Kate Ellis: Your oldest daughter is 64, you said?

Baron Coleman: Mm-hmm. Born in '56.

Kate Ellis: Oh, I see. So it would've been after World War II. Now, you said that you started working for Mr. Daveed after you got married?

Baron Coleman: Mm-hmm.

Kate Ellis: So where did you work before you got married?

Baron Coleman: Mr. Durwin.

Kate Ellis: Mr. Durwin?

Baron Coleman: In the Bull Island.

Kate Ellis: On Bull Island?

Baron Coleman: Yeah.

Kate Ellis: But I thought that you moved to [indistinct 00:00:48] when you were nine?

Baron Coleman: When I was nine. Yeah, when I was nine, yeah.

Kate Ellis: When did you get married? How old were you when you got married?

Baron Coleman: I was 24.

Kate Ellis: Uh-huh. So you worked in Petit Anse and when you moved to Petit Anse and lived with your brother, but you worked in Bull Island?

Baron Coleman: Yeah, I [indistinct 00:01:12] him up.

Kate Ellis: Wait, wait, wait. I can't understand you. I'll let you eat for a minute.

Baron Coleman: [indistinct 00:01:34].

Kate Ellis: What?

Baron Coleman: Nothing.

Kate Ellis: Okay. Should I go soon?

Baron Coleman: Huh?

Kate Ellis: You have to make that call at 5:00 for your knee, right? Should I go soon? Because it's getting kind of— It's after 4:00.

Baron Coleman: What?

Kate Ellis: Shall I go in a little while? Because you have your call to make at 5:00?

Baron Coleman: Yeah.

Kate Ellis: Okay.

Baron Coleman: I ain't putting you out. No.

Kate Ellis: No, I don't take it like that. I don't take it like that. So did you live in Petit Anse but worked on Bull's Island?

Baron Coleman: Yeah.

Kate Ellis: How would you get back and forth?

Baron Coleman: That was in foot.

Kate Ellis: Oh, so you could walk?

Baron Coleman: I'd go with the mule.

Kate Ellis: Oh.

Baron Coleman: Go work the crop.

Kate Ellis: I see. But you didn't stay overnight in Bull's Island. You'd come home—

Baron Coleman: Every night.

Kate Ellis: Every night with your mule.

Baron Coleman: Yeah, I had to go home, shuck corn for the mule, pump water, give him, put hay for him. Our people now don't have to do nothing.

Kate Ellis: No, they don't do any of that stuff.

Baron Coleman: Of course in our time, grass like that, if we'd leave that grow like that, you know what we used to do?

Kate Ellis: What?

Baron Coleman: Get on our knees with a [indistinct 00:03:14] knife. We didn't have no mowing machine. Shit, them people now who ain't doing nothing.

Kate Ellis: But then you really worked the land. So when did you move from Petit Anse to New Iberia?

Baron Coleman: When did I move? I came here in 1950. You got that down already.

Kate Ellis: I guess I didn't write it down properly. Why did you come here in 1950?

Baron Coleman: Well, I done got tired of working for nothing. I came here and I got me a job.

Kate Ellis: Doing cement?

Baron Coleman: Hmm?

Kate Ellis: Working with pouring cement?

Baron Coleman: I work at the City Lumber Company. Hey [indistinct 00:04:25].

Kate Ellis: That a friend? Well, okay. What I want to do— Well, let me see something. Here's what I'm wondering. And then I ask you about your brothers and sisters and your children. Stuff like that. I'm thinking would it be too much.

Baron Coleman: Well, now it going to be kind of hard. Them children might come over. They might want to go in the country where we come from. They're supposed to come in for the second— They going to be here in October.

Kate Ellis: Your grandchildren? Who's—

Baron Coleman: No, my daughter and them.

Kate Ellis: They're going to come here?

Baron Coleman: Yeah, they coming here. You see, they was belongs the same church with their mama. And that was in Freetown. And my church is in Petit Anse. Now, they joined the church with their mama. The first Sunday in October, they going be here. I don't know how long they going to stay.

Kate Ellis: I guess what I meant is in terms of getting some of this information about— I mean, maybe I can ask you a couple of things now about what your wife's name was.

Baron Coleman: Before she married?

Kate Ellis: Yeah. Her full— Yeah, her name.

Baron Coleman: Her name. I'm going to give it. Her name is Aviar. She was Aviar Simon before she married.

Kate Ellis: Aviar—

Baron Coleman: Simon. Got it straight now.

Kate Ellis: Her first name was Aviar?

Baron Coleman: Uh-huh.

Kate Ellis: A-V-I-A-R? Does that sound right?

Baron Coleman: I don't know, I can't read. I'm just giving you her name.

Kate Ellis: Okay. Simon. And do you know when she was born?

Baron Coleman: No, I didn't find that out.

Kate Ellis: Were you two about the same age?

Baron Coleman: I had 10 years older than her.

Kate Ellis: You were 10 years older than she. Okay. Well I'll figure that out. Where was she born?

Baron Coleman: She born right there in Freetown.

Kate Ellis: Oh, okay. Do you remember what year she passed?

Baron Coleman: My wife died in 1984.

Kate Ellis: I'm sorry, what were you going to— Were you going to say something?

Baron Coleman: You're fast. My wife died in 1984 on the 13. On the 13. On the 13 day.

Kate Ellis: 13th day, 1984. What did she do while you worked the land? Did she work the land with you?

Baron Coleman: Mm-mm. No. She didn't. She stay home and clean up. I marry her to work for her. She was my housewife. She come and help me pick cotton sometimes. Bring me some water in the field sometime. Kiss me sometimes. Yeah, yeah. Oh yeah. Well, I done had my fun. I said [indistinct 00:08:17] I just satisfied with a man got $3 million dollar.

Kate Ellis: What was your mother's name?

Baron Coleman: My mother's name? They used to call her Cecile.

Kate Ellis: Cecile. Do you know her name before she got married?

Baron Coleman: She was a Beale. Cecilia Beale.

Kate Ellis: Bill? Will you say it one more time?

Baron Coleman: Beale.

Kate Ellis: Okay. And you don't know when she was born?

Baron Coleman: No, I don't.

Kate Ellis: Do you remember when she— You were nine when she passed?

Baron Coleman: Yes. Hey, man!

Kate Ellis: Where was she born?

Baron Coleman: My wife?

Kate Ellis: No, your mother.

Baron Coleman: My mother was born right by them [indistinct 00:09:20]. I know exactly the spot, but they ain't got no— The people, you see all them old people there, after they die, them White folks got all them people. I don't know on who name they put it on. If my mother was a Beale. I go there most every other day with that fella passing pick me up. He got some hog right there where my mama's daddy and them was

living. My grandpa. Paeto Beale. Paeto. My grandpa on my mama's side. That was Paeto Beale.

Kate Ellis: His first name was Paeto?

Baron Coleman: Mm-hmm.

Kate Ellis: That's awesome. Have to find out how to spell that.

Baron Coleman: [indistinct 00:10:19] Mr. Simon.

Kate Ellis: Is that a friend or yours?

Baron Coleman: Yeah.

Kate Ellis: A neighbor?

Baron Coleman: Mm-hmm.

Kate Ellis: Well, maybe I should come by another time.

Baron Coleman: Maybe soon.

Kate Ellis: Okay. I'll do that.