

INTERVIEWERS: Randy Croce and Dave Riehle
October 2012, Nelson, GA

YOUR NAME?

M-A-Y, a historic researcher in the State of Georgia and I give you permission to use this film and this interview.

DISCUSS THE USE OF MARBLE.

Actually the marble... The use of marble, a goes back to the Indians. And there's a... There's a pink, a marble statues at the Etowah Mounds in Cartersville. And they've found Georgian marble as far north a, and Indian artifacts as far north as Ohio. And a... But the first Eur, a Europeans mined the marble was in the 18, in 1832 with Henry Fitzsimmons who was a, from Ireland. And he a, a was a working in Gwinnett County when the Cherokee territory opened up a, for, for a, development by the white man. And he helped for the a, the marble in the street as we know it today in a, in Pickens County. A, back then it was Gilmer County. But a, a in 1854 Pickens was formed. And a... And marble was mined off and on until a, until the a, 1800s when it became a continuous mining operation at George, at the Georgia marble quarries and at other quarries throughout the a, throughout the county.

THE MINNESOTA CAPITOL MARBLE CAME FROM PICKENS COUNTY.

Right.

THERE WAS CONTACT BETWEEN THE BUTLERS AND SOMEBODY. WE UNDERSTAND THEY SENT THEIR BROTHER JOHN TO BE AN ON-SITE MANAGER.

Right. Well...

TALK ABOUT THAT.

Ya, so I was gonna say that um, a, the property itself was originally owned by Pickens Herndon and his family. A...

IS THAT A FIRST NAME AND A LAST NAME?

Yes. Ya. Pickens Herndon. And a, the county wasn't named for him. He was named after the county. (laughs) The properties were foreclosed on by a, a, a, one of the businessmen, Elias W. Alread, who was, who all connected in the, a, in the state. Um, I'm not exactly sure what his, what other businesses he was into. Um, and in 1895 he sold the properties to a, George F. Gober, who was a, at the time, a Superior Court judge, later to be a Supreme Court judge in the state of Georgia. And to a, George B. Brown, who was the brother of a, Joseph E. Brown, who

was the governor of Georgia during the Confederate a, during the Civil War. A, they later... The, those two gentlemen, along with a man named Z.B. Harrison, who was the clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia, formed a company in 18, 1897, called the Amicalola Marble and Power Company which a, a then entered into a lease. A, a the company was formed by George F. Gober, George B. Brown and Z.D. Harrison. And they entered into a lease with George F. Go, Gober and George B. Brown for the mining of the marble on the Herndon property. Um, I'm not sure what the connection is, but it, it appears that what the company itself was probably formed with the help of the Butler Ryan Company for the extraction of marble because from all the documentation I could find, it appears that their, that Butler Ryan was the one that actually removed the overburden and began the initial quarrying at, at, at the Herndon, a marble property. A, there's indications that they originally used a, the tracks of the Georgia Marble Company along, which were around the marble hill, a and later a, within about two years, had constructed their own railroad a, a, Spur Track from the quarries to the a, to the cutting mills in Ball Ground, Georgia, which is about nine-and-a-quarter miles away. And it looks or appears that the a, that the Butler brothers may have, or Ryan, or Butler Ryan had some a, interest or some a, contracting work out of that also.

**1897 WAS THE YEAR THE BUTLERS AND CASS GILBERT RECEIVED
AUTHORITY BY THE VOTE OF THE COMMISSIONERS TO USE MARBLE IN THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING.**

And the... And the a, the actual leases to a, from Gober and Brown to the Amicalola Marble and Power Company was in 1898. So, which is the year that they began ta, or started quarrying a, operations there at the Herndon property.

THAT CAN BE DOCUMENTED HERE?

Like any historical research it comes in dribs and drabs. Um, and that's, it's... Documents may be discovered later on that'll put a better picture on what occurred, but just from the information that's been discovered so far, you know, it, it, it does appear th, from the a, from a lawsuit that was filed in Pickens County by the a, William B. Tate Estate for trackage a, across their land. So it does look like the a, that Butler Ryan was contracted to open the quarries at Herndon, at the, on the Herndon property.

And they, they were... They were paying a... They were paying a... Supposedly they were supposed to be paying trackage fee of a a, a penny per hundred tons. And I believe the lawsuit for the years, a 19, 1898 and 1899 a, they moved a, twenty-three million tons of... Or correction, 23 million pounds of a, marble across a, the Tate properties. And then at that point they had had the, they completed their lines for the Amicalola Railroad, which went from Ball Ground to the quarries.

