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An Interview with

MISS MARY HOWEY KEY

October 12, 1977

Interviewed by

Roberta Miller

Mississippi  
Department of Archives and History  
and the  
Washington County Library System  
Oral History Project  
Greenville and Vicinity

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Interviewee: Mary Howey Key

Interviewer: Roberta Miller

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Scope Note: The Washington County Library System, with assistance from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, conducted oral history interviews with local citizens. The project interviews took place between 1976 and 1978. The interviewees included long-term residents of the Greenville-Washington County area in their late 50's and older.

This is Roberta Miller, an Oral History Interviewer for the Washington County Library System. I am interviewing Miss Mary H. Key at her residence at Avon, Mississippi.

MILLER: Mary, tell me a little bit about your early life? Where you were born and who your parents were and how they happened to come to Mississippi.

KEY: Read that first question again.

MILLER: All right. Tell me a little about your early life.

KEY: I was born in Mayfield, Kentucky.

MILLER: Now, what year was that?

KEY: In 1898. My parents were Herbert Hobson Key and Lena Maud Housman Key. My great-great grandparents were early settlers in Graves County, Kentucky and their names are on the tax lists in Graves county. We moved to Mississippi in 1913. My father came down to manage Wayside plantation. It was owned by an insurance company at Anchorage, Kentucky and they hired him to come and put it in shape for sale. The insurance company had bought this place from hotel people from Illinois and they had lost it to the insurance people, and they wanted to rebuild the place for sale. My father had the buildings painted and bought cattle and fine horses and restocked the place for sale.

MILLER: Mules?

KEY: Mules and fine horses too. He went to the Fair in Jackson and bought the cattle and horses. How well I remember that and my family consisted of my father and mother and two brothers and one sister and myself. My younger brother had not been born at that time. We had always lived in town with electric lights, a nice house and we had everything, conveniences, and we came to Wayside and there were no lights, no water, no nothing but a big mansion. This house consisted of thirty-eight rooms with three stairways and it was in very good condition. It was really a show place. It was built before the Civil War and it was never completely finished. Mr. Worthington built the house and they had ordered mantels from France for the house and they never did arrive.

MILLER: What did the house look like, Mary?  
Was it frame or brick?

KEY: The house was a frame house with two ells in the back with a courtyard between.

MILLER: And what was the courtyard used for?

KEY: There was a cistern in the middle of the courtyard where we --

MILLER: Got your water?

Got your water to drink and to wash with.

KEY: That's right.

MILLER: Was it trimmed with iron work?

KEY: The two galleries, as the colored people called them, the front gallery upstairs and down was trimmed with

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iron grill, vine and grape design, very much like the homes in New Orleans, and the back galleries had wooden railings up and downstairs, all around the Court.

MILLER: And this house faced the river, didn't it?

KEY: It faced the river and in the front yard there were two mounds. I never did know why they had built mounds out there.

MILLER: Did they think they were Indian mounds?

KEY: I really couldn't tell you and later on the levee took the house, the mounds and everything and I never did know what happened. We had trees - the yard was a forest, with magnolia trees in the front yard. and we also had a croquet place we played croquet and we also had a tennis court in the front yard, on the front lawn.

MILLER: Now this house had originally been owned by the Worthington family and right across from it was the other Worthington house - "Belmont", and a Mr. W. W. Worthington lived there. Did you know them?

KEY: We knew them quite well and "Mr. Will", as we called him, was really a southern gentleman. He wore white linen suits and panama hats and on hot days he carried a parasol, or umbrella, and he was a very genteel person, and we really liked Mr. Will and his bride, Miss Theodosia Worthington.

MILLER: Cousins married cousins?

KEY: Cousins married cousins and they were sociable and good neighbors. We enjoyed them.

MILLER: Who were your other neighbors, Mary,

at the time when you first came?

