

Today's interview is being conducted with Mr. Lee Farrow. We are talking about what used to be at Fort Campbell back before it was Fort Campbell. What we have is a map here showing a lot of the different plots. If you could just kind of show me where your particular area was.

Mr. Farrow: This particular area here, if you look at the map of Fort Campbell it would be here in this area here through here. This right here would be Boiling Springs area and right through here. The name is going to be spelled different. I don't know why on this map here it is spelled different. This is the way I spell my name F-A-R-R-O-W. This is my grandmothers here, Mattie Farrar, and this is how they got it spelled here but I don't know why is the misspelling of the names. When we have family reunions and things I spell it three different ways. I don't know if you can see from some of these signs in here that it would be spelled F-A-R-R-A-R, F-A-I-R-O-W, F-A-R-R-O-W and that is the way we spell it.

Boiling Springs road pretty much runs the same route today that it did back then?

Mr. Farrow: The same route today that it did back then. Now, the church and things was down there. I don't know how much history you got to now but this part right here was the center part right here of the whole community right here, one of the center spots. This was Ransom School and back in those days, you know to have the interview I'm going to have to keep this straight for the books. To have the interview we are going to have to go across the racial lines.

Ok.

Mr. Farrow: I don't mean to be racial.

Absolutely, it's part of history sir.

Mr. Farrow: Okay, okay. This is Ransom School. The blacks had to come out of Kentucky. This is not too far from Kentucky, come out of Kentucky to Ransom School because in Christian County at that time there weren't any black schools in Christian County. There weren't any black schools in Stewart County. Children would have to walk across and stay with some of their relatives. Ransom School, my grandmother was at Ransom.

What road is this right here sir? Is that...

Mr. Farrow: This is Boiling Springs.

That's still Boiling Springs right there?

Mr. Farrow: That is Boiling Springs Road down through here. My grandmother was a Ransom.

What road is this one right here? Does that have a particular name?

Mr. Farrow: I don't see a name on that. It is probably \_\_\_\_ the farmers bought it all. You have Woodlawn Road here.

That helps out right there, so Woodlawn. We have Boiling Springs here to Ransom School which appears to be right off of this corner. That should be easy to find. How many acres did this particular plot contain, sir?

Mr. Farrow: Well, our family when it was broken up, this was hiered down to my grandmother from the Ransom family. Dave Ransom here, that is a Jr. but you have to get into the history of this here. You have

to get into the breakdown of the family tree. Dave Ransom, Sr. was left part of this land here. Just before the end of slavery, these brothers Dave Ransom, Ronnie and Reeves was all brothers and they were sold before slavery was abolished. After slavery was over with they got back together. Although they were blood brothers they had to get different last names because you kept the last name of the people who owned you last. That is how they got that. That is how they came around doing the breakdown of that.

I'm going to pick up once again; we are interviewing Mr. Vivan Lee Farrow. The interview is being conducted in Woodlawn, Tennessee. The date is 12 April 2006.

Mr. Farrow: This is the deed here. My great grandfather Sampson Cole and wife Mattie Cole purchased land from Austin Peay trustee here and it shows how much land it was and how much he paid for it.

This was purchased from Mr. Austin Peay?

Mr. Farrow: This was purchased from trustees of Austin Farm Bank and this is what they paid for it. It breaks down how much they paid each year. This was starting back in 1921 when they purchased this here until they paid it completely \_\_\_\_ Austin Peay until they paid it out. If you read this here they paid the whole thing. It is notarized and everything. The last payment was July 10, 1923.

This would be really valuable stuff if we could somehow get a copy of this because a lot of times these types of documents really just add so much to the story, especially if somebody decides to do a book or an article about this one of these days.

Mr. Farrow: This here is actually the deed where the U.S. Army War Department bought this here from my grandfather; his land in 1942. This is the title deed, how much the land was, where the land was located at, and the price where they paid him for it.

How much did they....?

Mr. Farrow: They paid him \$900.00.

\$900.00 and that was approximately for how many acres, sir?

Mr. Farrow: It's not the value of the acres of land I think. It's mostly this is his house and everything he had and he couldn't come back.

Everything!

Mr. Farrow: Yeah; house, farm, and everything.

At the time that that transaction was made was it considered a fair price by people in the area?

Mr. Farrow: Not really because all that was kept under hat. What happened some think that others got more than others did. Some of the people in the know bought up land before the Department of the Army came in here and took this land. They resold the land to the Army and made a profit off of it. You can see on this map here that there is large tracts of land here that it wasn't; it would be just like under different estates. At that time Tennessee Farmer Coop State and they were sold to the government. People who lived here before this came along will tell you the people who lived here; Barkers and different ones sold the land and thought they were getting a good price for it by selling to these people. These were kind of like, I don't know what you call them, I call them crooks but you can call them pin hookers, investors or

whatever you want to call them. They knew that this was going to happen before people in the community were noted so they bought the land up, resold it, and made a profit off of it.

Now that wasn't the situation in this case or ...?

Mr. Farrow: No not in this case here. This was sold directly to the Department of War Department.

\$900.00 for a house, farm, stable, everything.

Mr. Farrow: Yes, everything. You can see right here that at the time he sold it, it was 17 acres more or less right here. All this right here, this is the farm here that came off of that Austin Peay Estate Farm. If you read this deed here it will show you where it was bought from them. He bought it from his father.

Sir, this road right here, which...?

Mr. Farrow: This would be 79 now.

79 now, so your grandfather's property was just off of 79?

Mr. Farrow: Yes; this right here was part of the land that my great grandfather owned that these guys came in here and bought up and they turned around and sold it.

The Tennessee Farm Corporation and then turned around and sold it.