**AND AT BALL GROUND THEY WOULD HAVE HAD ACCESS TO THE
LOUISEVILLE NATIONAL AND THE MAIN LINE INTO THE GENERAL
RAILROAD SYSTEM.**

Well ya, you know, by constructing the railroad it gave them a, a free access to the, to cutting, to the cutting mills which they had also built a there, or the Amicalola Marble and a, Power Company had built at Ball Ground so um, they wouldn't have to utilize the Georgia Marble or the Tate properties to a, get their mar, a get their marble a, to the main lines. And um, the mill, the milling operations were right along the main tracks there. So once they finished milling the pro, the product their in Ball Ground, Georgia, they would have a, had a, a car come along, a spare track that ran right up against the mill building, put the marble on there and it off and running to a, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

THEY WOULD HAVE TO GET LEASES FROM THE PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THE SIX OR NINE MILES OF TRACKS THEY NEEDED.

Exactly. Yes. Af... The a... To construct the... The construct the a, um railroad line from the mine to Ball Ground and eventually to tie it into the Louisville and Nashville line they would, they had to obtain leases a, or buy the property outright a, along the railroad route and a, and pay, pay a royalty a, to the landowners for, for movement of the marble across, across those properties. But they didn't have to pay for the people that owned the tracks, like Georgia Marble did. And the a... I don't know how much the Butler Ryan or the Butler Brothers a, had invested in the railroad tracks or the a, a, or the quarry itself, because Amicalola as the deed records will show, Amicalola Marble and a Power Company a, when it sells it's, it sells the company to another company called Atlanta Marble Company which had as its board members George F. Gober, Z.D. Harrison, J.P. Harrison. A, then a... One of the thing that it mentions is the royalties for the a, marble excluding the marbles going to Saint Paul, Minnesota. So I'm assuming that because of the, the work that the a, Butler Ryan or and the Butler Brothers later were doing on the marble property, they were getting the marbles at a, at a lower rate and without having to pay the royalty or trackage fee.

Z.D. HARRISON ALSO SUED THE BUTLER BROTHERS FOR \$15,000.00 FOR NON-PAYMENT OF ROLTIES PER AGREEMENT. WHAT IS YOUR INTERPRETATION?

Well I think what, what's occurring is again the, the a, Butler Ryan was probably getting a break on its royalty rates and trackage fees for, for whatever was a, whatever work that they were doing at the quarries. But the ro, the a, the Harrisons and the, and the a, the Gobers were actually also selling your, probably operating side by side with Butler Ryan to extract other stone to be shipped to other places also. So it was not a... It was not a, exclusively operated for the Minnesota a, for the stone to go to Saint Paul, Minnesota, but for other places also.

THIS QUARRY COULD DO BOTH.

Yes. As a matter of fact they opened the second quarry right next door a, several years later a, sometime around 1906, 1907 they opened the second quarry right adjoining the a, the Amicalola Mine Number One.

THE AMICALOLA MINE WAS OPENED SPECIFICICAL FOR THE MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL.

I believe that there was some miner marble ex, extractions prior to that, but not to the, not to the extent a, once the contract with a, Roy, a, Butler Ryan was signed for the mar, you know, the extract the marble for a, for the state capitol, did they actually go into a full-blown, a extraction phase I, I believe they extracted small amounts for headstones and a, a other, for steps, a number of step... If, if you walk around the county, you'll see a number of steps that are made out of marble. Um, a lot of waterway markers used to be made out of marble. So, you know, small, small um, pieces were taken out for, for things like, like headstones and steps, but it, again it wasn't until the a, a Butler Ryan contract that a, they went full scale and, and a started a full-blown mining operation, a massive quarry operation of the property. And it is a, according to the state geologist a, some of the finest marble, and cleanest marble there is in the state of Georgia. A, and a, it was, it outdid the Southern Marble Company's a, operation at Marble Hill or the Georgia Marble con a, or company oper a, marble at a, at Tate, Georgia.

**DO YOU KNOW WHO THE LAWSUITS WERE RESOLVED AGAINST THE BUTLER
RN FAMILY?**

No I haven't. Um, it... Unfortunately the, the vo, the volume and paper and the amount of time to research a lot of this a, information is a, at, at this point prohibitive.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED ON THE COURTHOUSE STEPS OR...