KEY: Governor George L. Sheldon, ex-governor George L. Sheldon from Nebraska and his family - Mrs. Rosa Sheldon and Lawson Sheldon, Mary Sheldon, Julia and Anson Sheldon were our closest neighbors when we lived at Wayside.

MILLER: And what place did they live on?

KEY: They lived at Loudon and they had a carriage, as Mrs. Sheldon called it, and we had a "surrey" as we called ours, and our mother used to load us up in the surrey and carry us down on the plantation road to watch them pick cotton or watch the activities, and on the plantation road were many little houses, with trimmings - white houses - with trimmings similar to the big house. It was lacy looking, fancy, lacy-looking.

MILLER: Sort of a fret work.

KEY: Fret work - very pretty.

MILLER: Did they have it on any of the other buildings on the plantation?

KEY: Yes, we had a bell tower and a place where they stored the meat, a brick house for the ice and meat.

MILLER: Smokehouse?

KEY: Smokehouse, that's the word I'm trying to think of.

MILLER: An ice house?

KEY: An ice house, and we got our ice every day or every other day. It was hauled by a colored man we called De Luke - Deacon Luke, and he'd drive a mule and a sled over to

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the depot and would get either a hundred or two hundred pounds of ice. We always had plenty of ice.

MILLER: It would come down on the train from Greenville?

KEY: Yes, it would come down on the train from Greenville. We had several trains. We could go to Greenville in the morning and come back in the afternoon and that was certainly convenient.

MILLER: You could go up in the day and tend to business and shop.

KEY: Yes. We would go to the stores in Greenville and shop and they would send our packages to the station and they were there for us when we would get ready to get on the train and come home. That was nice.

MILLER: From whom did you buy this ice? What ice company was it, do you know?

KEY: I really don't know. I don't have any idea. It was only one here in Greenville, I think.

MILLER: Yes, it could have been the Greenville Ice and Coal Company.

KEY: It might have been.

MILLER: Mr. Isenberg's or it could have been Crittenden and Shields.

KEY: I really don't know.

MILLER: In the smokehouse now - I mean, in the bell tower, what did you say was in the bottom of the bell tower?

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KEY: Feed. I think they kept some feed, maybe for the chickens, some small feed. Of course, we had barns for the big animals, mules.

MILLER: Yes. So, it was a large bell tower?

KEY: It was a tower for bells - a bell tower, yes.

MILLER: What happened to the bell, do you think, when --- ?

KEY: I think that some of the officials of the insurance company at Louisville, Kentucky loaded it up and took it home with them. I heard that is what happened to the bell.

MILLER: Now, of course, I know your father farmed with mules the whole time he was farming until, of course, mechanized farming came in. Do you know how many mules he had on that place?

KEY: I really do not know. It was a large place and he had all that he needed.

MILLER: Yes.

Now, when you were a child I know they didn't have a school at Avon at that time, so how did you all arrange about your education?

KEY: We lived at Wayside at that time --

MILLER: Right - that's what I meant, Wayside.

KEY: My father and Governor Sheldon had a friend of his get a teacher from Nebraska to come down and teach us and she taught us in the Wayside house. We had a regular school room, fitted out, and the Sheldon children and the Keys and the

Fisherman who lived nearby had two children and those two children came to school also.

MILLER: That was the Bergman family.

KEY: The Bergman family, the two Bergman children came to school.

MILLER: And what was your teacher's name?

KEY: Miss Fern Profitt was the first teacher.

MILLER: How do you spell Profitt?

KEY: P-r-o-f-i-t-t. I think that is the right way to spell it, and my uncle met the train when she came in the rain and he gave the teacher his raincoat, and we were very excited when they drove up. It must have been love at first sight because within a year or two they were married. My uncle's name was Harry Housman - H-o-u-s-m-a-n, Housman.

MILLER: And, he was from Kentucky.

KEY: He was from Kentucky and they lived in Kentucky.

MILLER: Then who was your next teacher?