Mr. Farrow: They sold it for a profit. What happened, there was a bunch of poor people down here that had land and they weren't aware of the value of it. But I thought they were being taken advantage of. This map here shows quite a few people on this map here. There were just as many sharecroppers down there as there were land owners. This just shows the land owners here. It want show the sharecroppers and the people who were uprooted. It was just one of the greatest things that ever happened in the community.

Once again sir your parents names including the mother's maiden name.

Mr. Farrow: My mother's maiden name was \_\_Mae Caudle Farrow.

Okay and grandparents names; maternal and paternal.

Mr. Farrow: My mother's parent's mother's maiden name was Florence Davey Caudle. Her father's name was \_\_\_\_\_ Benjamin Caudle.

To your best knowledge when did your ancestors first appear in this area?

Mr. Farrow: You got me there because I really don't know. As far as I can go back; I found history of them around here. There was a Caudle; I go back until like into the 1808 my great, great, grandfather, Cudjo who came over here from Africa about 1808. He was born back in 1808. I got a book over in my thing that we done some family history on it.

Absolutely.

Mr. Farrow: Some of this stuff; I can show you some stuff here that he worked with. I got some stuff in the house here that he worked with. My grandparents were blacksmiths on my mother's side; all of them were blacksmiths. They would shoe mules and drill holes. I got most of all the blacksmith equipment here

on site here now that I haven't put it back together. It wouldn't take me long to get it back together. Later on we can pan around and I can show you some of the stuff that they worked with.

Absolutely. I would rather go through the normal list here. I think I am going to allow you to just kind of take us through here the best way that you want to. Just a couple of things though about the actual land acquisition, how and when were your family first given notice about the government land acquisition?

Mr. Farrow: They got notices by people that were riding through the country and they were notified. The rumors were spread before. Like I said other people who didn't know; like Congress, Senators and other people like that know. Quite naturally they got people, and they passed it on to them and these people saw a chance in life to make them some money so they came out there prospecting and buying up land. These people in the country had land. They didn't know what they had. They didn't know what was going on. This might have been two or three years four or five years before this actually happened and they bought this land up from these people.

That makes sense because this was originally talked about in 1935 and the acquisition didn't take place until 1941 and early 1942.

Mr. Farrow: These people were notified about this here. Just like this day and time, people are selling land this day and time now and you can't make no more land. You can fill in holes and stuff like that and you can cut down hills but you can't make no more land. These people weren't aware of this here. These people didn't go nowhere but to church and back home. Some of them didn't even have a radio. They didn't take the paper. Some of them couldn't even read or even write. They bought this land for little of nothing back in the day and then somebody came along probably paid \$5 an acre for it or \$4 an acre for it. When somebody came along and offered them \$10 an acre for it they thought they had something. They turned back around and they sold it for \$100 or \$200 an acre, I don't know. I don't know that but that is what was passed down to me. That's what I was told. It sold for a reason that these coop and things that came in here and bought this land and people came along and will tell you that we used to own that. I show people this map right now and they say where is our farm at? My granddad had so and so many acres of farm and when you trace it down, it is one of these coops that bought it up.

Once the money was paid I understand a lot of people just ended up moving to Clarksville or living in town. What did your family do? Where did they relocate to?

Mr. Farrow: Our family relocated approximately about three miles. I haven't never lived over four miles from where I was born at in my whole life. They left there and moved up here on the farm in a house that you had to set buckets in the floor to catch water running down through there. When it snowed it snowed on you. They had to move, these shanty's because they didn't have nowhere else to go because they had to go and they couldn't go back out there to get nothing. Once that deadline was up you had to go. We moved three times before my father bought another farm and built a house. He built a house in 1945. We were moving every six months or every three months. We were sharecropping with somebody and if you couldn't get along with them.... They would tell me, and I lived through some of the stuff and some of the stuff that happened that I wasn't around, my father he had to hide. He was sharecropping and when he got through with his crop if they seen him sitting around they wanted him to do something else. So he used to go back to the back somewhere and kindly lay low until the day was over with because he wanted to keep working. He was living in the man's house on the person farm so you had to do that.

That was the situation? He was living in somebody else's house that was basically a shanty; giving out to sharecroppers who worked his land?

Mr. Farrow: He worked his land yes. If you didn't go by the rules, you know. Had these people here been free all of their life in a way of speaking and I mean by being free to own their own land and do what they wanted to do and when they wanted to do it; and then you had to go and live under someone else's rules and regulations and that is where the whole thing started at. We moved three times until we moved here. We built a house here in 1945.

Now the \$900.00 was that used just to live on or was that put away some place in the hopes of buying another piece of property down the road?

Mr. Farrow: They bought another piece of property across the road which is called now Lylewood Road. Back then it was called Locksy Road. It's down here now and the property now is still in our family now. He bought 14 acres later on in life in 1942. He sold six of that and there was still eight acres that was left in the family now.

When ya'll moved you were about six months old at the time being born in June of 1941?

Mr. Farrow: I was about six months old when we left down there.

How many brothers and sisters did you have; older or younger?

Mr. Farrow: All of them are older. I'm the baby.

You're the baby of the family? How many brothers and sisters were there?

Mr. Farrow: I had three sisters and two brothers. There were six of us total.

With the little bit of money that your father received he had to keep a large family going while he was sharecropping for somebody else until he could get his own farm again.