It could have been...

OR ANOTHER WAY.

It could have been settle out of court. It could have been, you know, that, that the, the Butler, you know, Butler Ryan or the Butler Brothers later paid whatever they were ordered to pay a, to stay out of jail. (laughs)

SOME MAY BE IN RECORDS WE HAVEN'T LOOKED AT.

Ya. It's interesting that a, George, George F. Gober, a being the a, Superior Court a, being the Superior Court a, Judge here in the coun, or for the Blue Ridge Circuit, which encompassed Cherokee, Pickens, Gilmore and Fanning counties um, he would have heard this case. So it would have... It's interesting that, that a... And he, he was a man known to put debtors in prison. So he's... Most likely they, they would, they paid the Tates off or came to an agreement to pay the Tates off and that was that.

Z.D. WAS A CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GEORGIA.

A, Z.D. Harrison was the Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia. And he lived at a, his daughter named his, his house and his property in Decatur, Fern Bank, two words. And later it became a, a, a science center and a museum for the DeKalb County school system. A, but it shows you the a... Most of these gentlemen were very powerful men in state

government or they a, a, or in banking. And usually what would happen is that they would form a company and then hire other people to actually op, do the day-to-day operations su, such as the, you know, in the quarry business where, where the a, from a, a... From everything that appears, they hired or a, Brian Butler Ryan had a, a, being contracted to actually start the mining operation for Z.D. Harrison and a, under the Amicalola Marble and Power Company name.

THERE WERE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS AND THEIR JUDICIAL OCCUPATIONS.

Um, there were certain ethical and moral lines tend to, tend to move over time. And things, things that a, today would seem way out of bounds businesswise, um, were, were practiced quite, you know, quite frequently back in the past. A, the robber in, in... The robber baron era is, is if you wanna refer to it as that, with the Rockefellers and the Fisks and J.P. Morgan and all those people who a... As long as it made 'em money it was good. It didn't matter who you hurt or, you know, whether you broke any ethical or moral laws. A, they tried to stay within legal boundaries. But other than a, other than that, everything, everything was a, a, a... It was an okay. It was a target. And you could go for it. A, Jeekyll Island was famous as a, a retreat for the robber barons. And most of 'em had, including Henry Ford had, you know, houses.

JIM HILL HAD ONE.

Oh did he? Here's something I didn't know.

APPARENTLY JECKYLL ISLAND IS WHERE THEY CAME UP WITH THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

Ya they did.

DISCUSS THE GEOLOGY.

Ya I, I'm a a... I'm, I'm a geologist by degree and was involved in, in a, some a, just trying to straight, straighten out some of the a, differences between the a, members, the remaining members of the S.C. Tate Estate and the Georgia Marble Company. A, the... The company had split in two, in two, you know, the William B. Tate portion being owned by the Georgia Marble Company and then the S.C. Tate kept their, kept their a, interest until 1973. And some members kept it until the early 2000. Um, but the a... So as, as far as practicing geology um, it's become a second-tier job a, to, a to the research a, of the deed record for environmental purposes for, which is what I do. But the geology of this region indicates that there was, there was an old volcanic ark here. A, and the calcium carbonate, or the old coral reefs and a, old coral reefs that were formed around these a, volcanic areas and with uplift a, and plate tectonics, a literally you squish the rock and a, and took it to a, high pressures and temperatures to, to make it a very a, pliable and moveable a, almost souplike a, a situation where the calcium carbonates which create a limestone a, the coral reefs a, were, were crystallized and created the marble which a, why you have the nice large crystals in the marble today as opposed to the, the smaller microscopic

crystals in limestone. And it hold, that's why a, a marble holds up better in certain weather situations than a, limestone does.

IT TAKES ABOUT A HUNDRED MILLION YEARS TO DO THAT.

Easily a hundred million. (laughs)

SO THEY WON'T BE MAKING ANYMORE MARBLE ON THIS PLANET FOR AHILE.

Not for awhile. A, as, as we get more, you know, a, you know a few tens of millions of years from now when a, Hawaii's been uplifted and, and turned over and, and a, you know, squished, it will a, it, it'll form marble again. But it's a, it's a limited resource, yes.