KEY: Miss Florence Fox taught the other children. I did not go to Miss Fox. I went to All Saints College that year and several years after that and Mrs. Fox stayed in our home. Well, she was just one of the family and every week end she would go to Greenville to visit her relatives, the Finleys.

MILLER: Now which Finley was that? Was that the Mrs. Finley who was the mother of Mrs. Hubert Crosby - Mrs. Herbert Eustis?

KEY: I think so - I'm quite sure it was.

MILLER: Who were some of the people who visited your parents at Wayside at that time?

KEY: I think that everybody in Kentucky that we ever knew visited us, and then a great many people from Greenville who had been at the Wayside house and just wanted to visit the home came to see us. Mr. Stevenson Archer, Mr. Robb, --

MILLER: I believe you mentioned Lamar Fontaine.

KEY: Lamar Fontaine - he lived up near Clarksdale and he was a very colorful character - one of the most colorful ~~man~~ the state of Mississippi ever produced. We had many people. I can't remember all of them right now.

MILLER: Now I know you didn't have a church down here at that time.

KEY: No, we didn't.

MILLER: But Bishop Bratton did come occasionally and what was the occasion of that?

KEY: He came to what was called "Bank's Chapel." It was a colored church over here near Avon, and Peyton Banks was responsible for his visit. Peyton had a big family and he invited all of the white people to come to church that day and invited Mr. Worthington, Mr. Sheldon and my father to dinner at his home that day and they went. They had a sumptuous repast there.

MILLER: And then all of you went to church.

KEY: We all went to church.

MILLER: And did he have a school too?

KEY: The County had a school at Peyton Banks' Chapel.

MILLER: It was a combination church and school.

KEY: Yes.

MILLER: For the Episcopal church it was kind of unusual to have these little black churches at that time?

KEY: It might have been.

MILLER: Well, now you went to All Saints after you were taught at home and how many years did you stay down there at All Saints?

KEY: Not after I taught at home.

MILLER: No, I mean, after you went to school at home.

KEY: Yes. I went to All Saints three years. I finished high school at All Saints.

MILLER: Yes, and then you started teaching.

KEY: And then I started teaching school.

MILLER: Well, now, you didn't have a degree. Did you have to take a teacher's certificate?

KEY: Oh, I had to take an examination and I studied and studied to pass that examination. That is true. I taught in a little one-room school over here at Avon. I had about eight students, eight pupils I think, and we all learned a great deal. (Laughter). I learned a lot.

MILLER: Did you teach your sisters and brothers?

KEY: I taught two of my brothers. Yes, two of them.

MILLER: And who were the other children in school?

KEY: The Romine children. There were some more but

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I've kind of forgotten them . I believe there was a little Lott girl. She lives in Greenville now.

MILLER: How about -- ? Didn't you tell me that there was a little Chinese girl?

KEY: There was a little Chinese girl right at the beginning, a little girl - her name was Chin<sup>Soo</sup> Foo Hang and I was real interested in the child but they moved away. They had a little grocery store in Avon. They did not stay here but a short time.

MILLER: So, how many years did you teach in the little one-room school?

KEY: Just two years. We were waiting for the brick building to be completed and it was very slow work. The Riverside School was in the process of getting built.

MILLER: And do you remember when it was finished?

KEY: I think it was - I'm not sure - it was 1920 or 1921.

MILLER: That was when they were doing the expansion of schools in Washington County.

KEY: Yes.

MILLER: And so, how long did you teach in Avon?

KEY: Oh, I taught a long time.

MILLER: And then you went to --

KEY: I taught school about three or four years and then I went to some other places to each and then came back here.

MILLER: Where else did you teach, Mary?

KEY: Arcola, Glen Allen, Lyman and Winona.

MILLER: And then you came home.

KEY: Then I came home.

MILLER: Because you liked home.

How many years did you teach altogether, Mary?