Mr. Farrow: Oh yeah and you had to buy land. You couldn't just go out here and say I am going to build me a house because you didn't have no land. You had to buy land. You had to make a deal for land. Why would a person sell you land when they could work you on their land and get half of what you make. If they sell you land you would get all that you make. That is the idea of that. My father used to come home a lot of days and he would have his family on one shoulder and got the other man's family on his other shoulder because he was sharecropping. Half of what he made he got it. If he made \$2, the guy got \$1 and he got \$1. That is the way sharecroppers were, half and half. It's something to think about. This day and time there probably aren't no sharecroppers around no more. People loved sharecroppers. Some people lived on farms their entire lives. I know I do a lot of history. I know families right now who were born and raised on farms and stayed on their like three generations, four generation and died on there and they never owned their own land. That is all they ever know. What you don't ever know that is all you ever know.

This was coming into World War II at the same time. Did you have any brothers that were old enough to be drafted at that time or were they just....?

Mr. Farrow: If you were farming you could get; if your family depended on farming and that was your labor, you could get what they called deferred. One brother got deferred because he was having to work to make a living for the family. My other brother fell in between us so he wasn't anywhere close to it.

Among the rest of these documents here if you could point out some of the others.

Mr. Farrow: This was a lease that my grandfather had back in the day. They was drilling for oil. He sold oil rights on his farm.

They sold oil rights on this property of his?

Mr. Farrow: Yes, this was in the 30's. This is some of the stuff I picked up through the history and things. Different things that I had accumulated. This was how you got your sugar. This is some of the stamps and thing; sugar stamps. You were only allowed so much. This was in war time. This is a war ration. If you ran out of stamps you ran out of food. My mother and father, we always lived together, half the community. When we got busted up this is a letter here my mother wrote to my grandmother after we had got delivered. You see the stamp here on the letter; you could mail a letter back in those days for .3 cents.

It's important that somebody saved some of this stuff because this is a large part of the story that I have never heard up to this point.

Mr. Farrow: Tobacco was a way of life. Everybody raised tobacco. This right here was the tobacco they sold. This was written in pencil, you can kind of make it out. This right here tobacco sold for .5 cents; .2 cents a pound. I just quit raising tobacco last year. I raised crop in 2005 and I sold it in 2006. I sell it now for \$3.25 a pound. He borrowed some money against his crop for \$11.75.

An entire crop of tobacco consisting of 2/3 of 1500 pounds now in the barn?

Mr. Farrow: That is what they were hoping that they; in 1933 they had to sign a note to get that kind of money back in those days. That is for the crop. You could figure it up how much this crop brought him. This is some he sold here it was \$58.00 and this right here was \$5.00. That is after everything was taken out of it. So he got about \$63.00 for each year's work.

\$63.00 for a year's work?

Mr. Farrow: Yeah. This is papers where I sold tobacco in 2005. This is some of the prices. This is \$2.73 a pound right here.

This wasn't profitable for you to raise tobacco any longer?

Mr. Farrow: Now, it's fine; it's great. There is more money made in tobacco now in this day and time than there ever was made. This is just letters and things. I got letters in here from my auntie \_\_\_\_\_ wanting to borrow money. I'm thinking about .15 or .25 cents and different things of that nature.

I talked to a man yesterday who said that during the depression there was just no such thing as money. Nobody had any.

Mr. Farrow: No, no, no; my grandfather worked on shoes. Like I said they were blacksmiths and I can show you this machine later on. I got some letters in here that will show you what; this was in 1936, of why people were asking to borrow money. He was known to keep a dollar or two. This is from the burial association for what you could get buried for back in the day. They used to pay on things like this here.

This is April 15, 1939.

Mr. Farrow: This was the amount right here. You could get a first class burial for \$100.00. This is what they paid. They paid by the week and this is .50 cents. This is for my grandfather and this is for my great grandfather right here.

.50 cents a week though was probably pretty dear to come by.

Mr. Farrow: I think it was monthly. It was just a way of life and they didn't know no more.

Did your father ever talk to you about what he felt when he was told that he had to move? What his feelings were at that time or did he just accept it as...?

Mr. Farrow: No, you had to accept it. It was just one of those things that you think about for a long time and the day comes that you have to go and then you just take off. You went around and asked different people in the community could you? They would say yeah but this is what I got. You walk in this place here with hardly any doors on it and maybe two rooms. You got a family and you got only two rooms. You got a wife and boys and girls and only two rooms. That is how you had to live.

What would your father have thought seeing this place; seeing this house and this garage and all the things that you have here? You probably would have amazed him.

Mr. Farrow: He probably would have been amazed to as hard as he was; he never even owned a tractor. He bought a mule one time. He paid \$5 for a mule. A good mule back in the day would sell for \$125.00 and he bought a mule for \$5. One of the \_\_\_ about it, he had a broken leg and he brought him home with him and nursed him back to health from a broken leg. His leg that was broken was his right back leg. I don't know if you know anything about mules. If you had a halter you had a lead mule. By this mule having a broken leg on the right hand side he had to work him in the off all the time. His leg kind of stuck out like that.

So the off position was which position? Was that on the inside of the turn or?

Mr. Farrow: We always worked with the left-handed plow. You have a left hand plow and you had a right hand plow. We always worked the left hand plow. By the left hand plow the off side would be the passenger side, like a car. Like if you were riding in the passenger side of the car that would be the off side, the passenger side. The lead side would be the driver's side. Other people around here some of them had right hand plows. Some of them had what you called a heels side plow. You could plow both ways with it. There were so many different things that I have been through, but he never owned a tractor. I have three or four out here.

Sir, if at any time you need to pause to conduct business or anything that is fine we can just pause this.

Mr. Farrow: That was my neighbor he wanted to borrow that up there. He is going back now. Another note I wanted you to read that my auntie wrote my grandmother back in 1936. You have to be strong hearted to read it on how times were back then. I hope I can find it.

What are the approximate dates on some of these photographs up here?