DISCUSS THE IMMENSITY OF THE MARBLE FOUND HERE.

I'm, I'm... I'm not exactly sure and I don't think that, that a lot of the geologists are exactly sure how big the deposit is. They, what they try and do is bore a, the rock to keep a ten-year reserve. So a, depending on how much, at what rate they're mining the rock. And a, a but I don't think that they've actually hit the bottom or the base of the, of the li, of the a, marble formation to exactly say how, how many decades or centuries of marble they have left. A, at one point they were mining it rather quickly. But a, that, that's slow, slowed a little bit with the a, a new modern day processes and a, a conservation of materials and what not. So...

YOU CAN'T TELL THE SIZE UNLESS YOU DRILL A CORE?

No you can't. Um, and the marble belt itself stretches from North Carolina all the way into to Sylacauga, Alabama. And we're, we're just a small outcropping of that, that big long marble belt that's in there. And...

IT'S A CONTINUOUS GEOLOGICAL FORMATION?

Ya. Well it, again like I said, everything was sort of smashed up and wherever large amounts of coral reefs along this volcanic arc a, a formed a, a marble deposit was formed out of limestones that were, were, were created. And a, it can be shown, you know, geologically through the different types of minerals and what not that, exactly how this volcanic arch stretched and where it say, you know and a, what was the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachia at one point were as large or bigger than the Rockies. And that's how much erosion has occurred over time um, with a, a what exposed the marble, you know, which was deep underground at one point, exposed the marble to a, to the surface. A, Stone Mountain down in, near Atlanta, Georgia which is a granite batholiths, at one point was seven miles underground. That was, that was part of the orogenicity a, the, the upturning of the Earth that helped to create a, a the marble belt. A, a and literally cracks in the mantle of the a, of the Earth in which hot magmas would come up and the a, a Stone Mountain was one of those. And like I said, it's a, it, it a, it's been estimated that it was seven miles underground and that that's how much a, the a, the a, Appalachian Mountains.

‘Cuz we’re at the foot of the Appalachia here. And it’s considered an extremely old mountain range.

STONE MOUNTAIN IS ONE LARGE PIECE OF GRANITE.

Yes.

IT IS A MOUNTAIN.

Yes. (laughs) Ya no. It’s, it’s a dome of, of magma that, that was pushing its way up through the Earth and then started to cool and stopped, creating just, it was like a big old bubble of a mag, hot magma that was coming up under the Earth and pushing up through the Earth. And a, the rock, the rock that it affected around it um, was literally melted or, or heating up to, and became what they referred to as nice, which is a schist (sic) in a, micaceous schist.

QUESTION INAUDIBLE.

Yes.

THIS IS HOW PRECOLUMBIAN PEOPLE EXPERIENCED IT.

Yes. It, it... The Indians were... The Indians worked the exposed portions of the marble and a, wherever it was an outcropping they would a, a work it. And they worked a number of a... There’s a a, a substone rou, what they call Soapstone Ridge a, at which is a feldspathic a rock. A, the Indians a, actually worked and mined that and created bowls out of that, out of the soapstone and a, other utensils. A, and a, as I said earlier, the a, a the pink marble which comes out of quarry near Tate is, was mined by the a, Indians for... And they made statuettes and bowls and various other items out of, out of the marble.

WHY WAS MARBLE IMPORTANT IN THE ECONOMY?

The a... One of the... One of the big things is a, of course marble has always been—since the time of the ancient Romans—you know, has always been a a, it’s an easy stone to cut. And um, it’s a, it’s been a, a... It’s a gorgeous stone. It shimmers and it shines and it’s very architecturally pleasing. And a, as they were clear, clearing off the overburden of a, the marble here and they started to develop good drilling techniques to find out how much you had here, a they started to realize that they had a, a good, a potentially good industry here. The a... It’s interesting to note that the state capitol of Georgia is made out of Illinois sandstone and not out of Georgia marble. A, and a, one of the arguments for that was that there was not enough marble in the state of Georgia to build the Georgia capitol out of George, out of Georgia marble, but again, you know, with, with a, drill, with a, good drilling techniques... Um, so, so the industry, even though it had been going on since pre-colonial times, the um, a... It was a, it was a, spotty at best a, until better industrial techniques were developed. And so in Pickens County, basically, if you were not a rich farmer a, gentleman farmer who owned the lowlands and the valleys, um, you either were a tenant farmer or a moonshiner, a or a huntsman a, living off the land a, and