KEY: Altogether I taught forty-seven years. Can you believe it?

MILLER: I believe every word of it.

KEY: I loved every day of it.

MILLER: I believe that's the longest record in the county.

KEY: I don't know. I don't know of anybody that has taught that long but --

MILLER: Now when you were teaching school, who were some of the principals over there? Do you remember their names?

KEY: Do you want all of them?

MILLER: How many of them are there?

KEY: Eleven.

MILLER: All right, let's have them.

KEY: Mr. Jim Rigsby, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Massey, Phillip Davidson, Bill Craig, John Hopkins, R. L. <sup>Stark</sup>Stock, Virgil Bingham, Elkin Jacks and C. L. Morris.

MILLER: Now Phillip Davidson was the son of the Episcopal minister in Greenville, the Rev. Phillip Davidson everybody loved so much.

KEY: Yes, he was.

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MILLER: Didn't Proctor McCutchen teach down there?

KEY: No, he never did teach here. Phillip taught only one year. I don't think he was country material.

MILLER: Now, the school you have now, the large consolidated school --

KEY: Yes, we have nearly 700 children now.

MILLER: And they come from all over this end of the county?

KEY: Yes, they come from Glen Allen to Cloverdale in Greenville, the city limits.

MILLER: Yes. Wayside, Avon, Longwood, Lake Washington.

KEY: Even to Glen Allen.

MILLER: Glen Allen.

Now, since integration, I believe you all have had a very good record on all of that. About what is the percentage of whites and blacks?

KEY: Right now I think it is 48 percent blacks and 52 percent whites.

MILLER: A good many people have moved to Wayside from Greenville in the last few years. What do they do, work in Greenville and commute?

KEY: Most of them. Yes, they practically all work in Greenville - the men and women too.

MILLER: I believe they have a football field at your school. It's named for your father, isn't it?

KEY: Yes.

MILLER: What's the name of the field?

KEY: Key Field.

MILLER: Key Field. Your father was -- ?

KEY: My father was very much interested in football and all sports and he went with the boys to the games and he and the janitor over there always attended the football games. The only school we really played was Glen Allen. He always thought the other side cheated. We used to laugh about that.

MILLER: Now, when you were young I know that there was no church in Wayside or at Avon either, but did anybody have services at home like they did in some other places in the country?

KEY: I don't know. Not that I know of.

MILLER: But you all did build a church, did organize a church fairly early, didn't you?

KEY: It was organized before we came here.

MILLER: Yes, that was the Methodist Church?

KEY: That was the Methodist Church.

MILLER: It was organized in 1903, then they built a building in 1913 and then you all tore that down didn't you?

KEY: Much later. We built a new church.

MILLER: You built a new church in 1957.

Now, Mary, tell me about the flood. Where were you during the flood?

KEY: I was in Glen Allen at the time of the flood.

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MILLER: You were there in 1927?

KEY: I was there in 1927 and was a teacher and was teaching in Glen Allen at that time.

MILLER: Your father was here in this house, is that right?

KEY: My father and my brothers were here but they moved out on the levee with their cattle and stock and machinery and what have you.

MILLER: Where did your mother go?

KEY: She went to Kentucky with my younger brother.

MILLER: She got away and the men just roughed it on the levee.

KEY: My father would go into Greenville every week to get provisions for the refugees. He called the Y & M V Superintendent to put in railroad cars here at Avon for the refugees and they did, they put in a great many, and they were full of people, they lived in them. The refugees also lived in the school, the two-story building, in the gins and anywhere else they could find.

MILLER: Depot, tops or barns?

KEY: He would select their food too because, then they had pellagra from eating the same kind of food all the time and I was proud of him that he selected a varied menu for the people because they were not sick.

MILLER: There was really not as much sickness during the flood, I understand, as you would think.

KEY: No. I did not know of any sick people here. Now below at Longwood they had pellagra.

MILLER: Well, they did have pellagra in various places.