Mr. Farrow: Those right there you can see that little guy sitting on the ladies lap right there? That is myself so you know about the approximate date that is.

So about 1943?

Mr. Farrow: 1943; that was the second house we moved in after we left Fort Campbell. My older brother is not on there. He was at work. He used to work for people and the one guy he used to work for; he was paying him .50 cents a day. He went to work half a day. He went there that afternoon at 1 o'clock and he thought that was too late. He sent him back home and told him to come back the next day at 12:00. His picture up there and I don't know if you can get it, it is the man up there with a horse and buggy. That picture was taken in 1921.

Do you have a chair, sir? I would love to get that. The picture we are about to look at, this picture was taken in 1921. What was his name sir?

Mr. Farrow: His name was Tim Giles.

Tim Giles; he was 100 years old at the time that this was taken which means that he was in his 40's when slavery ended. Now this is all family here?

Mr. Farrow: All family, yes. This right here is a picture of my grandmother. This one here is the Ransom here. That is a picture of my grandmother right there. That is the Farrow right there.

Ok that was Robert?

Mr. Farrow: That is Mattie Ransom.

Then gentleman next to her?

Mr. Farrow: That is Oscar Farrow. He was raised in Kentucky. He had to walk across Kentucky. That is how he met up with her. He walked across Kentucky to Tennessee to go to school.

Again in Kentucky there was no school for...?

Mr. Farrow: On that part of Kentucky for the blacks to go to so he had to walk across.

So the Ransom School that you showed me on the map that was the only school in that area for? This is just absolutely incredible. I hope you have a relative that you trust to take care of all of this.

Mr. Farrow: I got three to four daughters and I think all of them are interested in it too. If you come over here I will show you some of the stuff that my great, great grandfather had worked with. This here is an anvil right here that he used to make shoes with; mule shoes with and any other kind of iron. We didn't have Wal-Mart and we didn't have K-Mart.

What was the nearest general store to you? Was it in Jordan Springs?

Mr. Farrow: Jordan Springs or right there at the edge of Boiling Springs Road; right there at Boiling Springs and Woodlawn. \_\_\_\_ Johnson used to run a store there. That was one of the main stores right there. That was one of the stores of the community right there.

How many miles was that?

Mr. Farrow: Where we lived at approximately about 2 miles from where we lived at. We lived on the other side of the creek from Ransom School; although Ransom School we owned the property. My fore parents owned the property on Ransom School but we lived on the other side of the creek. When it rained we crossed the creek on a foot log. My father also told me how the water got up, a long tall tree you had

to cut to get across the creek. Once the foot log got covered over it would go back up the hill a little further to cut a longer tree and let it fall across the creek. That is how they crossed the creek. Mostly family and things they used to put their butter and everything in the creek down there. I got my name carved up in a tree down there where I was born at on Fort Campbell down there in area 6.

Have you been back in that area? Have you ever taken an opportunity to go back there and look?

Mr. Farrow: I go back there quite a bit. I got some flowers. I'm not supposed to get anything at Fort Campbell but I didn't get it at Fort Campbell. I got some flowers that came from my home place. If you can get a look at those hammers how they are beat up. Now there was some \_\_\_\_ that hit the iron that hit the emblem when the iron was hot. That is what they did. You can imagine how many times those hammers have been hit. I don't know if the picture will show you.

Oh yeah. As you can see this camera here is pretty good at getting detail.

Mr. Farrow: All this stuff here, that is where they take the farming shoes up. That is how they made the shoes. That is going back to slavery right there.

This stuff here?

Mr. Farrow: Yeah that goes on back to Cudjos and all the Caudles. The Caudles goes \_\_\_\_.

Now Cudjo was your great grandfather?

Mr. Farrow: Great, great grandfather.

Great, great grandfather; how much do you know about his history? Was he able to pass that on?

Mr. Farrow: We got all of it. I have some cousins that went all the way back to Africa \_\_\_\_ where just about they think they come from over there.

Do you have it written down anywhere?

Mr. Farrow: I have books; we have books, family tree books and things. If I had the money that Oprah and them had. I don't know if you saw this thing back here a couple of years or weeks ago on TV that Oprah and different ones had DNA show how much European blood they had in them, how much African blood they had in them, and how much Native American blood they had in them. That is the kind of money that you could go back and wipe that out and it would be very simple to do. Then they could see some resemblance you know.

He was born in 1808 in Africa.

Mr. Farrow: That is when he came over here.

That is when he came over here?

Mr. Farrow: If you can pause I can get the book here and give you more.

Okay.

Mr. Farrow: You had night riders down there. The first that started over was about the land. Not about the land but about the jobs. When they first freed the blacks they didn't want to pay them to work for them so they went and got the poor whites. The whites said that they didn't want to work so they went back and got the blacks. The whites figured that the blacks were taking their jobs and taking their livelihood by working so they ran them out; out of Stewart County and around.

Now this would have been about 1868 or something?

Mr. Farrow: This was up in the 30's. This was a civilized country this was. This was in the 20s and 30s when the night riders was. I have pictures of my uncle over there who was a steward and he was maybe \_\_\_\_\_ as molasses and he was one of the last few blacks left in Stewart County. There is a few down there now but he left from down there. The big land owners came down here and told him; words had been passed down to me through his family and everything else that "Unc, I think a lot of you but for your own safety and your own family's safety you probably should leave here." He packed up and left Stewart County that night with the wagon and mule and whatever little stuff he could get on his wagon.

Just whatever he could put on there that night?

Mr. Farrow: Later on the courthouse in Stewart County got burnt. There were no records. I have an auntie that lives in California right now who was a brother to this guy I am talking about she was living, she is right at 100 years old now. She remembers this right now, the land that I have \_\_\_\_\_ just don't cross this kind of line in Stewart County.

