and I would go and pick blackberries for her. And Jesse said the dinner was worth picking the berries for her. We picked them until she got old. She wanted them; she gave us the rest of us. And the berries we brought in she would cook dinner with. Well, Thelma, she had green beans, ripe tomatoes, some cucumbers, cabbage, potatoes, and cold sweet milk and buttermilk out of that springhouse and butter out of that springhouse.

TA: I believe I'd gone and picked blackberries, too. [laughs]

MB: And blackberry cobbler for dessert.

TA: What about that.

MB: And of course, we had milk to drink. And she would—she had cornbread. She made it with the little dodgers and baked it on a flat skillet that didn't have room.

TA: On top of the stove? Or in the oven?

MB: No, in the oven. She had a wood cook stove. Mr. Hampton built their home too, that home is still standing. He had a woodshed—he was a carpenter, and he did things so well, so convenient I'd say. In his woodshed he built a driveway wide-enough for a wagon and horses to go through, And he put his wood cook stove wood on one side of the driveway and wood for the open fireplace on the other side of the driveway—he didn't have any messes. Then he would leave his wagon in that driveway as shelter. Then they had the springhouse and he built it. Well, it had a wall through it—from one wall to the other. If they could walk in and set their milk and butter down in the cooler. But when a rainstorm was coming and thought if the water raised it would turn the milk and butter over. And the children all knew to go and set that milk and butter up in the shelf. He had shelves in there, and then his smokehouse was a frame, two-stories, not real high, but two stories. Lower story he kept his garden tools, saws, all of his equipment in the bottom story. And they had a porch downstairs and upstairs, and to go upstairs you went up steps on the porch, and Mrs. Hampton kept all of her equipment upstairs. Like skillets, her crops, cans—they didn't use many cans back then—and her quilting frames and all that she kept in the upper store. They had things so convenient—the most so of any family would ever seen in here.

TA: What about that. [pauses] Maude, tell me—now, you've got a lot of memories of people that live here—describe the Horse Creek people, how you see them.

MB: I'm afraid I can't do that. I remember Stevie Painter who had the store or the Dunham store. He had the store, the grist mill, and the post office. He had a brother named Addy that had another store a little further back. Now, I remember them because that's where we went to pick up our mail and also buy anything we needed—they kept dry goods, too, like cloth and shoes.

TA: Well, what about the store you and your husband had? Tell me about that.

MB: Well, you got that on?

TA: Yes.

MB: Well, it was just a country store, but we had cloth and overalls and shirts and hats and shoes. And we had some beautiful hats with flowers all around the crown. Then we had groceries.

TA: How many years did you have the store?

MB: I don't remember how long. It was when Charles was a baby and we kept it around the time to near time we went back to Asheville.

TA: How would you describe the people who live out here in Horse Creek?

MB: Well, they were all awfully friendly people and good neighbors.

TA: Would you say they were hardworking people?

MB: Yes, and they were and they prospered more than any other county, I feel like, in Tennessee. The Horse Creek people have.

TA: Do you feel that Horse Creek has been important to the development of Greene County?

MB: Yes, I do. And they had several schoolteachers, Evelyn Thompson, Jimmy Painter, Gloria Dunham, there were several schoolteachers from Horse Creek, and merchants. I don't believe, I don't recall if they had a minister that is that lived over there.

TA: When you think of Horse Creek, what area do you think of the most?

MB: The Pleasant Hill Community.

TA: We think of that now as middle Horse Creek, and up where I live as upper Horse Creek.

MB: And then the lower Horse Creek. [pauses] Now, I'm going to get that picture of our store.

Mary let me have the picture. Unveil the marker.

TA: That's a crowd of people.

MB: And that's in North Carolina. And this is a Thompson reunion down in Mosheim.

TA: Look at the food on the table.

MB: Right there is [inaudible] and there's Meg Broyles, she was the wife of William Broyles who lived in Mosheim. And this is one of the Thompson's wives, no one of the Thompson daughters, Lulu Thompson. This is Wilbur Moore, and Lulu is right behind him. You can just see his bald head. Right there.

TA: Well, you certainly do have a wealth of pictures and written material.

MB: Yes I do. Here's Union Chapel School. I'm about eight years old in that picture. And this is a teacher—the reason I was saying there were few years in this Green Ridge School, that they didn't tell the teachers, it could be that they taught more than one year. Now this is John Love, and this is Baby Gray. I was trying to find someone you'd know. That's my sister, Jesse, and

that's Bonnie Gray, and that's Lily Thompson. And, this is Rhett Waddle right there. Carson Gray there and that's [inaudible].

TA: All people that have lived in this community.

MB: This is later, I was 10 or 12 there. There is this one 1905.

TA: And this is Mr. John Love, the teacher?

MB: Mhmm.

TA: Don't you think one-room schools really had something good about them?

MB: Yes, they did.

TA: Why do you suppose that was?

MB: And Mr. Love, yeah, there was a Bible chapter that he would like to read, and he had devotions every morning and we had a wood stove, and he would have the little ones up around the stove. If anyone came in wet from snow or rain, he would make them move back and let them get up next to the stove.

TA: What was his favorite Bible verse?

MB: 1 Corinthians—I forgot it right now, but maybe you can tell me, “When I was a child, I thought I was a child. And when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

TA: And think now, that has stayed with you all these years.

