

**Exploring Rural Kentucky Through Documentary Art:
Unit 2 - *Irvin Store, 1920s* - Documentary Art Interactive
- For the Student -**

**Script for *Rural Life*
A Video Clip from *Creelsboro and the Cumberland: A Living History*
by Tom Law
Voyageur Media Group, Inc.
Version 17 - April 25, 2020**

Part C: A Rising Tide - 1870s to 1940s

NOTE - The producer/director uses abbreviations in the script to reduce length but retain a way to find sources. Here is a list of abbreviations you might not recognize:

CR is an abbreviation for Creelsboro, added to the head of all raw media files for this project.
TC is an abbreviation for Time Code – the way to find a comment within raw media files.
SFX is an abbreviation for “special effects.”
TSLA is an abbreviation for “Tennessee State Library & Archives.”
RCPL is an abbreviation for “Russell County Public Library.”

Scene C.1 (last half of original **Scene C.1**): 0:33 seconds

Interview: Janie-Rice Brother (CR_media_07_12_16)

[CR080040] TC (00:18:04) “I think the thing that strikes me the most about Creelsboro during its heyday is just how exciting and vibrant a place that it was. And we all hear people talk about the good old days, and you have to take that with a grain of salt, but in Creelsboro's case, those good old days were days full of activity, full of lots of people...[edit] a tight- knit rural community that really had no reason to leave. Why would they? Everything they needed was right there in Creelsboro.”

Video: JRB on camera. Artwork: “Irvin Store, 1920s,” Dennis Thrasher. Photographs of Creelsboro valley, ca. 1870s to 1950s.

Audio: Music continues (Eli Bedel, old-timey “Bonaparte’s Retreat,” fiddle/dulcimer double track).

Graphics: Image IDs.

Scene C.2: 0:25 seconds

Narrator

At the turn of the century, Creelsboro had a post office, hotel, bank, two general stores, two drug stores, two blacksmith shops, a farm equipment store, saddle shop, grist mill, tanning yard, school, several churches, dozens of homes, a shoemaker, three druggists and seven doctors.

Video: Aerial video of Creelsboro. Historic photo montage.

Audio: Music continues.

Scene C.3: 0:10 seconds

Interview: Janet Marson

[CR040191] TC (00:10:40) “Creelsboro was a major, major place of commerce for all over Russell County, and even outside of Russell County, people came from everywhere.”

Scene C.4: 0:35 seconds

Interview: Leonard Reeder

[CR050109] TC (00:19:30) “To me it was a city. But it was a long trip going to Creelsboro. We had to -- if you had to go there and buy things, usually it was on Saturday afternoon. Creelsboro was busy on Saturdays. Sunday brought about other social events, but a Creelsboro afternoon was a great afternoon.

Scene C.5: 0:25 seconds

Interview: Robert Porter

[CR030001] TC (00:18:03) “The Irvin store at Creelsboro was the main store there. It was kind of like Walmart is today at other places. [edit]... it was a country store, of course, and they handled everything...from caskets to road wagons.”

Scene C.6: 0:21 seconds

Interview: James Polston

[CR040093] TC (00:02:40) “They had men's clothing on the top floor and in the bottom floor they had the drugstore... [edit]... a restaurant as a gathering place for the young people. [edit] And the older people would run around and tell tales, yeah. That's a reason I know so many jokes. (laughs).”

Scene C.7: 0:12 seconds

Interview: Michael Campbell

[CR040004] TC (00:20:35) “The Polston’s store was smaller. It was just kind of groceries and things of that nature.” TC (00:19:09) “...and that's where I could get Cokes and candy bars and bologna sandwiches and stuff like that.

Scene C.8: 0:16 seconds

Interview: Robert Bell (Polston’s credit ledger)

[CR050020] TC (00:20:00) “I will say this for my grandfather and grandmother, they kept a lot of people from going hungry, and that was an intriguing plus for my grandparents. You know, I really respect them today for doing that.”