I just got to take one look at this here.

Mr. Farrow: This is a picture right here of Dave Ransom, Sr. This is the second Dave Ransom. Old man Dave Ransom who got the land who was given to him from his master, that is his father. He was manager of a baseball team. This is peewee right here. I know all these people standing here.

He is white?

Mr. Farrow: No.

No, he almost looks it.

Mr. Farrow: That is where we got that at. His mother, Jackie Ransom, was just about, you couldn't tell her. Now you go back to the next generation who was his father, he was, you could hardly tell him from white.

So that was Dave Ransom, all the people on this team here; now this was a team from....?

Mr. Farrow: From Woodlawn.

From Woodlawn?

Mr. Farrow: Most of them came out of Boiling Springs and places like that there. This right here, this is my uncle. This is my father's grandfather. This here is my mother's uncle; the Caudle's. These three here is brothers; three, four, and five are brothers. Doy Caudle, Bud Caudle, and Robert Caudle. One played first base, one played second base and one played short stop. The word they used to say that was passed on down to me to my family was, "they could do more with a baseball than \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ and they

used to have a lot of fun. This right here this is John Outlaw, \_\_\_\_\_, Jimmy Roy, and \_\_\_\_\_. This is family; all this right here is family.

These are still names that you see around here on mailboxes.

Mr. Farrow: Mailboxes and things of that nature, yes.

Okay, now this would have been about what year?

Mr. Farrow: This right here, Johnny Outlaw, he would \_\_\_\_\_. This had to be into the late, this was before my father used to play. My father was a big baseball player. He was too young to play on this team here so this had to be in the turn of the century around in 1913, 14, 15 or up to 1920. My father was born in 1906. He was one of the leading baseball players around here. My brother was too but that was another generation behind us right here. I wished you could get a good look, you probably want get this on film but I want you to get a look at this glove here. That glove looked like something that came out of a Frankenstein movie. But they used to play ball with it. This is my grandfather here plowing his mule.

That is your grandfather behind the mule?

Mr. Farrow: Yes; this is his other three brother's right here on the ball team. He was the oldest one of his family right here. That is the reason he is not on the ball team.

This would have been in the Fort Campbell area right here?

Mr. Farrow: Yes.

That picture would have been....?

Mr. Farrow: In the 30s; it's probably up in the 30's. This right here, we didn't take that many pictures; we didn't have that many pictures.

Photography was nowhere near as easy as it is today, but then again I think people appreciated things more.

Mr. Farrow: That is my uncle right there that was fixing to go cut tobacco. You could see the tobacco plant right there. Can you make out that tobacco leaf there? That is the mule right there, a mule and wagon sitting there. That is probably somebody that came out of town and took their picture on the wagon. There wasn't no cameras and things around. You know I don't drink booze, if I did I wouldn't have that. This is a picture of my grandfather and grandmother after they done got city slick there. That was taken in the early 20s. That is the one that left here and went to St. Louis. It was amazing how they done it. They was Farrow's when they left here, when they got to St. Louis they came out to be Farrar's. That is how the name got to be changed so many times.

Okay. Alright.

Mr. Farrow: The story was told that all that has come because of a team of mules.

Okay, I got to hear this.

Mr. Farrow: They owed for some mules. The owed this man that got these mules and this guy was \_\_\_\_\_ about these mules and he was going to take the mules and have them locked up or whatever and so they

moved between the suns. They stopped and they stopped just on the side of the Mississippi River in Missouri. The Farrow's was left in Tennessee and the Farrar's was born in St. Louis. If you look on this postal here and I got it documented on this right here.

I see another spelling of Farrow. F-A-I-R-R-O-W.

Mr. Farrow: Yeah. That is what I documented here. That is where they come from, the Carolinas. This part was the Carolina's back in the day, and Tennessee and that is Missouri there. That is the one I had in 1995. I had another somewhere also.

You could just spend all day in this garage. This is just absolutely....Now that is a shotgun, a single-barrel?

Mr. Farrow: That is a single-barrel shotgun. That goes back to the 30s. That is one of the first .22 rifles right there. All these things here is working. That is a double-barrel there. That is just some of them on display.

Here in Montgomery County were things better than in Stewart County for the most part for people here?

Mr. Farrow: Yes, I don't know if you get the opportunity to do or not but if you go to the library you probably got a book up there that's got one of them kind of books that has Stewart County. You can look at Montgomery County. Stewart County is all this kind of down now. Montgomery County has always been a little more popular for the working people and then when Fort Campbell came it kind of boomed up then. Stewart County was always....the land is always hilly. It is iron land that they done a lot of iron over there. They make a lot of iron and things like that. Right now in this day and time if you aint got a job working somewhere in Stewart County you hardly aint got no job. It's just something about the lay of the land; around here we make tobacco.

Okay now I see you have got a copy of the.....

Mr. Farrow: That is the same thing we were looking at there.

And then of course this....

Mr. Farrow: That is the breakdown of Fort Campbell.

...as it is today.

Mr. Farrow: There is 105,000 acres out there.

I understand from what I have heard that some of the best farming land in Montgomery County was right there in that area of Fort Campbell; Jordan Springs, Boiling Springs, that area. That was one of the reasons they tried to get a petition to move it further to the east to avoid taking up all that farm land. I guess the petition went no place.

Mr. Farrow: Yes but most of it and I don't want to pull the color card no more, racial card, but 90% of it and you can look at this map over here and I could show you the names on that map are and 90% of the people on that map are black. The 90% they had black sharecroppers. So you understand where I am coming from now. That is the way it was.

