

R. BARROW: This is Dr. Mark Barrow. I am interviewing Sarah Matheson on October 3, 1992 in her home, finishing up on the furniture and finishings of the house. We are now going over the book where everything is labeled. We're on 9145, the fire screen. Do you know anything about the fire screen?

A. MATHESON: No sir, I don't. It might have been collected with those paintings, you know.

R. BARROW: It' been here a long time?

ARAH: Oh, it's been here forever. It was here just like the others.

R. BARROW: So the paintings in that room and the fire screen

ARAH: Because, you see, her sister, Aunt Caroline, had either painted them or collected them. I don't know which. I know she was a lover of art. She substituted at East Florida Seminary for a while when she was living here with them.

R. BARROW: Tell me about this, Number 91113, the religious pictures that are in the living room. Those little pictures that are either side of the

ARAH: Oh, They are the ones I bought in Europe on my first trip, in 1930.

R. BARROW: What about this little R.S. Prussia chocolate set? # 91-114

ARAH: Oh, that was a gift and it's very precious. It has special markings on it. Someone told me. I didn't know that.

R. BARROW: It's known as R.S. Prussia.

ARAH: Yeah, that is.

R. BARROW: It's called a chocolate set.

ARAH: Yeah, I knew it was the chocolate set.

R. BARROW: Did you buy that?

ARAH: No, that was here.

R. BARROW: That was part of the deal.

ARAH: One of my inheritances.

R. BARROW: That's number 114. What about the pair of ruby lamps that are in the living room? # 91-

ARAH: Oh, now they were given to me by Mr. Deeden. When my mother came down she said, "I know he is a Deeden." My mother was a Deeden, Cornelia Deeden Hamilton. Mr Deeden was in real estate, I think, for a long time but his wife was quite an antique collector. When she died he told me I could have those lamps.

R. BARROW: O.K. So they came from here then?

ARAH: Yeah.

R. BARROW: Then if you go into the back room where you have the couch and the bookshelves. The bookshelves were all in Chris' office and the desk and chair?

ARAH: Yeah, yeah.

R. BARROW: There are some other material that's in this room in here. We will go look at that in just a minute because I want to get some information about that. The shot gun that was in there, tell me about the shot gun.

ARAH: Yeah. Annie Pound gave me that, o, after she moved out of her home. She told me that it was used in the war, in the fighting in Gainesville, when the war came and the soldiers went up Main Street. You know.

R. BARROW: Right. Well, we're going to try to get that rebuilt and redone.

ARAH: It you could, that would be interesting.

R. BARROW: I just need to find someone to do that.

ARAH: Yeah.

R. BARROW: The shot gun was number 91-117. The photograph is 91-118, of Chris. You say it is the East Florida Seminary?

ARAH: Yeah, yeah, the East Florida Seminary. There was a group of them. He was twelve years old. They said the photographer wanted to get a picture of them before they let them go home for lunch. They were all so hungry. You know how you don't like to have a picture, and they made them stand there and get their picture made.

R. BARROW: So, he was very young at the time?

ARAH: Yeah. he was twelve years old. He was teaching us. He was so young and so embarrassed. We would stare at his feet, you know, or try to make him embarrassed. He would blush so.

R BARROW: Where was he teaching?

ARAH: He was teaching at the East Florida Seminary.

R. BARROW: Oh, so he was a student there and a faculty.

ARAH: And a faculty. after he graduated, he was here working in his fathers office, you know, in the big store.

R. BARROW: That was before he went to ~~Sidell~~ *to Sidell?*

ARAH: No, that was after he graduated that he came back.

R. BARROW: He came back and taught part-time?

ARAH: No, just substituted some, not full-time.

R. BARROW: What was the name of the of the Matheson's store that was down on North Main Street? Because that's the name we want to put on the country store.

ARAH: Yeah. What was that?

R. BARROW: Was it J.D. Matheson Mercantile?

ARAH: J.D. Matheson

R. BARROW: Mercantile Company

ARAH: Mercantile. Yeah. Let's look on the map, you know, where it shows

R. BARROW: It's got it on there?

ARAH: I think it does.

R. BARROW: O.K. We can look that up because that's what we want to put on there as the country store, is that name.

ARAH: Yeah, on the store. And it had a shoe, a great big shoe, cut out, you know, wooden, that hung in front. Because I heard some of the shop people, I asked them. They said they could remember. They wondered what ever happened to that shoe that use to hang out in front.

R. BARROW: Was it a boot?

ARAH: It was a boot. A black boot.

R BARROW: Well we might have to... You don't know where there's a picture of that anywhere do you? Or seen a picture of it?