Scene C.9: 0:36 seconds

Interview: Leonard Reeder (dance)

[CR050109] TC (00:39:03) “One time we had a dance in Creelsboro. I think I was seven and we went there on a Saturday night and I didn't know what to expect. We was just all going to the dance. About everybody in the bottom went up there, but I estimate the crowd to be somewhere around 2000 people. [edit] “We had a great time. I remember dancing out in the street of Creelsboro. Q. Where was the dance held? Right in the middle of Creelsboro. Evidently, they stopped all traffic coming and going, but it was right there in the streets.”

Scene C.10: 0:22 seconds

Interview: Janette Marson (slow down)

TC (00:18:40) “When I was little, of course all the of the buildings were still there and just reminiscing about the auctions that happened and my mother telling me stories about the post office and the bank being robbed and the old stores and getting shoes. It just felt -- it felt like a completely different world. You would slow down when you came down here.”

Scene C.11: 0:20 seconds

Interview: Robert Bell (paradise)

[CR050020] TC (00:14:39) But that was a good life on the Cumberland River and, you know, it just can't -- you just -- I mean, you know, shut your eyes and say, well, you know, you just grew up in paradise.”

Video: Interviews on camera. Photographs of Creelsboro, ca. 1900s to 1970s.

Audio: Eli Bedel, old-timey “Bonaparte’s Retreat,” fiddle/dulcimer double track. Music resolves.

Graphics: Image IDs.

Farm Life

Scene C.12: 0:16 seconds

Narrator:

The steady rhythms of farming resonated throughout the valley. Workdays were long. Everyone did chores. Little was wasted. Family bonds were tight. And, change came slowly.

Video: Photos of Creelsboro, 1900s.

Audio: Eli Bedel, mood instrumental, Banjo “Calm/Proud.”

Graphics: Image IDs.

Scene C.13: 0:40 seconds

Interview: Janette Marson (Grandfather)

TC (00:03:30) “Alexander Cosby Coffey, although everybody in Creelsboro called him Cosby. He was a farmer and truly lived off the land. My mother would tell me about his watermelon patch up on top of the hill behind me. He raised geese and the feathers all went to fill the pillows. The cattle were for meat. The sheep, the wool was for clothing and spinning and things like that, and they used everything. The trees from this property built this house, you know, 100 and some years ago. So they used every bit of the land to make their life, you know, profitable and comfortable.”

Scene C.14: 0:14 seconds

Interview: Leonard Reeder (organic)

TC (00:16:33) “We were organic. We couldn't afford fertilizer or pesticides, you know. We had a huge orchard, too. All the farms here had huge orchards. All the farms was trimmed and picket fences.”

Scene C.15: 0:15 seconds

Interview: Michael Campbell (tobacco)

TC (00:36:43) “Everybody grew tobacco. That was the main cash crop. Didn't have to do too much to it compared to corn and hay and they got most of their cash from selling their tobacco crop every year.”

Video: Photos of Creelsboro, 1900s. Tobacco photos, Library of Congress.

Audio: Eli Bedel, mood instrumental, Banjo “Calm/Proud. Music resolves.

Graphics: Image IDs.

Making a Living

Scene C.16: 0:30 seconds

Narrator

Farmers and merchants found innovative ways to make additional money from the valley’s rich natural resources. The earliest cash crop was timber.

Video: Photos of logging and timber rafts on Upper Cumberland River: Tupman, Library of Congress.

Audio: Eli Bedel, old-timey “Lazy John,” fiddle/banjo double track. SFX logging, log rafts.

Graphics: Project map: Upper Cumberland with major cities, including: Rowena, Burnside, Burkesville, Celina and Nashville.

Scene C.17: 0:23 seconds

Interview: Brack Flanagan (CR_media_07_12_18_Card_A)

[CR010004] TC (00:58:57) “A lot of the timber that was high up on the bluffs were simply, you know, sawed down, de-limbed there and then drug over by oxen, a lot of oxen. [edit] The large logs were rafted down. [edit] Now, I understand they marked their logs, you know, or branded them and then formed them into huge rafts, maybe 800, 900 logs and then they were poled down the river, you know, at a certain time that water levels had to be a certain height because there were shoals and rapids on downstream.”

Video: Photos of timber rafts: Kentucky Historical Society, TSLA. Raft in artwork: Creelsboro Landing, 1890s.