I don't consider that playing the color card at all. I think it is just historical reality.

Mr. Farrow: This person right here, this guy right here was making \_\_\_\_ molasses, this person right here, when they came and told him, "I think a lot of you and it would probably be best for you to leave here for the safety of your family and things;" \_\_\_\_\_ Stewart right there.

And he had to leave that night?

Mr. Farrow: He left that night. Whatever he had that he could get on his wagon.

History definitely does not consist only of the things that we wish to remember. Now these are all, are these pesticide sprayers up here?

Mr. Farrow: Pesticide sprayers, that one right there and that one right there. The guy that owned that one right there he was a big time farmer. He did two rows at one time.

You said that about 90% of the names on this map of these various tracts were all....

Mr. Farrow: What is so amazing about it, they are all kin folks. What I mean by that is if they are not kin on one side, they are kin on the other side. Transportation was a major thing back in those days and boys and things didn't get out of the community. They married the girls in the community. They didn't marry into the family but you know this right here they married on the back side of the family. I can go back through my family tree right through here.

Fielding Quarrels that is a fairly famous name from Clarksville history; the Quarrel family.

Mr. Farrow: He's black. The Leavell's here was black. This right here, this is what I call the Rocky Ridge, all these creeks and things. Most of these people right here was preachers and they owned little spots of land; Kendrick's, all them right there; Bush's, all right there; and Collins, all of them right there. All of them right there was blacks. This guy right here, Malcolm Phillips, he was white.

What were relations like between white and black out in the county during the beginning of the century?

Mr. Farrow: Well, passed down to me, everybody knows where they was at and everybody knows their own place. This right here was just like being back in the native African land because all of this here, 99% of this here was black. I was told that when a white man came into the community they would ring a bell, Ding, ding, ding, you know and something aint right. That is what they did.

All the stuff that says Tennessee Farm Corporation, this is all stuff that was brought up prior to the...?

Mr. Farrow: Prior to Fort Campbell.

The prices that they received for this were possibly higher than what the average person received.

Mr. Farrow: I'm sure it was because I had people come in here from out of town who is up in age and I would show them this map. They would run through this map just like say a hog runs to slop looking for their name on this map and it is not here. They know they lived next door to someone else, you know. This Chas Barker here, they know how much land, this guy here he was here about two years ago and he knows they had land here. Charles Barker knew he had land here close to Chas Barker's and them land. But come to find out this right here took it up. Somebody else had land here and they took it up. They had land here taken up. All this land was taken up, there wasn't no coop. It wasn't nothing like that back in those days. They were organizations of people that got together and money and bought this land up.

Tennessee Farm Corporation.

Mr. Farrow: This all over here and different places like that that they had bought up.

How far are we away from the Caudle place right from where we stand? Where are we at on here right now? Would we be off the map down here somewhere?

Mr. Farrow: We would be off the map down here, yeah.

Okay, so it's not too far along, about five miles?

Mr. Farrow: It's probably about five miles from where you are looking at right there. This is Woodlawn Church where our church is at right here. \_\_\_ Quarrels farm was right next to Woodlawn Church. Robert Quarrels and all of them and all of this right here was right there by the church. I bird hunt, I quail hunt and I done walked about all this right here. They want hardly let you get near hunting area 6. Hunting area 6 will take care of right in here. They have field trials in there. They want let you hunt in hunting area 6 but I usually hunt in hunting area 8.

But you have been back on this property here?

Mr. Farrow: Oh yeah, I have been back on this property.

Anything remaining, chimney or anything?

Mr. Farrow: Nothing. You see some rocks and different things like that. You may see two trees or something like that or whatever. That is the reason these ladies want to get back out there. I am going to take them back out there the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. I was going to take them last week but they are hunting out there now. They want to go on a weekend.

Is there anything left of the school, a foundation or anything?

Mr. Farrow: I can show you where the school is at but you will see some bricks and some rocks. That is the only thing left at that there.

From what you have heard from your brothers, what was the quality of education of the school?

Mr. Farrow: A lot of people that has come out of there now I would say an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education at that time is equal now to a high school education now.

That's about right.

Mr. Farrow: My first cousin, who was a Mary Cordelia right here, she was a Ransom and she was married to a Bryant, they owned land right there in front of Woodlawn school but it had been passed down through generations. She taught school after two weeks of a little more training. She taught school with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education.

This David Ransom, this is the manager of the baseball team that we saw?

Mr. Farrow: That the one right there, that is the manager of the baseball team. No, this is Jr. right here. These two here are sisters and brothers. All this right here was one tract of land. This was divided up after the old man died. This right here, this is a Caudle here.

Has anybody ever made a copy of this for the library?

Mr. Farrow: A copy of this book here?

Yes.

Mr. Farrow: It should be; I think there is a copy of it now in the library. All this right here will tell you about the Caudle's and the Barker's. I lost a lot of pictures during this film right here. I had all these pictures right here and I let a man use it. That was my cousin and he was supposed to have been using it and between here and Kinko's they lost them. You will see some up on the walls now. All these pictures right here are up there. This is my grandfather. This is the same person right here.

That is your grandfather.

Mr. Farrow: He was the oldest one. If you go back to Cudjo, this is his sister there. That is another one of Barker's. She was a Caudle first. This breaks down the whole family tree.

The older Mr. Ransom now he had been born after slavery?

Mr. Farrow: The only one that was born in slavery was \_\_\_\_\_. I talked to, one of those was \_\_\_\_\_, Jim Bryant, and he died. He lived to be about 96 years old. He used to stay with us. Back in those days there wasn't no nursing home or anything like that. The elder people would come around and stay with the other part of the family and he stayed with us. I used to talk to him. He used to tell us stories about slavery. He wasn't big enough to go to the field when they abolished slavery but he was a house boy. He used to tell different stories about how they used to do. This is a picture of him. You might get a picture of this right here.