ARAH: I can't remember it but I heard several of them talking about it. Because they had shoes, they had mercantile, they had groceries, they had everything you could think of.

R. BARROW: It hung down in front of the door, off the porch?

ARAH: In front of the door there, the big door.

R. BARROW: Tell me about the coat rack, number 91100 that's stained.

ARAH: Oh, that use to hang in the old building which was the Post Office at first and then used for the school building and then the Hippodrome.

R. BARROW: Right.

ARAH: And it hung there for years. I don't know whether that's still... I could get... ~~Bannell~~ *Powell* told me the history of it but I can't remember what years.

R. BARROW: Who gave it to you?

ARAH: He gave it to me. He had collected it, you see, because he had been Post Master.

R. BARROW: Page Bannell?

ARAH: Page Bannell. *Powell's* When Page moved into the village, we could get that year, he gave me a picture that's out there, you know.

R. BARROW: Of the Post Office?

ARAH: Of the Post Office.

R. BARROW: And the rack?

ARAH: And the rack. He also gave me a tile, something, you know, from the rail road that was taken up from main Street and also a brick from the Videll Drug and from across the hardware store.

R BARROW: The Baird?

ARAH: The Baird hardware Store.

R. BARROW: Have you got that?

ARAH: I have those.
 R. BARROW: Oh, Good, good.
 ARAH: They're in the sink out here.
 ARROW: O.K. Great. We'll have to look at that. The Post Office picture is number 91411. Tell me about this little two-section bookshelf. You know any more about it?
 RAH: It was in the house.
 R. BARROW: Was it in Chris' office before? Do you know?
 RAH: I don't know whether it was in the office. It could have been with the others. But it was a little different, you know. It was just two and it was used somewhere in the hall, I think, or somewhere.
 R. BARROW: It may have been in the house or it may have come from his office.
 RAH: From his office. It could be either one so it might be alright.
 R. BARROW: Alright. Tell me about this little desk here. This is a little writing desk.
 RAH: That's the one in there?
 R. BARROW: That's right.
 RAH: That was in his office because his partner (What was his name? He lived across from you, where you live now in that house. Elizabeth, his daughter, was in the museum for years. Bonnie McDowell...Why can't I think of his name? I'll get it.) But it was Chris' partner, one of his law partners. So when he left and went to Oklahoma, you see, why, he left his filing desk and he left everything there. And sometime after I moved into this house and, I think Chris was dead, one of his daughters told me that they had some of his furniture that they wanted to bring so she brought that desk and this little chair that we saw because she said, "They belong to Mr. Matheson and I want to bring them back." But they saved them. See they were together there and her father had just taken them home, I guess.
 R. BARROW: For sure. Well we can look up his name.
 RAH: I'll get that done.
 R. BARROW: But this little writing desk is part of Chris' office?
 RAH: Yeah, oh yeah. That was his office desk. And the beautiful rug in the little study, I bought in Cat Mandue. It's perfectly beautiful, I think. The one just inside.
 R. BARROW: Right. There's some tall lamps. There's one in the back living room, Chris' room.
 RAH: They were bought in Shawnee.
 R. BARROW: They were bought in Oklahoma? **The quilt**, that too needs to be restored. I have the names of some people who specialize in restoring quilts. We will get it put behind glass.
 RAH: Oh yeah. That would be wonderful.
 R. BARROW: They just sew the little loose parts and then we'll put it behind glass. I have the names of some who do that.
 RAH: That was, we have the date on it, 1880.
 R. BARROW: Yes, it has a date on it. Now, the bowl and pitcher set that's in that room, What?
 ARAH: That was in the house.
 R. BARROW: That belonged to the Matheson family?
 ARAH: Right, to the Matheson family.
 R. BARROW: O.K. So it was here the whole time?
 ARAH: Yeah.
 R. BARROW: O.K. Tell me about the little book case which is called the, it's in the back bedroom. I think it is called Larken desk. Do you know about that?
 ARAH: I don't know about that. I just know that it was here in the house.
 R. BARROW: O.K. Did it belong to Chris or just part of the house?
 ARAH: It belonged to Chris.
 R. BARROW: O.K. It wasn't in his office then, you don't think?

ARAH: No. I don't think that one was. I'm sure the other one was but I don't believe both of them were.

R. BARROW: Tell me about the quilt that's in there. That's the oriental one. # 91-104

ARAH: This one in here?

R. BARROW: Yes.

ARAH: It was made by one of my dear Korean friends while I was in Korea in 1960 as a parting gift. Or maybe it was a

R. BARROW: Was the pillow with it?

ARAH: Yeah, the pillow was with it. And she, her brother, I had helped her brother in college or in school some the two years I was there. He always called me his sun. That little thing in front was given to me by him for my mother. I got a letter just this week from one of the other...I had two boys that I helped. One of them became a preacher and the other, this one, became a teacher. His sister gave this to me.

