

MAY 25, 2009 TRIP TO GREENSBORO

G - This is George Inge and it is the 25th of May, 2009 and I am on my way over to meet at David, my brother's house. He has gone and picked up Grand-dad and they should be there when I get there.

G - Our plan for the day is for the 3 of us to drive to Greensboro. We plan to meet one of my dad's playmates from grammar school, look around Greensboro, and let him fill us in on what he would like us to know about his family there.

G - We do have a lot of facts about Greensboro but a lot of things are not filled in. Certainly, our family has been in that area since around 1819 and my generation is really the first that has not lived at least a portion of their lives in Greensboro. My dad having spent roughly 9 summers, including a portion of the second grade there.

G - So as we go we may let him talk into the microphone a little bit or I may try to summarize what he is trying to say and give my own views on things. We may even get my brother, David, to narrate some.

G - I did fail to mention that today is Memorial Day and we really have the veterans on our minds and not to mention my dad who was in combat and had his radio man get hit in the head by shrapnel and die right next to him with their heads touching and so anyway what a great day.

G - Just talk into it.

Dad - I don't have anything to say.

G - Tell us about Buddy.

G - Buddy Ramsay said what?

Dad - The South Pacific and then late after the war he was stationed over in Germany for some time and he will tell us about that. I told y'all about when Armstead Selden who grew up in Greensboro and was in Buddy's grade and my grade when I was up here in second grade - Armstead was a Congressman with a group in Berlin and he contacted Buddy and Buddy said, "Armstead, come on out to the airport and I will give you a flight." So Armstead went out and Buddy took him up in a fighter plane and Armstead said it scared him to death that Buddy did all kinds of things - flew under bridges and all kind of acrobatics and finally he begged Buddy to take him in - he said, "Buddy Raines I will never fly with you as long as I live again."

D - I'm scared of those. I have been up in those planes myself and they gave me the same feeling.

G - [Regarding your appointment by Governor Riley as Supernumery Circuit Judge in Mobile Country this year. The state senate passed your bill while many other bills failed.] I saw this patient whose husband is a lobbyist [in Montgomery] for the trial lawyers and I asked him what happened. He said it was just a really strange session - just the way things worked out. He said there were 2 things that he knew about that really made a difference he thought. One was that Dickie Whitaker who is the lobbyist for the Medical Association somehow snuck your bill in between another bill because what had happened was that the Chairman of the Senate, the ranking Democrat named - was his name Barron? If you remember David. But anyway, he had stopped your bill from coming out of committee because he felt like this supernumary judgship bills were not - I think in part there was confusion but he did not want it to come out of committee and so [Senator] Vivian Figures heard the lobbyist say when he asked her why she was so interested in your bill, she said, "Well this was something that Michael [her deceased husband] had put forth and had been working on since Michael was alive and so I really wanted to see it happen." Anyway, she started working on Labarron or whatever the name of the Senator is and begging him to let it out of committee. And finally he said if you get up in front of the

Senate and you sing Happy Birthday to Jim Folsom I will let it out of committee. So she got up there and sang Happy Birthday. And he let it out of the committee and it was in the Montgomery Advertiser about her singing Happy Birthday but they did not mention Judge Inge and then it came out. Then somehow Dickie Whitaker slipped it in somehow and that was the one that passed with the two district attorneys on it. Then later Yvonne Kennedy brought another bill that was just your bill and because that one had already gone through they passed the second bill and it was the second bill that the Governor signed.

G - What year did you become a Juvenile Judge?

Dad - In 1948 after I had been out of law school only a few months. I got appointed Juvenile Judge which was a part-time deal.

G - In 1948.

Dad - After I got out of law school and in 6 months I was Juvenile Judge because I had been serving for Judge Hamilton, who was sick, and then when he decided that he was going to go ahead and retire then I got appointed and then 6 years later my friends in the legislature fixed it so I got Domestic Relations Division in Circuit Court and they got me appointed by Governor Folsom.

G - In what year did you become Circuit Judge?

Dad - 1955 to 1965. In 1955, I was in my office and the legislatures went to see Governor Folsom and said when you sign the bill giving us another Circuit Judge we want you to appoint Inge. He is already Juvenile Judge and we want to promote him. So Folsom kinda kept it _____ - on pins and needles and then one afternoon I got a phone call and my secretary said, "The Governor wants to speak to you." I took that phone, "Mr. Inge, this is Jim Folsom. I just appointed you a Circuit Judge for Mobile County, Alabama." And I said, "Thank you very much, Governor Folsom. I want to come up and thank you personally." He said, "No, that's not necessary." Bang.

G - He hung up the phone?

D - George, listen to this. The old Mobile County courthouse in my memory was grey, dark grey. And these big steps went up - you've seen the pictures. They have those big towers and everything and on Royal Street down where the City museum is - down on that side - there were these buttresses kind of that went up like that and held the big walls and down about a third of the way or however far down the way was this diminutive little door cut into this granite on the side - and there were bars somewhere - and you walked into this damn little crypt and that was where his office was.

Dad - There were steam pipes _____ and during the winter time when they turned on the heat they would crack real loud. You would have to wait for them to finish cracking and popping.

D - Grand-dad - How old was I? I must have been 6 years old or something. Because I was 6 years old in 1953 and you were clearly there in 1953.

Dad - Let's see. I had been Judge since 1948.

D - When did you move out of that?

Dad - See - I got to be Circuit Judge when I was 55 - 1955 to 1965 - up to 1955, I was Juvenile Judge and that's when I was underneath the courthouse.

D - When did they tear down the courthouse? When did you move out of the courthouse?

Dad - Well, in about 1956 or 1957, they tore down the courthouse and built what we call the new courthouse.

D - And that's when you were down there working the hardware store?

Dad - Yes. Then that's when they gave me a courtroom and court reporter. Then after about 30 years, it became obsolete and so they tore that down and built the big new courthouse by the Admiral Semmes Hotel.

D - Well, it never was much to look at, was it? The courthouse they built in the 50's. Not compared to that beautiful one.

Dad - Well, the one they built in the 50's - that's right - it just did not fit into Mobile growing as fast as it did. In other words, they had 5 Circuit courtrooms and they had to start doubling up and 2 judges used the same courtroom and so they just out grew that so then they built the one down by the Admiral Semmes - the big white building. And now they have built this big annex to it you can see just as you come out of the tunnel.

G - Dad, the plantation [where Aunt Emogen and Uncle Zeb were born] had been in the Johnson family. Don't you remember, Papa writing letters to his step-sisters.

Dad - That's right.