This is a picture we had taken earlier. He was 100 years old at the time that this was taken in 1921. That is not a mule is it, that's a horse?

Mr. Farrow: That is a horse.

That is a horse and that is a pretty good looking one.

Mr. Farrow: That is a picture of the baseball; I had all of these pictures now like I said I got a lot of them back, but a lot of them were taken up when he walked off here with this.

But there is a copy of this book though on file at the public library?

Mr. Farrow: Yes, at the public library. This is the Barker side here. If you read about the Cudjo, the ones that came over here; we will need about a week to go through all of this right here. This right here if you can get a little closer you can see.....

C-U-D-J-O born about 1800 in Virginia and died before 1880 in Montgomery County. He married Sally. She was born about 1807.

Mr. Farrow: This is where we picked off out of the census. That is the best we can pick up.

He was named in the 1852 will of John Cordle.

Mr. Farrow: Now there is a different spelling in the name here.

Okay, now that is also Caudle?

Mr. Farrow: Yes, the same thing, the same person.

Cordle, Caudle.

Mr. Farrow: There is a road out there in area 41 I believe if you look at your map of Fort Campbell it will show you there is a road out there with that same name to it.

The 1852 will: "To my son John Cordle, the following Negroes and all their increases to wit my Negro man Cudjo, his woman Sally and her children, Henry, James, Millie, and Payton and I wish Manervia and little Sally and their increase forever to the said John Cordle, Jr. is and assigned forever to have and to hold forever for said land and Negroes and their increase."

Mr. Farrow: That about sums it up don't it?

Yes, that sure does.

Mr. Farrow: If it increases anymore it still gets them too. This breaks it on down. I wanted you to read this one thing here back in 1936 that my auntie wrote my grandmother and she wanted to borrow some money. This might be it.

June 19, 1930.

Mr. Farrow: Yeah, read this. Can you see to read this right here?

"Dear Mother and. We hope you are the same say pie if you have it to spare let me have 25 cents if you got it and will send it back to you one day this week I would not ask you for it but I have a debt to pay tomorrow and that is why I ask you for it will be sure to pay you back this week Love Lucille Topie." 25 cents. If you don't mind I'm going to get just a little bit of this area out here just because this is such an incredibly beautiful almost storybook kind of place. Hopefully the sun doesn't get in the way of this. This is not doing justice to the gardening area or some of the other areas around here. I imagine right about the beginning of June the garden area is just absolutely gorgeous. There has been just so much done to this place. Now the old implements that are out there, are those old

Mr. Farrow: All that on that hill up there is mule equipment. Like I said my father never did own a tractor.

Now those were all in the family?

Mr. Farrow: All that was passed through the family. I work with those. My sweat is on those.

If I could I would like to get a, whatever is most convenient. Now the name Vivan, that is an unusual name. Where did that come from?

Mr. Farrow: My mother she came up with that name. I think she got the name out of a mail order book. They used the name out of a mail order book because back in those days that is what they used to call Sears & Roebuck. She got the name and I don't know why she really or where she got it from but she was really proud of it. I have been called Vivian so many times that sometimes I wished she would have dropped it.

I had an Irish uncle named Joyce and he took a ribbing for it in Chicago.

Mr. Farrow: That is the tractor right there; all this right here.

Now this is all equipment that was actually in use, some of it dating back to that piece of farmland.

Mr. Farrow: Yeah. This came from Fort Campbell.

So he was able to take some things from the property.

Mr. Farrow: Whatever you had, you could load up and carry back, but you couldn't tear down the construction of buildings and things of that nature.

This particular type of plow here...

Mr. Farrow: This is part of a corn drill, to plant corn with. You put your fertilizer and the corn down at the same time.

Where would the fertilizer and the corn go into?

Mr. Farrow: The box sat up on top of here. I don't know if you could see it or not but this right here was two different things here. The corn turns out this spout here and your fertilizer box turned out this part here. The corn dropped out the back of this box and the fertilizer came out under this here and it went down there and puts it in the ground. That is a mowing machine. That is what you cut hay with and cut bushes and things with. This is a bush hog. There wasn't no bush hog back in the day. This is a mowing machine. Over the years it got damaged and tore up.

Occasionally if one of the neighbors would be down to one mule would people share between mules?

Mr. Farrow: Oh yeah. You was a whole team. Like I said it was more like a family than we was neighbors, you know. This right here these are scratchers that you planted the crop and you work the ground with it. I could probably repair one of them blind-folded at night. That is all I ever did. This was a hiller that you make fertilizer with. You put fertilizer in the ground and it made up the hill when you planted it with the \_\_\_\_\_. You didn't have no tobacco set or nothing like that.

What did you make fertilizer from?

Mr. Farrow: You bought fertilizer but you only bought just a little bit. Now you can go to town and get it in the big old wagonload. Back then my father used to bring it back home in the back of the car, back in an A-Model Ford.

How many people had cars at that time in that area?

Mr. Farrow: Around here, this was in the 40s. My father had a car; the guy next door neighbor had a car. There was probably four cars that came through here all day long and that was on a Saturday. Some days

there wouldn't be but one or two cars. I could sit outside and listen and tell you who was coming. Now I am scared to go to the mailbox, people driving so fast. This right here, this is when you moved up in life. This is a two row corn planter. The one I showed you back yonder was a one row. This is a two row. This is exactly the corn thing that is still on there. This is your corn plate. This is how you space your corn out. The fertilizer sack sits here and this is your corn box here. Each time that turns a grain of corn will fall out and that will space your corn. If you want if closer you put your, you had one for peas, one for corn and different things like that.