trying to grow... There are a number of peach orchards and apple orchards which were started up here. A, and a, your grains for, were grown in, in with the gentleman farm, farmers in the valleys a, along the a, along the creeks and whatnot in the county. But otherwise, you know, you had a hard scrabble life and a, you know, you worked, you know, you worked for a dollar a day if you were lucky, a as a tenant farmer. And a, a or you made better money trying to be a moonshiner. A, there was a number of lawsuits a, a for people, you know, in, involving moonshine a, the making of liquor a, here in this county. A, one of the reasons the county's dry now is because Cornel Sam ta, Tate, back in the late 1890s had an a, had an epiphany and gave up drinking. And a, he, his family being the a, the richest family in the county, he ordered, he pretty much ordered that a, alcohol seized to the sold in this county and it hasn't been. And a...

(INAUDIBLE QUESTION)

Yes. A, Colonel Sam actually, or his family, the Ta, the Tate family, but Colonel Sam Tate in particular, a took control pretty... His father had control. His S.C. Tate had control of the a, county, along with his brother William, 'cuz they owned the company store and a, had their hands into the far, farming and the mercantile business and a, off and on in the marble business.

WHAT WAS THE COMPANY STORE LIKE? WAS IT LIKE WALMART?

Oh no (laughs)

THEY MADE A LOT OF MONEY OFF OF IT.

The, the company store... When you hear people talk about the company store is like a the song, the, in the, or like the song Sixteen Tons, where it says and I owe my soul to the company store. The company store usually was a, workers and people were paid in script which could be spent at, at, that was accepted by the company store or by the a, the Tates, in this case, and a... And then the Tates would take that script to the, to the marble company whether, whether it be Amicalola Marble and Power or whether it be the Georgia Marble Company or Southern Marble. A, they'd take the script that, that was issued to these people and a, redeem it for cash. A, and also you can a, a... If, if you were a, one of the poor workers and you, you drank you're a, you drank your wages away on Friday night, you could go to the company store and put stuff on credit.

AND OWE YOUR...

And owe your soul to the company store and of course they would charge a, I'm sure a, a, an unjust percentage for, for carrying, you know, if you didn't pay by Friday. A, and, and that is the way that the Tates ended up with a number of properties throughout the county is in this state if you were, if you owed money to an individual, that individual could claim administratorship of your estate. And so one brother would become the administrator of the estate while the other brother was buying the property from the estate. (laughs) And then, and then later on you'd see a deed between the two brothers. But that was, you know, the that, that was during the a, time and it didn't include the Herndon property.

THE MARBLE INDUSTRY TOOK OFF IN THE 1880s.

1884 with the formation of the Georgia Marble Company by a, Northern—some people refer to them as Carpetbaggers—a from Vermont, Massachusetts and Missouri. A, they got together and they pooled enough money a, to create the a, the Georgia Marble Company. And that was the first big operation to actually go into a, go into effect. And they leased the lands from the Tates.

THESE PEOPLE CAME FROM PLACES WITH AN ESTABLISHED STONE INDUSTRY.

Yes. Exactly. Ya the, the people that were, were come, that developed the George, or initially started the Georgia Marble Company came from other mining areas and they knew the value of the rock here. A, and they knew how to get... They had the new technologies which had been developed in the industrial North and brought, brought it to the, to the South. A, that was Henry Grady, was one of the big proponents of taking a, the, the South a, ya, the Atlanta newspaper man, a Henry Grady who was a big proponent of taking the South out of an agrarian-type society into a a, industrial-type society. And he's a, a, it, it occurred. And it slowly... And it began, I guess a, after reconstruction in the 1880s and 1890s.

DURING THE REBUILDING.

Yes.

ARCHITECTURE AND NEW BUILDINGS ELEVATED THE INDUSTRY.

Well that's the, that's what I... As I said early, that, that the number of the architects and a, a designers of buildings were fascin, a, were fascinated with the a, a Greek architecture, Roman architecture, and a, as such, would use the same mat, wanted to use the same materials to create the same effects as the buildings like the Parthenon and, and whatnot. Um, and it's interesting to note that a, Sam Cor, a Sam Tate, the one that a, actually developed, bought, bought the marble company from the Northern businessmen, and a started, you know, started producing a, much more marble. A, his tombstone is a, fashioned out of the tombstone of Alexander the Great. So... A...

