

Interview with Forrest Jarrett at Homeplace: March 21 2018

The south end of the house was on the tax books in 1882 and the barn was built at the same time, by Zeb Jarrett, born 1864. The corn crib was built 10-15 years later.

The Jarretts came from Jarrett Cove on Big Laurel. Obediah Jarrett, Forrest's great-grandfather, first moved to Blow Hole Rd., on Rector Corner, and married Polly Odell. He was in Civil War and deserted 3 times, but received a 90 day stay from Gov. Zeb Vance.

Obediah had a son, Zebulon Baird Vance Jarrett, Forrest's grandfather. He married Zade (Zadock, son of Robert Ponder). Ponder's sister, lived in cabin at Forrest's current picnic area.

Forrest's father was Olin Jarrett, was like a carpenter. His wife attended Dorland Bell Academy in Walnut.

Barn raisings: Yes, remembered those events, would get all the logs cut and ready; a big dinner was prepared for everyone; logs were hewed "grave smooth".

Garage: used as casing house, plus for apples, potatoes, cabbage. Can house is under the main house. There was a carriage house. Smoke house: granary was on 2nd floor; big wooden grain trough

Killing a hog, scalded it and everything involved before the hog killing; a salt trough was filled with salt, would mix borax, pepper, and brown sugar; for making the smoke they used rags and corn cobs; 20 hams – each day had to be 32 degrees or below, had to for 1 day for each 1 lb., then put in seed sack. Used 55 gallon drum to scald off the hair, and the mule would hoist with block and tackle; 1st meal from a hog would be the tenderloin.

Got electricity in 1946, before that had Aladdin Lamps.

EY Ponder had a slaughterhouse: could sell a rabbit for 10 cents; would leave rabbit and butter on a tree to be picked up by EY.

There is another Jarrett barn on Laurel Fork and Rector Corner. Built in 1935, tornado came and tore off the siding boards; built by Forrest's father Olin, had a steam-powered sawmill, when it was dry weather, had to stop sawing for fear of a spark setting a fire. Later set sawdust pile on fire and it burned for three years.