Audio: SFX of timber saws, oxen, river rafts, shouts.

Graphics: Project map showing Celina, Carthage and Nashville (lumber mill ports).

Scene C.18: 0:10 seconds

Narrator:

Some residents also earned income by “pearling.”

Video: Photographs of pearling on Upper Cumberland River, ca 1880 to 1940s (Kentucky and Tennessee archives). Images of low-level dams on Cumberland (USACE archive).

Images of fresh water mussel species from pearling.

Audio: _____.

Graphics: Image IDs.

Scene C.19: 0:52 seconds

Interview: Leonard Reeder (CR_media_10_25_15)

[CR050109] (00:41:00) “The old warm water river - had a large mussel that lived here and I mean the shells as big as your hand. They're huge. And my grandfather Reeder was the “prime pearler.” [edit] He could stay underwater a long time. He would have a big bag with a rock hung around his neck and he would anchor his boat and he would go in the water and stay in there for minutes on...[edit] They would open those mussels up and you would find pearls in it, and you could take them to Creelsboro and the merchants there would buy the pearls from you.”

Scene C.20: 0:26 seconds

Interview: Janet Marsden (CR_media_04_28_16_Card_32)

[CR040191] TC (00:12:35) “Cyrus Campbell was a noted pearl trader and he had my mother and her brother Stephen, they would look for clams down there by the river. It was a certain type of clam and find the freshwater pearls. [edit] He must have had a very good business going because I had documentation, paperwork about [edit] selling these river pearls to Tiffany's in New York.”

Video: Video of Cumberland River as backdrop. Archival images of pearling, including Cyrus Campbell at Olga Landing. Campbell family with fresh water mussels from pearling (Marsden family photos). Archival Images of fresh-water pearl jewelry.

Audio: _____.

Graphics: Image IDs.

Scene C.21: 0:20 seconds

Narrator

The biggest source of secondary income came in the 1920s when an oil boom hit the Creelsboro valley. Oil wells dotted the landscape. The Carnahan Oil Company even built a small refinery on the north side of the river. Remnants of the refinery's limestone kilns and cooling wells are still visible today.

Video: Image of historic oil well, ca 1920s. Map of oil in Creelsboro valley (UK Geology). Oil companies, ca 1920s. Image of Carnahan Oil Refinery (RCPL copy, Eric Reeder, p 84. Oil King boat). Video of JRB walking Carnahan Oil Refinery site.

Audio: _____.

Graphics: _____.

Scene C.22: 0:28 seconds

Interview: Janette Marson (CR_media_04_28_16_Card_32)

[CR040189] TC (00:06:42) “My great-grandfather, Cyrus Campbell, the majority of the refinery was on his property down a little bit farther, and he pumped oil from so many different places, and a lot of the oil, according to my aunt Myrtle, the majority of the oil came from this property here, and then pipelined down the road to the refinery, and then she would talk about oil coming from across the Cumberland River as well, but this property here, they started I think in 1920 and then they pumped oil from here for 20 years.”

Video: Image of historic oil well, ca 1920s. Map of oil in Creelsboro valley (UK Geology), showing refinery site and Olga Landing. Oil companies, ca 1920s. Image of Carnahan Oil Refinery (RCPL copy, Eric Reeder, p 84. Oil King boat). Photo of the “Oil King,” ca, 1920s. (Carole Tubman archives, p 44, Around Lake Cumberland).

Audio: _____.

Graphics: _____.

Scene C.23: 0:21 seconds

Interview: Michael Campbell (oil wells)

TC (00:31:12) “People continued to [edit] lease this area to people speculating on the oil, but it never was found in a huge amount. [edit]...sitting right here now I can see where two wells were and they didn't produce enough to pay for the electricity to pump them. So they just let them go.”

Video: Image of historic oil well, ca 1920s. Photo of the Oil King. Photo of 3 people at oil well drill site, ca 1960s (Marson collection). Video of abandoned oil derrick near Miller's farm.

Audio: Eli Bedel, old-timey “Lazy John,” fiddle/banjo double track. Music resolves.

Graphics: _____.