HOW DID THEY STAFF THE MARBLE INDUSTRY WHEN IT TOOK OFF?

The a, the unskilled labor, the people that ran the, ran the saws and, and ran the a, a the wagons and whatnot were local people who a, a who lived in the area. A number of 'em a, were old, were used to be slaves in the a, in this area. A, I'm sure out of the Tate family's slaves and a, um... So the actual quarrying operations and the, the heavy lifting were done by the local people. But the a, a the carving of the stone, the artisandryship (sic) of the stone was a, they had to import cutters a, from a, Vermont, from France, from Italy, Belgium, a all over the world, actually. And a, I believe some of them actually ended up a, in Minnesota at Saint Paul's to help finish the a, the state capitol there.

THE GIORDANO BROTHERS CAME TO SAINT PAUL FROM GEORGIA. THERE WAS A LARGE ITALIAN COMMUNITY THERE.

The, the... Ya. And the a, well the, the Georgia Marble Company as such, you know, they would go over to Europe and entice a, the a, the artisans, the carvers, the, the a, the fitters a, to cc, you know, with outrageous sums of money—comparable to what they were making in their own country—to come here. And a, and you can see some of their work in, in the statuary in the grave yards around here and, and in the a Minnesota State Capitol, the Rhode Island State Capitol, and a, various other um, monuments throughout the United States including the Lincoln Memorial. So... Which is made out of Georgia marble.

WAS A ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ERECTED FOR THOSE IMMIGRANTS?

Well be, because most of the a, most of the a, artisans that came from Europe were Roman Catholic a, they did develop a, a church here. A, and I'm not sure exactly where the church itself was, but a, it also had a small parsonage, and for visiting priests. A, they didn't have an actual priest stationed here.

LIKE A CIRCUIT...

It's like a, like a circuit rider, as they could, the method is called. (laughs)

So you had a, you had a, a... And all of this was under the Archdiocese of Savannah. And a, un, until a, Atlanta got its own archdiocese in the middle 1900s.

SAVANNAH IS A MUCH EARLIER CITY.

Yes.

IT WAS CATHOLIC.

And Catholic too. (laughs)

WHAT DID THE EXPLOSION OF THIS INDUSTRY MEAN FOR THE LOCAL PEOPLE? ALSO, WHAT ROLE DID THE RAILROADS PLAY?

Well that... The a... As I was talking about, the a... The workers in the county a, for the most part—again before the marble industry took over—a they were tenant farmers, a moonshiners. A, you had your local businesses, a your drugstores and, and whatnot, but a, a for the normal everyday person it was, it was a hard life, a hard scrabble life. And a, when the marble industry started to develop the a...

STOP.

Ya as the marble industry was developing a, there was a, um, there was more and more opportunity initially. Again, as I was saying, prior to 1884 there were starts and stops, you know, the, hired nine people here or ten people here, but when the Georgia Marble Company began operating in 1884 in, in a big way, a they, and then a, they hired many more people. And a, and so a lot of your tenant farmers, a lot of your a, mountain men came to work in the quarries where they made a good wage. And a, some of the companies built company housing a, for, for the a, for their workers, a, Georgia Marble, in particular, a, but other companies did the same thing to. And you can see remnants of some of the old a, the old company housing. In, in the a, in the back hollers in the woods a, throughout the county. But it opened up a whole new indus, a opening up the new industry. It opened up employment for the, for the county. And a, and it, it a, for the most part, employed a, a fair amount, a, a fair amount of people in this county. A, and it brought, it brought businessmen a, up from Atlanta and from Marietta. Marietta was a, a big commerce a, city 'cuz it was ju, it was, it came was... That's your first major city just ou, just out of the mountains. It was a, and a, and a, a big cotton area. And so a lot, a lot of people would haul st, haul stuff with wagon if they didn't wanna pay the trackage fee or pay the railroad, they'd haul it to Marietta, and a, a put it on trains or actually put it on trollies and whatnot or smaller railroads there in Marietta. 'Cuz the railroad being the main form of transportation, a for, before trucking a, there was a, there were a lot of little spur tracks running s, a everywhere. And Pickens County is the same. The Amicalola Railroad, which went from the Amicalola quarry to Ball Ground was a, was a little spur track a, for, for moving commerce, for moving goods. And you'll find a, timber companies used to a, a build little a trestles a, to move their timber through the a, through the mountains up here. So you'll find tra, you know, the, the, the old remnants of tracks and old a, railroad track beds if they didn't, if the locals didn't steal the a, steel. You even can occasionally find an old rail or two laying on the, on the edge of the old railroad bed.