G - Because they owned it and he was

Dad - That's right. Pappa put it together. But anyway, Pappa acquired it from some heirs, I guess. I never did know exactly.

D - Grand-dad used to stay in Glencairn and you stayed in the big house when you would go up there in the summer.

Dad - Let me see. John Erwin, Pa's father, gave Pa 25 acres where Pa built over within sight of Glencairn.

D - Is it still there? Is the house still there?

Dad - I will show you that.

G - That house is there and that house is for sale by the way.

Dad - Uncle Tad was Pa's brother and the youngest son and so he and Aunt Ida stayed on at the Glencairn and inherited it and it went down that way because Pa had already gotten this land where his house was.

Dad - But anyway, the plantation [at Newburn] where will see after while, Daddy said that it so productive that he could get 7 cuttings of hay out in the field - they could cut the thing and break it up and bale the hay and then 3 or 4 weeks later it was up again like that and they do it 7 times before say November, October.

G - And he was mostly raising cattle?

Dad - Well, cattle and then the hay was a big cash crop.

G - Wow.

G - So you never stayed at Newburn?

Dad - Well, when I was a baby no even then see Momma and Daddy moved to Mobile to Chickasaw and Zeb and Emogen were little toddlers and then I was born in Chickasaw in 1920 so they moved to Chickasaw about 1919. Right in there.

D - I bet they had kerosene lighting and

Dad - You know they had Blacks who kept the kerosene lamps going and who brought the firewood - you know - it got cold. Greensboro is cold in the wintertime. The plantation house had the chimney in the middle of it and there 2 fireplaces on the first floor and the 2 rooms and 2 on the second floor and then the first floor they had a wood stove that had a flew that went into the chimney so

G - So it was just 2 rooms downstairs and 2 rooms upstairs? Small house.

Dad - Yes. Small house. Small 2 story house but it had a big porch in the front and a big porch in the back. I love porches. One of the main things about in that time help was so cheap you could

have a cook and you could have a maid to clean up and a yard boy and you would have somebody working in the fields and in the barn and so forth. Sort of a self-sufficient operation.

G - How many ferries [were encountered between Mobile and Tuscaloosa] - did they have bridges over the rivers?

Dad - Well, they had over the Tombigbee - you know you went over that big bridge there was a - when I was 5 or 6 years old I remember going to Greensboro and Daddy had an Essex automobile and it was just before the bridge was built

G - What kind of automobile?

Dad - Essex. Was the brand. Then you went down a winding trail to the edge of the river and this barge that may have been 40 feet big and a motorboat tied up to the side of it and it pulled up and we got on it - pulled the car up on it with 3 or 4 other cars and then they chug chugged across the river and went into the bank and the cars drove off and drove up the hill.

G - In Jackson?

Dad - In Jackson - that's right. And that was like in 1926 or 1927. It took all day to get to Greensboro from Mobile on gravel roads.

G - I bet it was dusty, wasn't it?

Dad - Oh yeah and no air conditioning. Did y'all ever hear of the wine and olive colony? Back - Napoleon ex-communicated or did something to a large group of Catholics in France and so they found Demopolis up here where the climate was almost exactly like it was in the section of France they came from and so they immigrated over here through Mobile and up to Demopolis and they were supposed to plant vineyards to make up for the vineyards that they had to give up in France. Well, they got the French people up here and it never went over so there are a lot of people in Mobile like the Ravidees and the French main people who are descendants from these wine and olive colony from up here in Demopolis and Buddy Ramsay's family was from Demopolis and he is descended - but he had a sister named Rosalind and Buddy was Catholic and there were no Catholics in Greensboro when I went there and the Catholics in Greensboro - there was no church - would go over to Demopolis to the Catholic Church or a priest would come over from Demopolis to Greensboro and have mass in the Ramsay's house but anyway so the Gewin's in Mobile - their father was named Roulac Gewin from Demopolis and Roulac is pure French so the Gewin's have descended from the wine and olive colony but Buddy Ramsay - there weren't but maybe a half a dozen Catholics in Greensboro and they had to over to Demopolis to Mass or the priest came over - I remember the priest coming over to Greensboro and coming to the Ramsay's house and having mass. Buddy had a sister named Rosalind Ramsay who was a beautiful brunette. Buddy's mother I think was French from that group.

G - You know one thing that was a mystery to me - ... he was named what?

Dad - Well, Wad. But that's Cadwalder - we called him Wad. Daddy Wad.

G - Now you said that you saw him talking on the porch one day with your grand-father [John Erwin]. Where was that porch? Which house?

Dad - It's right across the street from where we are going to meet Buddy Ramsay and the side of the street around a block or two.

G - David, George Johnston would have been about 25 when the Civil War broke out. His father was the one who had a really big farm with lots and lots of slaves and all that supposedly 800 or something and his first daughter was Nona Johnston (Mama Nona) but then his wife died. He remarried and moved to South Carolina and lived in South Carolina. That may be why he wasn't in the book [about Greensboro] because he wasn't around.

Dad - Who was that?

G - George Moore Johnston. Mama Nona's father [Granddad's Inge grandmother].

Dad - ... Episcopal Church I will show y'all that Momma and Daddy were married in 1914.

G - 1914 or 1912?

Dad - I believe 1914 because Zeb and Emogen were born about 1915 or 1916 but it could have

been. G - One thing I was reading about Dr. Richard Inge, David, that he was on the Vestry in 1820 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greensboro. And then he writes a letter that he was in his old place in Tishabe. So I think that around Bolligee and Tishabe and all that - that's where his farm was not over in Utaw.

Dad - Here's the _____ at Greensboro Presbyterian Church where we are going to meet Buddy on the corner of Demopolis Street and _____.

D - He was buried in Tuscaloosa - that Richard, correct?

G - I don't know. I didn't know that.

D - Didn't you say that

G - Well, the original Richard - the first Richard that was a Revolutionary War Sargent or something

D - That brought his family - had a son Richard and then William Bullock was his grandson?

Well, that particular Richard was buried in Tuscaloosa.

G - That particular Richard. But what I understood was that Dr. Richard

D - That Richard was a doctor? It was a father/son doctor, wasn't it?

G - No. The first Richard was an architect or something and he was the one born in Virginia and not really sure who his parents were. His son was a doctor and then moved with his young son William Bullock and then the grandfather either came later or came with them - the original Richard and he is buried in Tuscaloosa. What they said in there was that Dr. Richard came in 1819 or 1818.

Dad - Where are we now, Grove Hill?

D - This is Thomasville. Y'all tell me do we go straight up here to Dixons Mill - to Linden?

