

Jordon Crawford

7 May 2013

Partial Interview Transcript

13:43 – SW: Now, you said that he [Junior] was born in this house, did he farm right in this area?

EA: Yes. Yes, this farm has about sixty-five acres. [He] farmed tobacco, tobacco was the big crop; tobacco and cattle were the money crops.

SW: And do you know if he would have sold that tobacco in Asheville or over in Johnson City?

EA: Well, part of the time he sold it in Asheville, and some of the time he sold in Johnson City, Tennessee –

SW: --Wherever the prices were better.

EA: Right.

[pause]

EA: There's a barn over across the creek there; it was built... I think my husband was sixteen when they built that one, and it was for burley tobacco. And they cured burley tobacco up in that barn.

SW: Now how long did you live in Mars Hill, was it just when you were working at the college?

EA: Well, I lived in Madison County, let's see, I was in the...when we first came over here, I was in the fourth grade, and then the war broke out, and my parents went to, well my dad and my stepmother went to Detroit to work, and we lived with our grandmother. Then they [my parents] came back and we moved back over here and then we went back again to Spruce Pine with an aunt.

SW: All over the place.

EA: Yeah, it was. But I've been in Madison County; well, I guess we moved over here to stay when I was in the seventh grade.

16:59 – SW: Now, you've talked some about...your husband working as a farmer and selling in Asheville and Johnson City, some other people that I've talked to have mentioned that it has changed a lot since the cattle market left Asheville, and just how the city has changed; do you feel like this community has changed since you've lived here or in the surrounding counties; how have you seen it change?

EA: Yes; it has changed. In, let's see, 2004, the government no longer supported the price of tobacco, and they called what was a "buy out;" and so, anymore, if you grow tobacco, then you're on your own to sell it. And before, the government would put their price on it, and then the buyers would have to start at that price to buy it for the auction, for the auctioneers.

SW: ...Do you feel like there's a lot more families that cannot afford to farm anymore because there's just not the same money in it? Or enough to support their families?

EA: Right, there's not a lot. Some have gone to other things. Some grew cabbage, but I haven't seen any cabbage or cabbage fields.

19:26 – JC: So are there a lot of people in the Beech Glen community that still do cattle?

EA: Yeah, cattle I'd say is the big money market in farming anymore...I think the man who has cattle here has about ten [calves]... So there's a good market for cattle; it's pretty expensive.

When you go to the grocery store to buy beef you see [that].

20:24 – EA: For a while, back years ago, several people in this area raised frying chickens; had those long –

SW: Long, smelly houses –

EA: Right...we never did grow 'em, but you could see the houses. But not anymore; they don't do that anymore.

[Transition to move outside to the barns]

23:00 – SW: And now, are these the other ones right there?

EA: Yes; this [barn] right here, this first one is the one that James Anderson built when he first came [here].

SW: And was that the cabin for a time?

EA: It was, well it's where he lived then, I don't know if he built it or if one of his descendants built it, but I think there was another house in this area [gestures] that was torn down before...I don't know if it was torn down before this one [the first one] was built back in 1890.

EA: That house, there was an Indian trail close by, I don't know how close, but my son would go down when they would plow the field and look for arrowheads...other people found arrowheads, too.

Transcript

Evelyn Anderson Interview

Wednesday April 24, 2013

26:27

Evelyn Anderson: My husband was Oscar Anderson Jr., so they called him Junior, And he that that there's a place in here that they had scooped out of one of the logs to and uh...to put their [Andersons] money in and put the thing back over it. So that if anybody came..so that they wouldn't get their money

Sarah Wilson: (laughs) they didn't trust the bank.

EA: Course they lived here during the civil war. Can't tell where it is now.

SW: It might be behind the hay.

EA: Looks like here's a hole, I don't know if that's big enough for a gun.

SW: Maybe for the end of a rifle.

EA: said there's holes, I think they said in the second story...there they are. There they are

Jordon Crawford: Yeah.

SW: Wow, that's the type of history that just comes alive. With the sound of a gun.

EA: When James [Anderson] moved over here it was just his younger children that were with him so. They had eleven, eleven so I don't think if eleven could live in this. Into this, like it'd be two rooms the same room He down here and up there.

JC: It wouldn't be easy

...

45:35

EA: My Husband's Dad was a farmer. I think he worked a little bit at the farmhouse, but he'd farm. This farm was as clean as it could be. He...every time a pine tree grew up, he'd cut it down. That entire north hill was pasture land. But he, kept the creek banks cut off, and when he was, I think he was 99 years old, my husband asked him if he didn't want him to cut them off. And he said no, I want to do it one more time. And he cut em off when he was 99 years old. And he'd always burn that broom sage stuff off of the property, and he did that when he was 99 years old...