MB: All these years. I was going to find, that's [inaudible] from having the store, that's Ethel right there. This is [inaudible], that's Lily Thompson, that's Mr. Love's boy, that one is, and there's another of them over here that's his boy. The Click boys were sitting here, but I don't see

them in this. But they are somewhere. There is Ozzie Click, now the other one is there somewhere. Can you pick him out?

TA: No.

MB: This is Fred Broyles, he used to live down here, you remembered him, didn't you?

TA: Yes.

MB: That's Pearl, and she said, "Why did mother let me wear an apron to school?" [laughs]

TA: Maude, tell me about when you substituted up at Horse Creek Mission.

MB: Well, it wasn't much to that, the teacher was just sick and they called on me.

TA: How many days?

MB: Did Fred remember that? It could've been two weeks, but the teacher was just sick. I thought to myself that Buddy thinks I won't collect him for school but I did.

TA: And who was the teacher, Ms. Anderson?

MB: No, it was Ms. Martha and—it was Ms. Emma, what was their last name, but it was Ms. Emma, she was sick.

TA: The missionary teachers.

MB: The missionary teacher. I know their name just as well—that's it, I'm getting so old. I can think of things back yonder, but things today leave me. That's Ozzie, and I was trying to find Ludy. I think he's in there. Is that one of them? I believe that's Lilly and that's Ozzie, and that's Theodore Wood. I know everyone in there.

TA: You're so fortunate to have all this.

[1:12:30]

MB: Now getting back to business. This is the store that Ludy and I had. Now all I can pick out is that is Jason Broyles who run this school. And this is Bruce Hampton that lived here above me. And this is a Gray boy, one of you was brothers. And I think it's Jim. He was the oldest. And I just would love to know what that little girl dressed up in the hat, I'd like to know who she is.

TA: Well, listen, Maude, no story of Horse Creek would be complete without telling something about the mountains, Cold Spring Mountains. Do you remember anything about those that might be interesting?

MB: I do know. Back when I was a child, we would go to the top of the mountains and pick up chestnuts. We would carry, we usually took one horse and put the sack on the horse, we'd carry a bushel of chestnuts out of there. You could sit down on the chestnut logs, and the chestnuts would roll down, and you could sit on that log and pick up a whole lot of chestnuts.

TA: Did you get anything up there besides chestnuts?

MB: Well, I didn't but the men went and picked huckleberries, even Ludy went up there to pick huckleberries. And when Charles was just a baby and we lived up here out of John Thompson house. And Charles was just walking, and I had little Mary too, she was born up there. They have a sand pile out in the yard, Charles did and a little wagon. And I took him out there and got him started played and I took care of Mary and I combed my hair before and went back out, and when I came back he was gone. And I went first to the old Al Hampton place where there was an old well. That scared me. Well the roads were just dirt roads at the time, and in dry weather you

could track anybody and I didn't see his little bare feet on the tracks. So I run back to the house and checked down there, then I went to daddy's barn and called mother and asked if Charles had come down there, and she said, "No, is he lost?" And I said, "Yes." When I went to my dad's mountain spring I saw where he had folded a log and was in there getting himself a drink and he could have found in there in the ground. And his little old truck was fell down. He couldn't cross the bridge, he was too little.

TA: How old was he?

MB: He'd be between 2 and 3. And I said "Charles, where were you going?" And he said, "I am going to my daddy to help pick huckleberries." (laughs)

TA: In the mountains>

MB: If he'd gotten across that branch, no telling, he would have been lost.

TA: Did you ever spend a night on the top of the mountains?

MB: No.

TA: Evelyn did.

MB: Yes.

TA: Several times and she told me about it.

MB: Somewhere I have a picture of Uncle John Thompson carrying Evelyn's sister on top of the mountain.

TA: Didn't a lot of people go and spend the night?

MB: Oh yes.

TA: You told me one time about Earl camping up there with his son, and somebody looking in their tent at night. Do you remember that?

MB: Just vaguely.

TA: You told me that.

MB: Another thing, not too many years ago, since Davy died, Earl took his mother to the top of the Cold Spring in a jeep and they didn't tell any of the neighbors or anything that they were going. And Earl went out on that big rock, Lookoff Rock. You know it has that big crack in it. And Floris said Earl come back, come back, do you know if anything had happened to you, I couldn't find my way back home and she said, nobody knows we are up here. And she said that sunk in with Earl. And he turned around and came back and brought her home. But that was last time she was up there.

TA: And that hasn't been too long ago, has it? Thought about that and now Pearl is gone. Well, we could just talk about Horse Creek forever couldn't we?

MB: Yes, we can but I can't tell you too much about Horse Creek, when we came down, Mary did come down, and they wanted to go on past old Thompson home, it was where Lois lived, but it was a big log cabin, that's where Evelyn was born, and we went on out that way, and through your place, and down the creek and I showed her where your sister lived and she said I didn't know that, I didn't know she had a sister up here. How are they?

TA: Fine, as much as I know. I sure do appreciate you being willing to help us out with this Maud. It's going to contribute a lot to our study.

MB: Well that's one of my faults as I get older, I repeat things.

TA: Well, we will go over it many times.

MB: At 90 years, you can't expect it.

TA: I'm proud of you.

MB: It's better than Cynthia said, you do well to live alone and take care of your business.

TA: Exactly right.

[End transcript 01:16:00]