G - I would take a right over on 5 and then go up 25 - that's the way we go. Everybody I keep asking say that's the best way to Tuscaloosa.

Dad - Y'all ever heard of Richmond Fields and Hopson? That sank the Merrimak - that was on the Merrimak - he and 2 sailors sailed into Havana Harbor and they sank it and blocked up the Spanish fleet in Havana. When daddy married momma in Greensboro it was said that the ZMP Inges were probably so high and mighty and that their son, Herndon, married this country girl from Greensboro but that country girl from Greensboro had ancestors who could run circles around the Inge family and that was momma.

G - Do you remember Mur? And she was a Wilkins?

Dad - Yeah - she was Mollie Wilkins and she had 6 brothers and sisters and the thing that I brought to give y'all - after the Civil War - Mur's brother, Uncle Joe Wilkins, mother, Meryl's aunt and his son.

Dad - jail - somebody in the jail to _____ in the African American Town and he and the African American and the jailor and _____ walked up to the house and he went out in the watermelon field and he picked off the ripe watermelons.

G - How was he in jail, did you say?

Dad - Oh - just African American business, you know. Momma had a first cousin who lived in Clarksdale, the McKees.

G - This is Thomaston here going up Tuscaloosa from Faunsdale and go this way and take a right here.

Dad - Alright. When we get to County Road 16 up here you turn to the right.

G - Is that between Thomaston and Faunsdale? Or above Thomaston?

Dad - Aboe.

G - Hey dad. Where did Pa go to college?

Dad - I don't believe he went to college back then. Look for County Road 16.

G - Alright. See Dad that's above Faunsdale.

D - Take a right on 16?

G - It's a good ways from here. Above 80. You know Dad he would have been a ZMP's contemporary. And ZMP went to law school from Greensboro. So wouldn't you think John Erwin would have gone to college with his father being so wealthy and everything? You just don't remember?

Dad - I don't know. I know that _____ father, Abe, the man at Southern University _____.

G - Now Dad we are way on up. See it's on the other side of Faunsdale.

D - So how did ZMP get from Nutbush to Greensboro when he was in high school and all that?

Dad - He went to the University of Virginia and started law and then he came to Mobile in Herndon and Smith law firm that he started.

G - When did William Bullock Inge move from Nutbush in Forkland to Multiflora in Tuscaloosa? Do you know Dad?

Dad - No

G - What I read was that he had several children and that his wife died shortly after the last one was born and when she died he moved to Multiflora and took the kids into town and everything. Was what I remember reading - it could be

Dad - He held onto his last

G - Multiflora is in Greensboro on the way to Tuscaloosa, right?

Dad - Ok.

G - And they put a call in to the owner [of Multiflora] to see if we could stop by and see him.

D - Did he build it or did he buy it?

G - Winnie Cobb thinks he built it. But I've got

Dad - Wonder what the address is?

G - I've got a little something about it right here. I pulled it out of the file.

Dad - We ought to be on Main Street. The street that goes off of Main Street up to Tuscaloosa, the next street down is the street the Presbyterian Church is on that we meet Buddy.

G - Ok - here's what it says. It actually it's on Tuscaloosa Street.

Dad - It's out towards the edge of town. Headed towards Tuscaloosa.

G - It says the precise date of construction is uncertain but it was built in the 5 years or so prior to the Civil War. The builder was a Walton but in 1870 the house was sold to William B. Inge who recently moved to Greensboro. Have you ever been in it, Dad?

Dad - No - I've been one time we drove into the drive.

D - Well that should be where ZMP grew up then because he wasn't born until 1867 - somewhere along in there. He died in 1920 and he was 62 or something, 64.

Dad - What's the number we're looking for?

D - 16 - we gotta cross -

Dad - The highway that runs from Savannah, GA to

G - Here it is guys - you ready I'll tell you. Ready David?

D - Ready.

G - William Bullock Inge had 11 children. The last one was born in 1864. ZMP was born in 1856. He would have been 14 when they moved.

Dad - Why don't you get all that stuff together.

G - It's in Uncle George's book right here. But anyway

D - So he was 66 when he died. Born in 54. 54 or 56?

G - He was born in 56.

D - So he was 64 when he died.

Dad - Let me tell Y'all something. See these cedar trees. There was fence post that was put in - a cedar fence post - and they sprouted trees.

G - Well why are they so close together?

Dad - Well, anyway. Daddy said that at the plantation they would cut a cedar tree down and split the thing into fence posts and you would plant them in a row and after a few years trees would grow out of them. See those are cedar trees and when I told Alice she said it was absolutely the most far fetched thing she has ever heard of and she wouldn't believe it. But you look at a line of cedar trees by a road and they used to be a fence of cedar.

D - I know you're right.

G - Hey dad - we appreciate it - good job. We believe you. We vote with you. It's obvious.

Dad - I had to affirm it because

G - Because she isn't going to believe you.

G - But David if you could believe this - Elizabeth Herndon had her last child at 41 and died that year - how long after I don't know. But actually if the date was correct about him moving to Multiflora then it was 6 years after she died but

G - It's just strange to me that Uncle Sam would think that his grandfather Pa was "mean." Uncle Sam may have just been kind of

Dad - I was in Greensboro like 10 or 11 years old when Bonnie came to Greensboro - got a ride over here and when she got out of the car she said, "Momma had a little boy this morning," and that was Sam.

G - You were how old?

Dad - Well let's see. I must have been 9, 10 or 11 - however older I am than Sam.

G - Hey Dad. Got you toasted now. Momma Nona was born in 1858. So her father, George Dad - Johnston

G - Wait a minute.

Dad - All right. There will be another

G - But we don't have any dates on

Dad - We're looking for

D - Dates on Pa. Pa would have to have been older about 2 to 4 years older.

Dad - You stop at the next - these are catfish farms see they have here. They raise catfish.

G - But anyway I'm thinking that George Erwin must have gone to college somewhere.

Dad - Did you see the catfish farm?

G - I've got an idea. He probably went to Auburn.

D - He probably went to Southern University.

G - Where his father donated the land.

Dad - But you see back then people couldn't afford. But anyway.

G - He lived in Glencairn. Living in Glencairn.

Dad - You see after the Civil War there was a long period of depression in the South.

D - How long did the depression in the 1920's last? From 1929 to what?

Dad - 1929 was the crash. It lasted on up to WWII - when things began to really pick up - you know Brookley Field and all that kind of stuff. You see I had quit high school when I was 16.

G - Wasn't George Erwin - he was in the Civil War?

D - I told y'all - George Erwin was the one down in Fort Morgan.

G - So John is the one we are trying to figure out where he went to college.