KEY: It was just from eating the same kind of food all the time.

MILLER: Where did the tenants on your plantation stay, up on the levee with your father?

KEY: I guess some of them did, I don't know, I wasn't here, but they may have been in those boxcars.

MILLER: Yes, and the school, and that was black and white using the box cars, and the buildings.

KEY: Yes.

MILLER: What did you do down at Glen Allen?

KEY: Well, I --

MILLER: You didn't have too much water down there, did you?

KEY: No, it wasn't even in the yard. I lived at -- Mrs. J. F. Jones had a nice home on the banks of the lake and the water didn't even get in the yard, and those that were left - we'd go boating every day on the lake and go fishing sometimes. We had a very good time.

MILLER: There must have been lots of fish.

KEY: I never did catch any though, but, anyway, we didn't go fishing for the fish - we went to have a good time.

MILLER: You didn't have school anyway.

KEY: No. We didn't have any more school that year.

MILLER: Now, you were mentioning the trains the other day, that there were four trains a day and didn't they have local names? Didn't they each have a special name?

KEY: I don't know, really. We didn't name them. I don't know whether anyone else did or not.

MILLER: Well, I know one of them was called the Riverside --

KEY: This was the Riverside, the whole line was the Riverside.

MILLER: And, one was called Peavine?

KEY: Well, the Peavine went out of Greenville over to Moorhead.

MILLER: Well, what was "The Owl", the one called The Owl?

KEY: Really, I don't know.

MILLER: Wasn't that the night train?

KEY: It must have been.

MILLER: -- or just one that went from Greenville to Clarksdale?

KEY: Well, we had some night trains that went all the way through. If you wanted them to stop they would stop and when my sister married, we had the train to stop right out here at our front gate and the bride and groom took the train to New Orleans.

MILLER: Ah, that was nice.

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KEY: And we all went into our front yard and bid them goodbye.

MILLER: Who was the depot agent? Do you remember the names of any of the depot agents over at Avon?

KEY: I should, I've known so many of them.

MILLER: Well, the trains stopped running --

KEY: Mrs. Moring was the agent at Wayside.

MILLER: Let's see, that was Mrs. Carrie Moring.

KEY: Mrs. Carrie Moring.

MILLER -- was the depot agent and she was the mother of -- ?

KEY: Mrs. Motelle Stowers.

MILLER: Mrs. Motelle Stowers --

(End of Side 1, Tape 1)

MILLER: Who was the postmaster at Wayside?

KEY: Mr. Lewis, L. L. Lewis.

MILLER: Now, tell me about the doctor.

KEY: He was Dr. Frank Frank Russell and he was in World War 1, he joined the Army and after that he went to a little town in Kentucky called Wycliff, Kentucky and he was the head of a hospital at Cairo, Illinois, right across the river from Wycliff and he was well thought of and a good doctor.

MILLER: Now, when he was at Wayside, where did he live?

KEY: He boarded at Mrs. Moring's home. He was a single man.

MILLER: Yes. Now, you all had a sort of a manager's house on your place, didn't you?

KEY: Well, they lived in the manager place, they had had a manager.

MILLER: That was where Mrs. Moring lived.

KEY: Yes.

MILLER: I see. What about illness when you first came to Wayside? Did many people have malaria?

KEY: When we first came to Wayside my father got a case of medicine - let me think of the name of that awful medicine.

MILLER: Calomel?

KEY: No, chill tonic. He got a case of this Groves Chill Tonic, and he would line us up at the table before every meal - to keep down malaria - and it did have quinine in it, but we had malaria, and he must have bought a bale of mosquito netting. The carpenters built these frames around our beds and then put the mosquito netting all around it, because he had been warned that he was going to kill his children by bringing them down here to the Delta. He was trying to save us.

MILLER: Well, everybody did have malaria.

KEY: I think some of us did anyway. My sister had a terrible case of malaria.