MARIETTA WAS THE FIRST MAJOR CITY EAST OF THE MOUNTAINS.

At the base of the mountains. Before you got on... At, at the a... Um... At that... The mountains.

IN RELATION TO THE APPALACIAN MOUNTAINS.

We, we are in the Appalachia Mountains here. This is the... The is a, the, the statute that's sitting. A, the monument to Oglethorpe, which used to sit at a grassy knob on top of grassy knob. And it was a... It was the termanence (sic) of the Appalachian Trail until they moved it. But that's a... So the, the Appalachia Trail used to end, used to, used to end here in Pickens County at, and this is... You go a little bit south of here and just south of Sh, a Canton a little bit, and that, that, that's where you hit Marietta, but that's pretty much the end of the mountains, the, the hills. And you start getting into flat farming country on, on what they call Piedmont Plateau.

AND THEN YOU'RE DOWN TO THE LOWLANDS.

The Lowlands a, they ac... Well the fall line goes between Columbus, Macon and Augusta. So once you cross that line there, you're down into the a, a, you're down into the, the flatlands and, and into the a coastal pl, what they call the coastal plain.

THE COASTAL PLAIN A FARMING AREA.

It was a farming area. A,

ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR?

Ya mainly cotton. King cotton. And a, which almost devastated the, the soil. But a, you know there was, there was cotton and a, corn and oats, wheats. And it still, it's still a large farming area today. It's one of our largest indus... Agriculture's one of Georgia's largest industries. And we saw the Department of Agriculture. It's a...

TYPOGRAPHICALLY THERE IS GEORGIA AND THE CAROLINAS.

Ya well, from the ya, ya. The mountains to the Piedmont to the Coastal Plain.

THEY USED TO SAY THE CONFEDERACY ENDED AT THE THOUSAND FOOT LINE. HAVE YOU HEARD THAT?

No I hadn't heard that.

IT WAS AN ECONOMIC TRANSITION TO SMALL FARMERS WITHOUT SLAVES.

And there was a num, number of unions sympathizers here in the North because they weren't slave owners and a they were, they were looking for free federal handouts. And a, a that's one of the things that the North was promising was a, you know, better living conditions. You know. A, the, the Civil War a, was an economic war. And as I was saying, that was one of the a... It wasn't a war over slavery, but a war ov, over economics and tariffs where the South being mainly an agrarian society a, agricultural a, didn't have a whole lot of industry. And the North was mainly industrial without a whole lot of farming. And the North because of the large industry that it had would di, pretty much dictate to the South and to the states how they were going to run their operations and what they were gonna pay for goods and whatnot. And a, and it was bankrupting the South. A, so a, so that's, you know, when secession started from, from, you know, the, the War of Secession, a it was mainly over the economic a, you know, inequalities that were occurring between the North and the South. And that was one of the reasons that Henry Grady knew that we had to get indus, industry into the South. And again, you know, you, you can see that in the marble business, you know. It, it, it a... Prior to the 1890s or 1880s, the marble business was just small spurts and stops. You know, somebody'd start a quarry, mine a few blocks and whatnot, you know, either they'd get tired or die off. And so the quarry would go, go empty. A, then somebody else would come along and give it a try. And a, it, it wasn't until a... It wasn't until the influx of, of Northern money and, and Northern a, a, a industry that, that the South actually started to rise again, as they say. And a, that's... It wasn't until then that

the Georgia Marble was a... When the Georgia Marble Company opened, in quick concession you can see other... The Piedmont Marble Company, the Blue Ridge Marble Company, the Southern Marble Company and the Amacalola Marble and Power Company opened, you know, opening up their, their, you know, opening up their quarries because of the availability of industry, you know, of the industry, of industrial equipment. And being, and because a, you were able to move the marble out quicker. And the railroads again, a with, with the, the development of the railroads and the development of spur tracks, smaller tracks a, it opened up these quarries to easy transportation of these a, 75 ton blocks of marble. Because before then, you know, you'd have to, even wagons couldn't haul that size block. Um, and that's why the Georgia Marble Company initially started its milling operation right next to the quarry was 'cuz it couldn't transport that size block. So it had a milling operation that cut things, cut everything down to, into a, bite-size bits and would fit on wagons which then they hauled the wagon up to the railroad spur. And a, but a, with the, with the, you know, development of a, of you know, smaller locomotives and what not, and you'll see this. You'll see a description when you go into the deed record you'll see a description of the locomotive, you know, with, with 15 a, a smokestacks. And so it, it'll be an interesting document to find when you go into...