Dad - You see all of these are catfish farms.

D - Didn't there used to be a Wilkins in my lifetime that was living at Glencairn before the Mahoods, or not?

Dad - Momma's brother was named Wilkins Erwin.

D - I met somebody named Wilkins that was from up in there somehow. Boy this is beautiful in here. So much about natural grass.

Dad - Back during the depression was selling for \$15 an acre and now it sells for \$300 or \$400 an acre.

G - Well Dad. John Erwin who came to Greensboro was a lawyer. Did you know that?

Dad - Ok. You could read law in a lawyers office and take an exam and become a lawyer. You didn't have to go to

G - He opened a law office in a room - where the First National Bank is.

Dad - You didn't have to go

D - So his son would have been the son of a lawyer.

G - And that would have been Pa.

D - He went to college - we just don't know where.

D - Is Kitty kin to John Erwin?

Dad - Kitty Mahood was Uncle Ted's grand-daughter. Vernon Erwin was Momma's first cousin. Lived in Planton and she married Adona Mahood who was a Professor at Ohio College and he was the National Secretary for the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity.

D - He had a couple of things going against him. One is he is a Yankee and two he is a Phi Gamma.

Dad - He he he. Alright let's see Number 16.

G - We are getting close.

D - I ran over a great big snake in here one time - crossing from side to side. And don't you bet there are snakes down there eating those fish.

G - One of the guys that helped write this book in the introduction was Colonel George Erwin from Greensboro. Was that

Dad - That would have been Forrest's father. George Erwin married to Fannie Iredel.

G - No George Erwin married the Jones girl. John Erwin got married to Iredel.

Dad - John Erwin was the grandfather

G - No you're right.

D - I thought there were 2 John Erwins.

Dad - Could have been. Pa had an uncle

D - I thought Pa's daddy was John Erwin. I thought the original guy that bought Glencairn was named John Erwin back in 1818?

G - He's the lawyer from Kentucky.

D - And what circle was that -

Dad - 18 or somewhere around there

G - He's the lawyer from Kentucky

D - And what circle was that 1880

Dad - Pa's grandfather or father who he was named after.

D - His son would have been George who was the Colonel and _____ daddy was at Fort Morgan or something but I had a diary from him or I had something that I read from him. And I read somewhere it might have been Fort Gaines.

Dad - Alright - here we are - 16. Turn right.

G - County Road 16 off of 25.

D - Not much of a road here - like a driveway now.

G - Did you bring your boots David?

D - Got um.

Dad - Alright. We are headed to Newburn so between Cedarville where we turned and Newburn there is a road up to your left that will be the plantation road.

D - I hope you got your eyes on. How many miles down is it? Do you remember how many miles?

Dad - Maybe 6 or 7, something like that.

D - How would you say you remember it?

G - I've been here. I don't know that I remember it. For some reason I didn't know it was off the main road. But I remember David we actually went upstairs - it was still standing and I got a brick from it from the chimney.

Dad - Do you remember we had a Pontiac and Herndon was at Sewanee?

D - That's some kind of landmark here.

Dad - Herndon was at Sewanee and Momma sat in the car while Elvin and I went

D - You told us that but you gotta help us figure out what it looks like. Is it to the left or right?

Dad - It's to the left. Ok. Well you gotta look

G - Uncle George has a thing in here.

D - Is it paved or was it not paved?

Dad - Well, it's probably paved because all of them are paved now.

D - Was it a driveway or was it a road?

Dad - A road - otherwise you could come out of the plantation and turn left and go down to this road and then to Newburn or if you turn right you headed up to Greensboro.

D - Did the road stop at the plantation or go by the plantation - that we are looking for?

D - Cause that's only been 1.8 miles.

Dad - This land is clay so that these lakes can be scooped out.

D - Ok. We are coming up to a road here. This is 2.2 miles

Dad - I would say turn left.

D - This is Hale 47. I've got my gun in the car when these guys try to hold us up. It's cheap up here I can tell ya.

G - Don't see many white folks up here.

D - This looks like an old road Grand-dad. The plantation house - would it have been on this road?

Dad - Yes.

D - I thought it was like a little

Dad - It should be a dairy farm on back side.

G - _____ on the left and then back behind it a little ways was where the house was - kind of in a field

Dad - George do you remember when we had the Pontiac automobile?

G - I thought for some reason it was on the main road.

D - You sure it's off 16?

Dad - Well I reckon - the plantation is off this side. But when we get up here a little bit further if we run into like a dairy on the left then it's

D - That was a good spot for a place.

G - You don't think it was off 61 Dad? Cause Newburn is on 61. See. Sure you didn't get 16 and 61 mixed up? See - look - Newburn is on 61.

Dad - No. It's West of Newburn - right out of Greensboro.

G - Ok.

D - That might be the dairy over there. Chicken farm. Livestock up here.

Dad - Ok. That looks like the abandoned river road running up there. Ok. That cost - let's keep going a little bit further down this way.

D - What is that?

G - Somebody's idea of

D - They were preparing to do wind energy.

D - This place looks like it is not very used.

G - You took a left on 16

Dad - Actually the plantation was in this area - you get a little bit further up here - if you run into a road between Greensboro and Newburn then we have gone too far and we have to come back.

D - See that. Section, Township and Range.

Dad - If we can see where a railroad

G - I tell you I did go to Farmsdale Bar & Grill - a guy was saying I gotta farm in Newburn. And I said something to him. And he said yeah - this friend of mine has part of his farm is the Inge place in Newburn.

D - These cedar posts that grew up make it hard to see the country. Now there it looked like it could have been a dairy.

G - See Dad. Didn't you say it was on the left side?

Dad - It's on that side if this is the road. Let's see what this is up here.

G - Oh - it's on the right side?

Dad - It would be -

D - And here is road that has a name on it. Hideaway Lane - that's a contemporary name there.

Does the railroad cross this road?

Dad - Yeah but it's an abandoned railroad and they have taken up the

G - Well we ought to be able to spot when we cross over a railroad. Now that would be a very good landmark. The dairy was pretty pitiful shape back in the 1970's. It wasn't very much to it, was it

Dad? It was kinda of in disrepair. It wasn't like a fancy new dairy. Kinda junky looking, wasn't it?

Dad - Well it was a barn and some cattle.

D - See what the cedars do up in the Black Belt. Just volunteer

G - If you don't bush hog the cedar trees are going to grow.

D - Ok. We got something coming. We got a church.

G - Do you need the GPS, David? Do you have one?

D - Not in the truck.

G - I got one.

Dad - Alright now. When we get - you see we've come too far. In other words, the plantation was back.