MILLER: Do you remember any other types of illnesses

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that the people had?

KEY: No, I don't. I don't know of any other kind.

MILLER: Everybody else was pretty healthy.

KEY: There weren't any people to be sick.

MILLER: How about the people on the plantation?

KEY: You know, I just really don't know. I don't remember any of them being real sick. Dr. Russell, he would take care of them. I don't remember any of them dying when we were up there.

MILLER: How did they pay the doctor then? Did the plantation pay it?

KEY: I really don't know. I don't know how they were paid.

MILLER: Now, after your father -- They finally sold the Wayside place, didn't they?

KEY: Yes, they did.

MILLER: Your father got it in good shape and then they sold it and then he bought a place, didn't he? What place did he buy?

KEY: A part of the Lilly plantation.

MILLER: And that was one of the Worthington places.

KEY: That was one of the Worthington places.

MILLER: Where was it located?

KEY: East of Belmont and east of Wayside, it would be now on the Wayside-Arcola road.

MILLER: Yes. Who owns that place now?

KEY: Mrs. Stovall, Mrs. W. B. Stovall now owns the place - owns the house and the place.

MILLER: Was this the house you all built?

KEY: Yes, that's the house that we built.

MILLER: There was no house on it, so your father built a house and you told me the other day that he got some builders to come down from Kentucky.

KEY: Yes, he brought some builders down, three very good carpenters to come down and later they lived in Greenville and brought their families and they made good citizens.

MILLER: Do you remember their names?

KEY: One of them was Mr. Owens.

MILLER: That was Ralph and Lucille Owens' father and another one was named Hughes, weren't they?

KEY: A Mr. Hughes and a Mr. Latham.

MILLER: And they all stayed in Greenville?

KEY: They all stayed in Greenville and made their homes there and their children are probably there now.

MILLER: I know some of them are.

Well, now, when he built that house, what did he do for lumber?

KEY: He put up a sawmill and cut the lumber. I wasn't here so I don't know exactly what they did.

MILLER: Yes.

KEY: But they built a very good house.

MILLER: He supervised the building of the house?

KEY: Yes, he did.

MILLER: And it has two beautiful chimneys on it too.

KEY: Yes, it certainly does have two nice, good chimneys now, and Mrs. Stovall says that's the prettiest part of the house, the chimneys. It has a nice, a real pretty stairway in it too. My brother Harrie was born there.

MILLER: How long -- You all sold that place, didn't you?

KEY: Yes, we lived there just about a year, I think.

MILLER: That was the time that property was bringing a good price so --

KEY: We didn't like to live there because it was away from the railroad and away from everything on a mud road and we couldn't get away and we never had lived in a place where we couldn't get away when we wanted to and we were glad to leave.

MILLER: Where did you go?

KEY: We had rented a house from Governor Sheldon on Ashland Plantation and we moved into that house. It wasn't a very fine house but it was a house. My father had planned to build a house in Avon and he built the garage and the bank failed and everything else, so we moved into this house, fixed it up a little bit, in this house we're in now.

MILLER: Well, now, was he renting this place then?

KEY: No, we owned it.

MILLER: You had bought this place then.

KEY: Yes.

MILLER: Who had you bought it from?

KEY: We bought it from Mr. Hazlewood Farish and Mr. Van Boddie and my father had bought the whole place, and Granicus, and so the other men sold out to him, and he bought it.

MILLER: And your father, Mr. Farish and Mr. Van Boddie had bought it from the Romines. They had bought it from the Peters.

KEY: No, they bought it from the insurance company, I think.

MILLER: Oh, they bought it from the insurance company. Yes, but it formerly belonged to Matthew Peters at one time.

KEY: Long, long ago.

MILLER: Yes, a long time ago, and that's the great-grandfather of Shelby Foote, isn't it?

KEY: Yes, it was. He must have been a very fine man because he had a big home and a nice place and left his family well fixed in land holdings.