So you had a different plate for each type of thing that you were planting?

Mr. Farrow: Yeah. This is a mower just like up there. Most everybody had mowers. One thing about these things here they were made of iron. They didn't fall apart like a lot of stuff. A lot of stuff rusted out and fell apart.

McCormick Beering; oh yeah here, the old International Harvester symbol.

Mr. Farrow: This was a rake. If you cut the hay with this here you raked with this one here.

So you go first with that, that would cut all the hay down and then this one here would rake it together. Did it have to be bundled by hand?

Mr. Farrow: With a pitchfork; take a pitchfork and throw it on there. I don't know if you ever seen it on the haystack or not. You would dig a hole in the ground and put you a long post in the ground. You would start at the bottom and you would stack hay around it all the way to the top. When you would get to the top you would cap it off and then you would try and get some grass hay. Grass hay, speaking about like fescue there wasn't no fescue back then, most of the time you had crab grass. That is what these are you would put that down and then you would put that crab grass on top and it would shed water off the top of it.

I understand that crab grass was actually brought here from Korea for that purpose; for some type of purpose for cattle feed or something like that.

Mr. Farrow: This is when I got promoted right here. You would sit down and plow crops from this seat here. I sat up on here and you had two mules hooked to it and you kind of half way guide it with your feet. When you got to the end you would raise it up on both sides. This was a Cadillac, a Mercedes or whatever you want to call it; a Bentley. You had moved up in life if you got this here.

About what year did your dad get this one?

Mr. Farrow: He got that in the mid 50's.

When did things start to change significantly for farmers in this area as far as when they moved from mules to mostly tractors to the small farmers or did that not happen for quite a while?

Mr. Farrow: Quite a while. It mostly started happening in the mid 60s. Like I said, my father never did own one. He had four, five, or six mules and things of that nature. He always had that.

So the way of life didn't significantly change for a lot of people for quite a while.

Mr. Farrow: No, like they said about the wheel you know, if it aint broke you don't fix it. He had boys too see and that made it a lot different. A lot of people got to field in the tobacco with a tractor; he would

run you out of there because he thought you would tear up something. This day and time you don't see a mule nowhere.

When did you acquire this place?

Mr. Farrow: I acquired this place here in 1970.

When you drive down here, when you are just driving by you don't notice, but this place is just absolutely gorgeous. This is almost like another time. Unfortunately people see this and say I want to have this kind of life and then they proceed to destroy everything that made it that kind of life.

Mr. Farrow: Yeah.

They call some place paradise and then it is gone. Now what do you normally plant right in here?

Mr. Farrow: This is my garden spot right in here. I plant corn and beans and peas. Corn, I don't worry about them too much and the beans I don't worry too much about them. But peas and things the deer will come and pick them off one by one. That's a way of life. My uncle who was a slave, he used to tell me about these things. He used to tell us. We didn't have TVs or radios and things. We would sit down, he would be in the chair and we would be in the floor looking up with our mouth wide open and he would be telling us about things. It was very interesting. After I got older, it kind of stuck to me. They always say that if you don't know where you come from you will never know where you are going. I can date that back to him. He always talked about that, my father. He always kept us alert of everything that was going on.

To your knowledge who was the last person born in slavery in that era who died? About what year would the last of those folks have gone?

Mr. Farrow: Would you like to see his picture?

Yes, I would.

Mr. Farrow: Well I will show you his picture.

Absolutely.

Mr. Farrow: It may take me awhile to find it but I got it up here somewhere. Like I told you, you will need about a week down here.

You don't take this out very often?

Mr. Farrow: No. You can see once I take it out you can see how it is going to react.

104 years old and he went to football games.

Mr. Farrow: I done research on him and I figured he was born in 1845; that is when he was born.

1845; look at that beard. Stewart Indian baptized. William Johnson 104 years old in the new Clarksville Municipal Stadium. This is a unique white house just across the street from the main gate. Does that still exist, the Municipal Stadium?

Mr. Farrow: That is the stadium there now.

Austin Peay?

Mr. Farrow: Austin Peay Stadium.

So he lived across the street where the parking lot is right now?

Mr. Farrow: Yeah.

He never seen a football game but said he would enjoy the racket. Johnson was born in 1848 in Waverly, Tennessee, on a farm. His master was a Turner. When Mr. Turner died the servants were divided up. William went with one of Turner's sons where he stayed until after the Civil War. He came to Montgomery County and worked around Jordan Springs and Woodlawn before coming to Clarksville immediately before the past war. Wow! A victim of the flu about five years ago. The doctor notified the family that he would never pull through and if he did he was liable to drop off at any time. He was still able to get around fine. When interviewed it might be added that the doctor has since gone to his demise. Wow! Now you knew him?

Mr. Farrow: Oh yeah. I knew him.

Did you ever speak to him about...

Mr. Farrow: I talked to him. I don't know. Some of the older people at Austin Peay might remember him before Austin Peay took over all that land and when they took all of it. Back in the 60s 70s there used to be a Harvey Johnson grocery over there and a barbershop all over there. That was Harvey Johnson; he used to run that store. That was his peoples there.

You have saved all this. When did you first start this?

Mr. Farrow: You know about that right there?

Oh yeah.

Mr. Farrow: I tell people how they tagged him. I have to read the story again but I think they kind of did a little work on him before they...

When did you first start this?

Mr. Farrow: I started this as far as I can remember back but I only got it displayed like this here in the last 10 to 15 years because I didn't have nowhere to put it at. As times got a little better I got me a building to put my displays in.

Well sir, the battery is done and we will end this tape and pick this up at another time.