D - This might be the river - no that's a driveway there - I'll pull in - get this car off my tail.

G - Go back?

Dad - We can still go further. This map is probably 10 or 15 years old. We are right

D - Junction of 61 and 16. Now we are off of 16.

Dad - 16 and 61.

D - But we took a road off of 16 and went due North. We took 16 and

Dad - We are hoping to be right in here. So we - go back this way a little bit and try to find a paved road or a road that runs North or if you want to we'll right here we can go on into Greensboro.

G - And try to find it coming out of Greensboro?

Dad - In other words, we have passed the plantation.

D - Hey I don't mind going to look for it some more. This is the way all of my things are - we never find shit on the first time.

G - The thing is - it's been 30 something years since everything was bulldozed - you are not going to have any landmarks. What we really need to do is have a Township Section and Range.

Dad - Well what you could do would be to go back to that farm house on the right back here and ask the farmer where the old estate place was. If he would know it.

G - The thing we could do would be - we could take to Winnie and her husband because they help people find stuff and we could

Dad - Who?

D - The lady at the bed and breakfast.

G - His office number. Is he a lawyer - and if we could go back to ZMP Inge owned in 1920's -

Dad - It's Memorial Day

G - I mean tomorrow morning - in other words if we go to the courthouse early in the morning

Dad - We're at Loens. Once we get to Greensboro everything was North from then on.

G - If we went by the Probate Courthouse at 8:00 tomorrow morning and looked at the - it ran right by the plantation - almost through it.

D - And so the road to the plantation was by the old dilapidated diary.

Dad - Yes.

D - Well this ought to be - I'm telling you. This is it. This looks like it.

Dad - It's in here.

D - This is very slippery boys. Slippery in this little piece of shit truck.

Dad - That seems to be impassable.

D - That's the ruins of something. See that George - like they burned

G - See it would be down here off to the left, David. Down and where those little lights.

D - See that right there. See that concrete and stuff.

Dad - That could very well be the ruins up there.

G - This would have been the way it looked, Dad?

Dad - You know 60 years

D - That was a landmark.

Dad - Some house or something that they bulled over.

G - The dairy.

D - This is a very old, very old piece of land. Look at this. All this with corn and these were not out of water. Looks like an impoverished part of the world.

Dad - They did away with silos. You know they now have them like a trench.

D - I hope I can get out of there without having to call somebody's tractor.

G - Does that look like it to you?

Dad - Yes - it does.

D - George, does it look like that to you? George, does that sort of fit with

G - See you got 61 for your North boundary and you 16 goes up here through Newburn and cuts over there we are going to cross the railroad tracks, too, and make it - they could have used the natural crossing of a railroad track for part of their dam system out here. As a matter of fact, when you look right here - like this might be the railroad - look out in there and see how it crosses over that open land out there - see how that's graded higher than you would expect like maybe the railroad came somewhere along right in there.

D - That's true, very true. But if you are going to build a road to your house way up in there you should would like to put it on a railroad bed.

Dad - Right. The railroad track might go through the estate place. It went on the side.

D - See - Greensboro is right over there because 61 is heading in that direction.

Dad - The railroad from Greensboro to Newburn - an engineer of the railroad was Nathan Bedford Forest. He was an engineer after the Civil War and

G - What Dad?

Dad - Nathan Bedford Forest was an engineer for the railroad after the Civil War.

G - The one who was the cavalry?

Dad - Yes. His name was Confederate _____.

G - He was an engineer on this railroad?

Dad - Well, he was an engineer who was surveyed to make

D - He was very educated. He would not have been an engineer - a choo choo.

Dad - An engineer. _____ these lakes since I was a boy. There wasn't any of these lakes. They are all manmade.

D - They got a turn around up here [driveway into Glencairn Plantation, Greensboro].

Dad - This is where I spent 9 summers.

G - The farm back there?

Dad - I wouldn't go back. I think you ought to back out - then go up here and you turn right.

D - Did it look like this? Was it an open field?

Dad - This was all open corn field and there was a porch right here that I used to sleep on. Had a swing. [John Erwin's house next door to Glencairn]

G - We can't get out and walk around?

D - Sure.

Dad - I think we ought to ride on back to town.

G - We talked to the guy that owns it. His mother died and he said we could walk around but they may want to show it to us tomorrow if we want.

D - Well that would take way too much time.

Dad - I think we - looks like they added a wing

D - Grand-dad, why don't we just stretch our legs just a minute around the yard. If we stretch out legs then I can pee.

G - And they told us we could look around and if we get mixed up we'll blame Winnie.

Dad - From these windows here

G - Facing North

Dad - Yes, that's right. But it's

G - John Erwin's house.

Dad - See the church - that's the church [Episcopal Church].

G - What church?

Dad - St. Paul's Church that Momma and Daddy were married in.

G - Right there?

Dad - Yep and the was Pa's - he had a field out there you know planted.

G - That's our Pa's pot. Remember the pot, Daddy?

D - That's the kind of thing they boiled salt out of.

Dad - That's right and then - but anyway this was a field and it was terraced and you could see the church and Pa used to plant this in corn field and this was the orchard.

G - Those are pecan trees over there?

Dad - Pecan trees.

G - Now where did you grow all your garden stuff? Where was the garden you had to go by cart?

Dad - There was a garden out here. There was a path down there. This was the garden.

G - Between here [John Erwin's house] and the church?

Dad - Yes.

G - That you went with a little billy goat wagon.

Dad - Yeah, we would pull it down that way - past the church and onto the town.

G - After you got all your stuff together?

D - What was over here? Right past that tree line?

Dad - It's slants down to a creek. It runs parallel to Tuscaloosa Street. But that's the church you know 100 and something years of so.

G - They say Dr. Richard Inge, as I told you, was on the first vestry or something in 1820.

D - He didn't waste any time did he?

G - He must have lived around here somewhere.

Dad - Look out of these windows [John Erwin's house] and see the church and

G - What was in there? Was it bedrooms or what?

Dad - This was the dining room. Was this was the front bedroom and this was like

G - All facing the church, facing North. David back here.

G - Show me what happened down here. Was this original back here?

Dad - Well yes. That's the back of the house. There was a smoke house and I can remember hams and things hanging in and they would build a fire and let the smoke drift out. See how

D - You can walk around here and walk all the way around

Dad - See how the louvers drug the smoke out.

G - I aint't got him. He's a threat that tumbled down.

D - Grand-dad, look at that.

G - Is that the creek down there?

Dad - Yeah, the creek runs

G - North or South?

Dad - Down to the creek and up and then Tuscaloosa Street runs that way. So this is the smoke house and

G - _____ play the video clippage.