MILLER: Now didn't you tell me that he was buried on this plantation?

KEY: He is buried on this plantation, yes.

MILLER: And, what is it, a little family cemetery?

KEY: Yes.

MILLER: Does it have a little fence around it?

KEY: It has had several fences around it but it

doesn't, I haven't seen it for ten or twelve years. I doubt whether it has one or not.

MILLER: Well, there were so many little family cemeteries and the places have been sold and most of them ---

KEY: Unless you put a new fence up occasionally and take care of it, it goes to wrack.

MILLER: So, then your father started farming this plantation and that's where he settled down, on this plantation.

KEY: Yes, that's why we're here.

MILLER: And you own this place now, don't you?

KEY: My brother does. My brother owns it. I own a little bit of land but he owns this. I own this house.

MILLER: Your brother does. Yes.

But the Key family has owned this place for a long time?

KEY: Yes, since 1913 or 1917. I don't exactly know when it was, a long time.

MILLER: When you were a child, when you first came to the Delta, what did you all do for amusement? I know that you weren't really isolated because you were close to the railroad for one thing.

KEY: We used to play cards on rainy days, and it rained and rained and rained, and read. I read all the time. In the Wayside house they had one room and the boy who lived there before we did left magazines, a room full. There must

have been 150 magazines. I think I read all 150 of them. Well, anyway, we read and played cards, and we did bring the piano with us, and I sort of tried to play the piano and we would sing, and dance a little bit - when we had anyone to dance with, and when we were outdoors we played tennis and croquet and we enjoyed that.

MILLER: I imagine you all had a horse, didn't you?

KEY: Each of us had a horse. Yes, we did and we would go horseback. We always went together.

MILLER: And when you taught at Avon, you could just walk to the schoolhouse, couldn't you?

KEY: Yes, I walked to school, walked home for lunch most of the time, when my father didn't come after me or take me. Yes, I walked a lot. I never minded that.

MILLER: Yes. I know that some of the children in the country, like down at Leota, they had to ride their horses to school when they came in from Leota to go to Chatham.

Mary, you were telling me about your parents coming from Mayfield, Kentucky and your ancestors had been among the early pioneer settlers. What business was your father in in Kentucky?

KEY: Well, he and his brothers were interested in several things. One thing they owned the Mayfield Water and Light Company and he also had a farm. Back to Mayfield Water and Light Company. They lost it. It burned and they did not

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have enough insurance to cover it, so they lost the Water and Light Company, but he had a farm, and he had a race track on the farm and had some race horses. They didn't make any money out of it but anyway, then he had a show horse. I have a - I can show you the silver cup-- Do you want to see it?

MILLER: Yes.

KEY: -- the silver cup his horse won. It was a five-gaited horse, I think it was called. I don't really know. He won it in a Tri-State Fair and he was interested in several small businesses.

MILLER: And then when he came to Mississippi that was the period when everybody was interested in fine horses and fine mules, and they really put a lot of attention on it, didn't they-- understanding how to buy good horses and train them?

KEY: Yes, that's right. That's the way they did their farming was by mules.

MILLER: Well, Mary, I think we have about covered everything, don't you?

KEY: I do. I sure do.

MILLER: I certainly have enjoyed it and I appreciate your giving me this interview.

KEY: I've enjoyed being with you and talking to you about it and ---

MILLER: Good.

KEY: And I hope it will be all right.

MILLER: Thank you.

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FINAL by V.B. (End of Interview)  
1/23-78. (Transcribed by Vivian Broom)  
(See additional note on page 26)

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Additional Note by Mrs. Mary Howey Key:

I had four brothers, John who died in 1965, Frank who died in 1976, Herbert who died in 1946; one sister, Katie, now Mrs. Robert Harlan, of Bardwell, Kentucky, and my youngest brother, Harrie, who owns and farms this Avon Plantation and additional lands nearby.

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