

Joseph “Joe” Hansel Farmer and Emma Brown House Site



[This Booklet Placed Here By Farmer Family](#)

Welcome to the house site of our parents, where we were born and raised. Our great, great grandparents and great grandparents first came to this area in 1839 where they lived the rest of their lives and are buried. Our father Joe was born about two mile south west of this site at what is now known as George Farmer house site. George was Joe’s brother. Please leave this historical data booklet at site for others to view. This booklet is available for viewing or downloading at our website: <http://www.farmermountainfarmers.com/> . Enjoy a walk to the “Indian Guide Tree”, our spring and the site where our syrup mill was located.

Madeline “Matt” and Mary Jo Farmer

As you look at this site you can learn how to find such home sites in the woods. When we were young, people did not have grass or lawns. We swept the yard keeping all the weeds and growth out. Over time we swept away the dirt and the rain also slowly washed away the dirt around the house. Since the earth under the house was protected by the structure it didn't suffer from the sweeping and rain. Long after the houses are gone, the precise size and location can be found by looking for the raised "platform" of dirt that was under the house. Our house site is a perfect example of that process. Be careful as you walk around the site, taking care not to push down the edges of the platform that has survived the last 75+ years since we lived here.

The front of the house was towards the road, and if you face the house you will see a large indentation on the front right of the main structure. Our father dug a well here before he built the house and we turned a crank to raise the bucket from the well to get water in the house. It was just like an outside well but it was inside our house and was unique! We have never seen another house with a well built-in! But there were also some very interesting ways others had running water in their houses in this area! There were a lot of creative people in these mountains!

Joe and Emma, our parents, had 12 children. Four of them died at young ages and are buried at Mountain Grove Cemetery in the WMA. At this site was our home, barn, shed, and down the hill on the right was our spring in which we stored the milk. At the bottom of the hill on the left was our syrup mill which got water from the spring on the road. Look closely at the road as it crosses the stream at the bottom of the hill - note the rock work.

Across the road from the house site is a tree that first goes straight up, then turns 90 degrees to the left, then goes straight up again. As children, we considered this our "horse" but now have been told it may have been an Indian Guide Tree. Indians trained trees to grow in this pattern to point to springs - and this one points directly to our spring! Indians riding along a ridge would see a tree like this and know to go in that direction for water.

Follow the path to the "Indian Guide Tree" and to our spring down the hill. Note the rocks in the spring still remain just where our father placed them about 80 years ago!

Children of Joe and Emma who lived here were: baby boy(1), John Henry, Montine "Teen", Madeline "Matt", Bill, Zelia Mae "Zeal", George, Luther, baby boy(2), baby boy(3), Buford, and Mary Jo.



Our house sat on brick columns. You can see them in the photo and there still are a few bricks left. Please leave them where they are but take a look around for them! (the people are Joe Allen and Mary Jo!)



In the photo you can see our mode of transportation, and a toy stuffed horse which was the pride of our nephew.

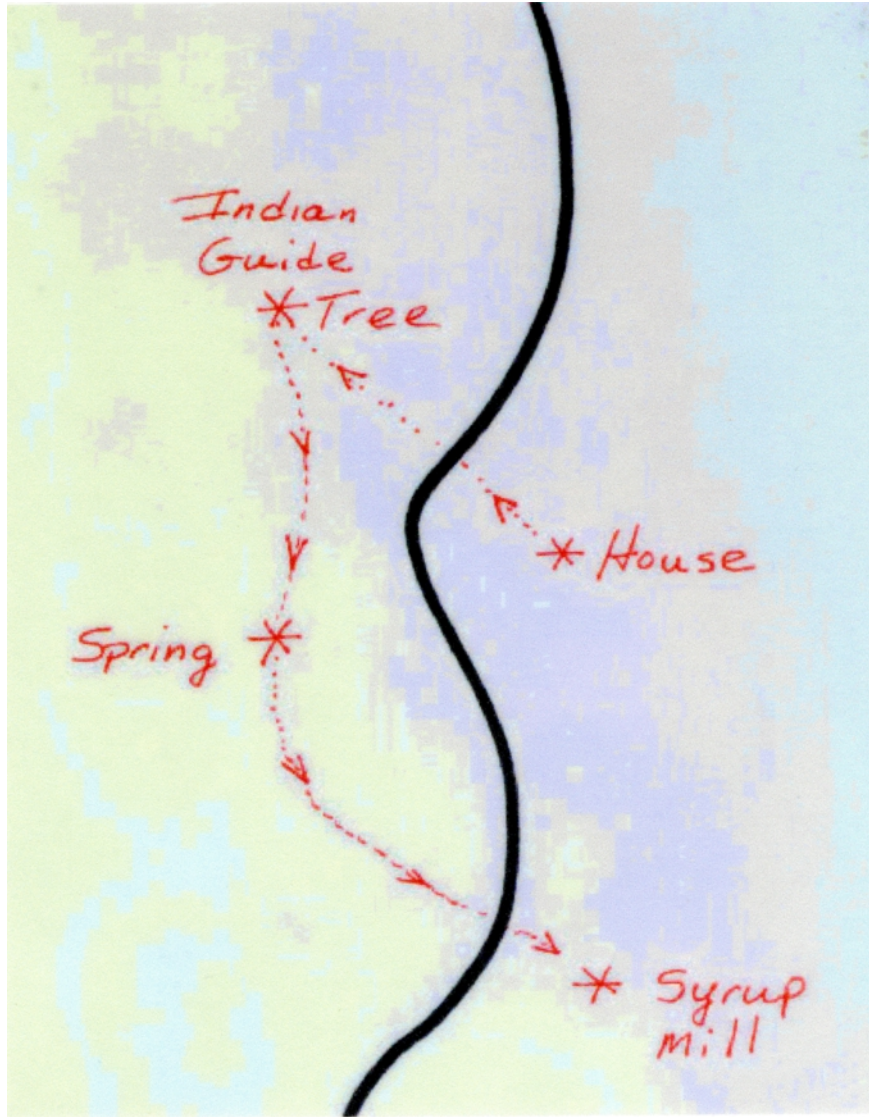


The photo is of us in about 1930, obviously enjoying our life here. While we hated to leave this area, we are also happy that the area remains in it's primitive beauty for you to enjoy.

While you enjoy the site, please remember that this is the home site of our family. Treat it with respect and disturb or remove nothing.

Thank You

Madeline and Mary Jo Farmer



Site Map