Dad - They would hang

G - Sorta dippy little smoke house.

Dad - But anyway they would hang meat all around there and then

G - I can't believe this thing is so well preserved. Let me get my video camera.

Dad - See how the louvers - the smoke would pull

G - Do you need the video camera?

D - That must have still

Dad - That's the chicken house.

D - I've heard about that chicken house.

Dad - See this was a fenced in back yard.

D - Look at this rotten _____ This is it though. This big ole house is where you stayed, isn't it?

Dad - Pa's house.

D - Here's a walkway - look - here's the walkway, look, a brick walkway. Grand-dad, look, look. Here's the brick walkway down here to the smoke house.

Dad - That's the barn.

D - Same barn?

Dad - Yep.

D - I mean that's 100 years old, isn't it? I mean they had it 20 years before you were born.

G - Any of these trees here?

D - This was all pasture and stuff.

Dad - No there were trees back then.

G - And that's the one you put your hand on the chicken snake's head and had a egg in it's mouth. That's the chicken house, I guess. Wait a minute. What did you say, Dad?

[Driving past Episcopal Church]

Dad - I used to carry the Cross at church.

D - At St. Paul's Episcopal Church. You know this guy, Winkie's husband.

G - Winnie.

D - Winnie's husband, that's the lawyer. Was his name Cobbs or Cobb? Here a Nicholas Cobb was chosen first Bishop of Alabama. Is that Cobbs?

Dad - Armstead Seldon's mother was a Cobb.

D - I know [re: Dr. Richard Inge]. 1830 so he did not get here in 1820.

G - He got here and 1830 was on the vestry.

D - Right. He got here in 1819. But I don't know who Frank Inge was. I tell you what - that was one of his brothers. Hey listen, the original Richard Inge who brought his family over and his son was Richard Inge who was a doctor - he must have had a brother named Frank.

G - Let's see. Dr. Richard, David

Dad - They used to have a steeple here that blew down in a tornado.

G - David, Dr. Richard is the one who came

Dad - Where Momma and Daddy were married in 1913 or 1914 and I used to carry the Cross on Sundays and we would stand here

D - In that same little archway. Holy shit, Grand-dad.

Dad - See this is the Sunday School part and Richard Pearson Hobson's sister was my Sunday School teacher.

D - There was Demopolis Street and State Street.

Dad - Demopolis is the next street on your left.

D - And what's there, George, a cemetery?

G - Turn left on Main Street. Is this Main Street?

Dad - This is Main Street.

D - Is that Presbyterian Church?

Dad - Methodist.

G - 2005 Main Street is where we are going to stay at Murkle House.

Dad - Turn left here. This is the Presbyterian Church. This is where we were supposed to contact Buddy Ramsey.

D - Well, we're not ready, are we?

G - Let's ride around. Y'all want to see where we would have stayed?

D - Yes. Show me around. I've never been anywhere.

Dad - Alright. Turn right here. That's _____ back in there. DO NOT ENTER

G - Could you go back to Main Street?

Dad - See down here and up there is where we were.

G - Was this all part of Glencairn over here?

Dad - No. No. This is Tuscaloosa Street.

D - No Tuscaloosa Street is on the other side.

Dad - Alright. Tuscaloosa Street runs out there. This is - we were to call - what's his name from here and tell him we are at the Presbyterian Church. He was supposed to come meet us.

D - He will.

Dad - Ride down this street.

D - Let's see where we were going to stay.

G - The direction is 2500 Main Street on the left side between Waller and Searcy.

Dad - Ok. Turn left here.

D - I am already having a ball here. Never spent any time here in Greensboro.

G - Between Waller and Searcy.

Dad - The Wallers are an old family

D - 1800 - we've on to 2500.

G - Any of this ring a bell, Dad?

Dad - I remember the street but I don't - Richard Inge used to live there.

G - Ok. Waller, David, we hit Waller.

D - It's on the left side.

G - Ok. It should be one of these houses to the left. It may say Muckle House. There it is!

D - I'm glad you drove my ass all the way to see that.

Dad - When you get to the end of this street - it will be the Hobson home. Richard Pearson Hobson. That's where the P_____ used to live.

G - Look at these

Dad - Richard lives back there.

G - Dang, it's confusing.

Dad - And that's an Inge house.

G - It's for sale. Which Inge?

Dad - I don't know but when I was a boy I just remember that that was - and this is Magnolia Creek where Richard Pearson Hobson - that's circle around.

D - Left or right?

Dad - Left.

G - Hey can we go back down Main Street or do you want to go another street, Dad?

D - You spent 10 years here. I have not spent any

G - Dad, do you want to go back down Main Street?

Dad - Yeah you can.

D - I'm glad I brought my truck.

G - You are doing a great job, David.

D - Now give us a little more orientation of Main Street, Grand-dad. Why did it just stop like that?

Dad - Well, it stops because it ran into the Hobson home. And that is an Inge house.

G - Well, it would have been Frank or Richard.

Dad - Somebody like that. Henry Pollman lived there.

G - 2105

D - A beautiful ancient looking city.

G - Here's Muckle House and across the street there must be - Inge's house must be Tunstall's house.

Dad - Yes. It's on the corner of

G - Lot of houses for sale.

Dad - Greensboro is drying up. It's about half African American now.

G - That's politically correct. That's a pretty house. Look at that one on the left.

Dad - That's the Tunstall house.

G - Oh, is it? That's where the people lived.

Dad - Ok. I think what we ought to do is call Buddy Ramsay now that we have gotten here to the Presbyterian Church.

G - How long will he get here to see us?

D - See - we will ride around until we meet him.

G - I thought while we were waiting

Dad - You going to call him?

G - You going to call him, David?

D - No, I do not. I want you to do all that kind of stuff. You point me to the cemetery. Or do you want to see Multiflora while you are here?

G - Or do you want to see Multiflora? Take a left up here. Take a left on Tuscaloosa Street.

Dad - This is Tuscaloosa Street.

D - This is the only place I have ever been on in Greensboro is on that street.

Dad - You will need to bring your children up here so they can carry on.

D - I will. I would rather have you with us. Cause I can't remember who is Tutwiler and who is Tunstall.

Dad - As far as that.

G - Who is that?

Dad - Aunt Ida Erwin's sister was the grandmother of all of the Morrisette children whose mother died when they were little and she raised them.

D - This street is not as pretty as Main Street.

Dad - That's Morrison house.

D. That's Stickney house. Over here.

G - Sidney Bagwell's uncle.