Interview Tape Log

0:00 – 7:00: Farming History in the Anderson Family:

James Anderson came to the US from Ireland sometime in the late mid to late 1700s. Married a woman of the Malet family. His children were born in New England, and the family moved to Gabriel's Creek, then Paint Fork. Owned over 600 acres. They were successful in farming and also cattle raising. Mrs. Anderson's family grew wheat when she was a child. The peddler came by when she was a girl, and her family traded with him for flour, sugar, eggs, etc.

7:45 – 8:10: Mr. Anderson's family drove cattle and turkeys to market in Asheville. Mrs. Anderson said that turkeys were "easier" to take to market because they roosted at night, unlike cattle.

8:30 – 10:07: "Mystery Barn:" Taylor Barnhill mentioned a mystery barn in his article for the Sentinel, and the barn in question was used for tobacco, but the methods for curing were unknown. The barn might have been used for burley or flue cured tobacco.

10:08 – 12:30: When Mr. and Mrs. Anderson moved to Madison County/the Paint Fork property: She and her husband were married in 1951 and lived with his parents for two years. They lived in several places around Madison County since then, and Mrs. Anderson moved into the current house after her husband passed away in 2010. Her husband was actually born in the house, and his father was also.

12:35 – 15:00: Mr. Anderson's occupations: Began farming, then he worked for Dept. of Transportation monitoring secondary roads. Mr. Anderson sold tobacco in Asheville and Johnson City markets. There is a barn that has long been used for burley tobacco across the street from Mrs. Anderson's house.

15:00 – 17:00: Mrs. Anderson's family history; how her family came to be in Madison County.

17:00 – 21:00: How the community changed since the cattle market left/the government bought out the tobacco market: Some farmers have stopped farming or switched their crops. Cattle remain a large “crop” in the area now. Several people in the area raised chickens until fairly recently.

21:00 – 22:40: The interview moves outside to the barns next to Mrs. Anderson’s house.

22:45 – 24:25: The first and oldest barn was built by James Anderson and was used as a cabin. The cabin was built close to an Indian trail, and Mrs. Anderson’s son looked for arrowheads in the field. The cabin also had holes in the walls to shoot rifles from inside to protect the property from hostile Indians.

Tape Log Continued

24:50: Evelyn points out the corncrib

24:50: "Do you feel like the community gathers around the barns for work?" Evelyn offers an anecdote about finding the "red ear" of corn and getting to kiss your sweetheart.

26:29: Enter the smaller barn, former Anderson home place.

26:40-28:10: Hidden nook carved inside the cabin wall to store money and valuables in. Mrs. Anderson also points out the drilled out rifle holes in the walls.

The family had at least eleven children living in the cabin at once.

28:15: Livestock barn, chicken roosts.

29:40: Livestock barn lower floor has at least two windows with glass panes. This was to keep the barn sealed for warmth for tobacco workers and drying of the crop.

32:59: Wind interferes with microphone. History of the original Anderson acreage. Evelyn points out the ridges and valleys that were part of the original property. 33:58 Very windy, recording difficult to hear.

34:14-35:20: Interviewer asks if there is anything else Mrs. Anderson would like to add. She talks about the church she used to attend around the curve. It burned down several years ago. Anderson and Carter families donated the land the church was built on.

35:30: Talking about Anderson family history book. (*The Anderson Family*, David Alsup)

36:27: Catching ducks as a child, used feathers for mattresses and pillows.

38: Entering house again. Recorder picks up noise from door and walkway.\

38:20-44:54: *The Anderson Family*, David Alsup, clarifications and corrections. "The mountains breed tough people."

45:36: Husbands father and his long life on the farm.

Mars Hill College

Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies
Mars Hill College
Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

Interview Agreement

Tape recordings and transcripts conducted as part of student research projects at Mars Hill College are deposited with the Ramsey Center for Regional Studies, where they are made available for historical research by students, faculty, and interested members of the public. Interview material may be disseminated to the public. Participation in the program is entirely voluntary.

We, the undersigned, have read the above. The interviewer affirms that she or he has explained the nature and purpose of this oral history research. The interviewee affirms that he or she has consented to the interview. We voluntarily offer to Mars Hill College full use of the information contained on tape recordings and in transcripts of these recordings.

Sarah Wilson & Jordan Crawford

Name of Interviewer

Jordan Crawford

[Signature]

Signature

P.O. Box 5892 (Sarah)

P.O. Box 5255 (Jordan)

Address

Mars Hill NC 28754

City

State

Zip

4/24/13

Date

Evelyn F. Anderson

Name of Interviewee

[Signature]

Signature

P.O. Box 662

Address

Mars Hill, NC 28754

City

State

Zip

4-24-13

Date