IDENTIFYING THE REAL PROPERTY.

Yes. Ya. With the, with the... And I believe that's in the a, the, the records with the a, At a, the railroad. So...

DISCUSS ENDING THE INTERVIEW.

DISCUSS JOHN BUTLER AND HIM COMING DOWN HERE.

Okay, I'm not... I don't know that personally.

WE THOUGHT IT WAS DASCHOUND AND YOU THOUGHT IT WAS...

Dishrun.

DISHRUN. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT.

No. No. No. Don't even go. No. I could, I couldn't do that. I wouldn't answer that without any, without doing some kind of research on it. And, and like I said, you know, a it, without additional research and with luck, you know? That's one thing that, that's one thing that a researching history and researching a, a, especially you know, back in the 1800s and a, early 1900s, a lot of it is, is a paper trail. And if the paper's not there, you're not going to be able to find it. A, unlike today where we have an electronic trail, and everything that's ever, you know, that, that's being created has got an electric file. Google Books is a prime example of, of documents that'll be saved forever because, you know, they've, they've, and that has, that everybody's got access to because it's a, it's, it's electronic now and you can access it with a computer. And as long as, as long as, you know, an EMP doesn't come along, you know, and, and destroy the servers of, of Google, a it'll be there for access. And a, I'm, I'm fascinated with

that. And, and unfortunately, you know, everything that, especially with the a, with the Herndons and with a, a the Herndons and the, the Tates and the Butlers and the Rns and, and the Harrisons and everything, it's, you know, it was a, it was... We were just coming out of the quill pen era and a using... Everything was being put on paper. A, I believe a, a typing had a just started to become widespread a, end of use a, in the late 18, 1880s and 1890s. So everything prior to that was handwritten.

SOME OF THE FINISHING SHEDS STILL STAND IN BALL GROUND.

Some of the, ya. Some of the old finishing sheds a, from, from that era are still standing there in Ball Ground. They're um... There are two on the Main Street and then there's a, there's one or two after you, after you come off of Highway 5, start to go into the town of Ball Ground, if you hang a left, and they're on the left you'll see a couple of 'em. And I believe that's the ones that are right by the railroad tracks. And those would have been the Atlanta Marble finishing plants. And that's where they would have finished the, for the, or at least put, you know, the a, the initial work into the stone that was to go to a, go to a, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GEORGIA MARBLE BEING USED IN MONUMENTS?

Um, you know it, it's interesting because again, it's... It may be a, a, a tribute to, you know, the South and, and in a, starting to develop, getting its footing and moving from again, an agrarian society into an industrial society and being able to supply the Northerners, you know a with, with a finished materials which a, would have been impossible, you know, had the Civil War not occurred. So, you know, in a lot of ways, a the South lost... The Southerners lost their right to vote, to hold office, to do anything right after the Civil War. So you had an influx of, of Northernists, people referred to 'em as Carpet Baggers 'cuz they used to come with these big old bags that were made of a carpet, you know, or it looked like they were made of a carpet, so that's how they got the name. And a... But they also brought a lot of money and they brought a lot of a, ideas and they brought a lot of a, technology with them that the South otherwise didn't have. So, you know, and with the, the a, development of the South we're getting a, we were, ended up getting contracts for Rhode Island and Washington D.C. and Minnesota, you know, to a, build their state capitols and monuments. And a, I think it's a testimony to the South and its, you know, will to, to change and grow. A but, you know, there's still that remnant that will always have the Rebel flag and a, a it's a... It's, you know, something that is, it's, it's enduring. You know?

CERTAIN PARTS OF ATLANTA ARE METAPHORS FOR THE PHOENIX.

Right ya, the, the rising Phoenix is a symbol for Atlanta because it rose out of the fly, fires.

IT'S A DOMINANT METROPOLITAN AREA.

Ya. Center of the South.

***** END OF INTERVIEW *****