Dad - That's the Inge house. [Multiflora]

D - Damn big house, man. That's the last one leaving Greensboro north toward Tuscaloosa.

G - Buddy, this is George Inge. We are up here riding around in Greensboro looking at - dad's pointing out all kinds of kinds of places to us. So we're here - want to direct us on where to go? Want us to drive on down to your place? Why don't we do that? We can meet you there and then... We just rode up Tuscaloosa Street past the Multiflora house that was

Dad - Headed back to Main Street.

G - So we thought about riding over to the graveyard and looking around a little bit. We just... He didn't show us that one. Did you show us Earl Ramsey house, Dad?

Dad - Well, tell him I will go back down that because we didn't come that way.

G - We went a slightly different way. Because we pointing everybody in different directions.

Dad - So I'm taking them by the Ramsay house.

G - I can't believe he didn't take us by the Ramsey house. But anyway, we could do anything you want. If you tell us where to go, if you want us, where can we take you to dinner? You think we will need to go to Demopolis? Are you between us and Demopolis? Hold on a second. Did you say the Mexican place is closed tonight?

D - I don't know.

G - That Winnie Cobb said that?

D - Well, she said a restaurant was but tell him we will ride by there.

G - Can you tell us where the restaurant is? You can go ahead and tell me. We are at the corner of Main Street and Tuscaloosa and Dad's going to have us drive down Main Street for a minute.

Dad - I'll show them Buddy's house.

G - Well, like I said. What happened was we made better time than we thought we would. We are just on Main Street. But, let me ask you a question, are you kinda between us and Demopolis? Why don't you give me directions to where you are and we can drive out there and then we can go on to Demopolis for dinner. Would that be a good plan?

Dad - Go to the next street.

D - I want to look at that confederate memorial. I will be right back [on Main Street].

G - Ok. In Greensboro we are going to head back South or North? We'll be heading down on 69? We'll head South from Greensboro down 69. On the map it shows Cedarville. That's too far down from Greensboro? Alright. Ok, so we'll drive down 69 and when we see County Road 16 we'll just stop there. Silver car. Ok. We're going to head that way now. We're going to head from Greensboro down 69 like we are heading..... In other words, like we were going to Faunsdale we peel off on 25. We just stay on 69 until we hit 16. Alright? We'll head that way - when we hit County Road 16 we'll stop and look for the silver car. In Greensboro - yeah.

Dad - There's a big water tower

G - And when we come to County Road 16 we'll wait right there.

Dad - Ok. Now you turn right. This is Buddy Ramsay's house - were Buddy Ramsay lived.

G - We're looking at your house. We're riding by the Noel Ramsay house right now.

Dad - And tell him I can see the magnolia tree in the front yard as I remember.

G - He remembers the magnolia tree in the front yard. Well, we'll be at the intersection of 69 and 16 in a few minutes. Ok - well we'll be there. Thanks. Ok - take a left when you can David and get back. You'll want to take a - go back to the right

D - [re: Confederate Memorial, Main Street] See that statue right there - I knew I was right. Your daddy Wad - Allen Cadwallder Jones, Colonel 5th Alabama was on there. Lt. Colonel George Erwin right there - left top. Lt. Colonel - Fort Morgan - right there - I'm telling you.

G - Not Lt but Lt Colonel.

D - You tell me which way to go.

G - You are wanting to take a right up here David and just cut back over to the highway - the way we came in because Buddy Ramsay is on his way and we are supposed to call him at Newburn.

D - So listen up. 5th Alabama - I called it up - State of Alabama Archives. Am I going right?

G - Take a right.

D - Anyway. Now that was daddy Wad - take a right even on this little one?

Dad - I don't think you need to

G - We gotta get all the way over to the highway and maybe this will cut through. Maybe we just need to turn around and go back the way we came.

D - I think that's the best bet. Listen, this is spooky George. When I looked it up I looked up the 5th Alabama and I came across Alan Cadwallder Jones, Colonel and I found where all they went and it listed every battle and all of that. It told how many of the original regiment of the 1,000 were alive. There were 4 officers and something like 37 enlisted men left out of 1,000. He told me before that that he was listening to daddy Wad who told him that when they got to Appamaddox they were only 4 officers there. That correlated exactly what he said.

G - He owned that building right there on Main Street?

Dad - There was a dentist in the upstairs and the little store downstairs.

D - Take a left here? We are going to stay on 69.

G - I think Greensboro has a lot more of an appeal less run down look to it that it used to.

Dad - Ok. This was part of _____ - this was the gold and a creek ran right downhill and it's been covered over.

D - And this was a recent cut through wasn't it?

Dad - Yes, it was just woods when I was a kid. [south of Glencairn]

D - I see. Left or right?

G - Right and we are going to stay on 69 till 16. It's going to be about 8 or 10 miles and Buddy is going to be waiting in a silver car. Look to your right Dad that's the back of Glencairn.

D - Yes, that's the back of Glencairn. This was Erwin woods we used to play in when I was a boy.

G - That's the back of the barn?

Dad - Yeah.

D - Hello Mr Truck. Why don't you come on over here?

D - So there was Lt. Colonel George Erwin and Allan Cadwallder Jones, just like we thought. One of 4 officers left alive

Dad - Daddy Wad was what they called him. Daddy Wad.

G - That's cool.

Dad - And I knew him when I was a little boy.

G - And which porch was he sitting on?

Dad - Well, back on Main Street - sorta back from the street. Type of clay that was on the ground - a _____ would try to run without chains on the wheels they would slide off the road it was so slick.

G - Y'all had to put chains on?

D - Did he know of a restaurant that he had in mind for us?

G - No. We've been told there is one restaurant open - the Mexican restaurant and Winnie said if the one restaurant is closed -

[Next day. Met Inge Beeker who knew my nephew David Inge, Jr. at Ole Miss. We travelled north of Greensboro, east side of the river near Eutaw. We saw the original Herndon land and almost found the Herndon cemetery. We were in separate vehicles]

G - So we went with Inge Beeker onto this Inge land area where they have catfish ponds and cattle and Chip Beeker is managing that and he had bought this incredible plantation Myrtle something on top of this unusual ridge or hilltop - it's an unusual geological formation and

drastic topography up there from the top of this hill and this big antebellum mansion you see way off in the distance and the catfish ponds and all that. But any way, when we got there Harwood Inge's widow was there who was just really classy and delightful – She is my dad's generation.