R. BARROW: What was his name?

ARAH: His name was Un Ta Kim and the other was Hung Jun Jure.

R. BARROW: O.K. Tell me about the little rug that's in there. The little oriental rug that's in your back bed room. Has that been there or is that something you had? Not the hook rug, the one in the back there. This one. 91-103

ARAH: That came from Davidson.

R. BARROW: That came from Davidson?

ARAH: I brought that from Davidson.

R. BARROW: Oh. So that's real old then?

ARAH: Yeah. It's old.

R. BARROW: Alright. Tell me about this picture that's hanging there by the bed.

ARAH: Well, I know that it was one of my mother and father's wedding gifts. 91-105

R. BARROW: One of your mother's?

ARAH: My mother and father's.

R. BARROW: That's very nice. That's number 91-104. Then there are two little half-round tables in this back bed room. Tell me about those. 91-106 & 91-

SARAH: We bought them in Oklahoma as we went to housekeeping.

R. BARROW: Those are from Oklahoma? Alright. Number 91-107. There are some ~~hand~~ ^{And} irons that are in there. Tell me about those.

SARAH: They were bought in Oklahoma when we went to housekeeping.

R. BARROW: O.K. Then on the porch, the front porch, there's a bench that's painted white.

SARAH: That was here. That was here when we came.

R. BARROW: So that's very old.

SARAH: It's been here 100 years.

R. BARROW: So we need to get that restored and fixed.

SARAH: It's over 100 years old. Yeah.

R. BARROW: And then there's also this little square table.

SARAH: It just belonged. It's not very historical.

R. BARROW: That was here too? But that one was original. That one we want to be sure and save.

SARAH: That was original, yeah.

R. BARROW: Let's see if there is anything else here. Tell me a little more about this couch that's in that front bedroom, that modern couch. When was it purchased?

SARAH: That was bought here, here in Gainesville not too many years ago. Because when you have only a double bed in there and so often you want another one.

R. BARROW: So that was bought here?

SARAH: So I bought that and it opens up and makes a bed.

R. BARROW: Oh. So it makes a bed. O.K. That was purchased here in Gainesville?

SARAH: Yeah. It was purchased here in Gainesville.

R. BARROW: That's number 9183. Then you've already talked to me about this two-shelf oak book shelf. The item 180.

SARAH: Yeah. That was just here.

R. BARROW: That was here in the house. O.K. Back to number 9166 of Catherine ~~Harrell~~ ^{Harrell}. This was done by a French painter from Charleston, South Carolina, Right? Not North Carolina.

ARAH: South Carolina, right. Charleston would really die if they heard you say North Carolina. You know what they say, "North Carolina is the valley of humilitation between the mountains of conceit, Virginia and South Carolina." But I say with my next breath "North Carolina is holding her own very well. She pioneered in good roads and education. She has the mountains and the sea coast." I could go on. So she is not a valley of humilitation. But Charleston, South Carolina is most historic and they say that the Cooper River and the Ashley River, where they come together, that that forms the Atlantic Ocean. So that's just one of Charleston's famous sayings.

R. BARROW: The dressing table, that was from Shawnee too? That little set there. That is number 9195. And also the Mahogany double bed, number 9196. That was from Oklahoma too, wasn't it?

ARAH: Yeah. The whole set.

R. BARROW: And the chest of drawers was at Warren's Store up there and the mirror that goes above it too?

ARAH: Yeah. Mr. & Mrs. warren had a hardware store, furniture and everything and they would say that we will come down after closing and select your furniture. So we would go down and have the quiet and go through. They thought we were wise and very economical in the way we selected this set and the little spool bed in the kitchen and the rocking chairs. This was Chris' rocking chair and this little one was mine. so we still have those two chairs.

R. BARROW: Alright. So let me show you this, what we have in mind, now let me go ahead, I'll take this back and I'll get these pictures developed and put them up in there then we'll have everything up to date.

ARAH: That's fine.

R. BARROW: I'll give that to you. What I've got here is a list of the things that are in the pictures so you can study these things by number. We'll eventually have to put the numbers on the furniture to mark them but we've got them marked now by the picture with the number here. There are the things that you need to decide over the next year or so. What's going to stay in as part of the house museum and the part that's going to stay in. So I made it stays with the house or goes to whoever you want it to in their name.

ARAH: That's the prob;em.

R. BARROW: It's a big problem. You may not want to decide right now.