D - Classy

G – Mrs. Harwood Inge was classy according to Uncle David and was just very sweet. She can't hear very well but she still read lips. Theresa Inge Beeker [Inge's mother] was there and then Chip Beeker [Inge's father]. Elizabeth Beeker, Inge's wife, who is very nice and attractive, had 2 young children and had met my daughter, Eleanor. At any rate, they were just as hospitable as they could be. They had lunch for us, ice tea and some kind of pork roasted and little pimento cheese sandwiches and cole slaw, ice tea. Just went out of her way. Flowers all over the place. The house was so well done and this is kinda of an ornate plantation. It just isn't like a big ole timey house. But it was just - you could tell they had gone out of their way to make things special. At any rate, we had a great visit. We chit chatted, talked about different things and it was a pleasant experience to just rub elbows with our cousins and share common friends that we have and plan to try and invite them back down [to Mobile] for the Inge girls Christmas party and Inge boys night out and some other things. But it was a great ending [of our pilgrimage] because it was just what it's all about really. Relationships and having something in common with people you didn't know and it was a high point. Grand-dad was very charming. He smiled a lot. He just kinda nodded and cracked a really good joke about making a reservation. Got a lot of laughs out of that one. We weren't sure what he was making a reservation for but anyway that's about all I got to say. We are on Highway 43 in Demopolis heading South.

Dad - It didn't pick it did it?

G - What?

Dad - Oh shit.

G - OH DAD. Ok - talk into it now.

Dad - We are on the way to Mobile outside of Linden and I can remember when I was a child all of these roads were gravel road. There was nothing paved North of Calvert in Mobile County.

All roads were gravel roads

D - Cedar fence posts everywhere

Dad - And I have tried to tell these fellows about these rows of cedar trees that you see by the side of the road all up here.

D - No Dad

G - Oh shit

Dad - When the farmers built their fences they cut down cedar trees and split them and put them in a row and then the next year or two they had all sprouted and now you have a row of cedar trees that used to be a fence that a farmer planted and the land is so

D - Holy Shit

Dad - So valuable - so the soil is so rich that you just drive a post in the ground and it's so rich it sprouts up within a year or two and I am looking at a row of cedar trees that used to be a fence for a farmer.

D - That's sweetgum.

Dad - And nobody believes it but if you look at it you can tell that that's the only answer to the fact that there's a row of trees running parallel to the road in perfect line with each other. Same diameter of the trees

D - They put pecan posts in there, too.

Dad - Ok nobody believes. There is whole row of trees.

D - Not possible. Dad, what's your thoughts on genealogy trip? Glencairn.

Dad - I was glad to go back to Glencairn because I spent 11 summers in Greensboro from the time I was 4 years old until I was 15 and Zeb and I went to school up there when I was in the second grade and he was in the 5th because it was the bottom of the depression and Momma was going to have Coleman and there just wasn't enough food to go around and so she wrote us and said y'all stay on up there - just go to school. So I remember going to Greensboro School in the second grade barefooted and we would walk to school. Zeb and I walked to school which was down near the post office downtown and first part of the year you could go barefooted. Then about October you put on shoes. We both got homesick and Daddy came up on the train and we went back through Marion Junction on the train and I went back into Leincauf in the second grade and Zeb was in the 5th grade. But we both prospered by Greensboro School because it was very strict. My teacher was Ms. Martha Dale who was momma had known as a little girl and she was married to a fellow named Dick True and he later murdered her in a drunken fit after she was - 2 years later. And her brother was named Billy Pratt Dale who was a very fine wonderful boy but who got polio back when he was 11 or 12 years old and I can remember him being horribly disfigured and crippled as a late teenager and I don't know whether he ever lived or not but his arms and legs just went in all different directions. I guess they have cured polio because I haven't seen any crippled people in the past few years. Ok. I'm going to pass this back to the OBGYN specialist.

G - My question is this. Do you ever remember doing anything with your father in Greensboro?

Dad - No because the only time I ever saw him in Greensboro would be when he came - I don't ever remember ever seeing him in Greensboro. It was momma's parents that we went to and if daddy came to Greensboro it would have been on just a short pass through type thing.

D - What did y'all do together growing up in general in Mobile or wherever? What did you do with him - a father/son?

Dad - Average. The average father. Daddy worked. You know the newspaper changed hands. He was managing the classified department. And R.B. Chandler, the head of the newspaper, fired him. R.B. Chandler, who bought the Register News Item in about 1932, and he called all the department heads in - like daddy was manager of the classified section of the newspaper - and he said I'm letting all of you go because I'm bringing my people in and so daddy was out of a job right at the bottom of the depression and we were living at 956 Government Street where Uncle George lived and he had a job with U.S. Engineers and it was basically the money that he gave us that fed the family and then daddy gradually taught himself insurance and went to work selling Equitable Life Insurance but the first few years you couldn't find anybody to buy anything. It was the depression. But daddy eventually - after we were grown and gone was able to manage. We never had an automobile between about 1927 and when Zeb got out of college some years later he and daddy bought a car together and they shared it.

G - Did he have a car before 1927?

Dad - Yes. He had an Essex automobile when we lived in Chickasaw on Selma Street. Essex, Hudson, well both Hudson and Essex have gone out of business years ago.

D - What was the address in Chickasaw?

Dad - Number 5 - Grant Street was the street I was born on and then when I was going to kindergarten we lived on 5th Street. And the streets of Chickasaw are laid out so a street runs down between two rows of houses and then in the front there is a sidewalk that runs down between - so if you owned a car you parked it behind your house but then your front porch faced on the sidewalk that you walk up and down.

G - And it was 105 Grant Street?

Dad - Well, I'm not sure the number.

G - Do you remember the address on 5th Street?

Dad - No.

D - Well, did y'all ever go fishing together or hunting together or hiking together or picnics together or anything like that?

Dad - We were a poor family. If

D - Never went fishing with him? Sailing?

Dad - No. Went sailing - Uncle George had a sailboat.

G - But your dad never went?

Dad - I guess we - I'd never been. One time Uncle John and daddy went on the rodeo and took me along. We sailed out from Dog River to Dauphin Island and stayed overnight - tied up off of Fort Gaines and then we sailed back the next day.

G - Wow. I bet that was fun. I bet that was fun.

Dad - Yeah, it was fun.

G - All cooks on the boat and all that.

Dad - Yeah, you kinda brought food along. It had a head, a toilet, down below. If you had - one time we were sailing out in Mobile Bay and it was real calm and somebody had to take a crap. So they went down in the thing and pulled the hatch over. The next thing you know you hear this pumping noise where they pump the thing and then those of us that were sitting on deck you looked out and this big turd came floating out into the water by the boat.

G - I thought that was Uncle Herndon that did that at Dog River.

D - He did. I saw it.

G - I did, too.

D - Does Herndon ever mention me?