

TAPE GUIDE (Mrs. Hanna and Mrs. McGuire) 21

	Page
Charlie Hannah	1
Local politics	1
Mrs. Hanna's husband's work	2
Mrs. McGuire's husband's work	2
Marsh Engineering/Stevens-Adamson	2
Mr. McGuire -W.W. I vetran	3
Immigration from Whales	3
Arrival and reaction in Belleville	4
Home in Whales (near Tintern Abbey)	5
Village of Ystradocv- Mrs. McGuire's birthplace	
Springer's Lock	7
Grand Trunk Railroad	8
Mrs. Hanna's schooling in Belleville	9
Reason for coming to Canada	10
Christmas pageants	11
Entertainment a young people	12
Their brother, the singer	13
Shopping and stores: downtown Belleville	14
Flodding	14

TAPE ENDS

Mrs. Hanna and Mrs. McGuire
70 Gordon Street
December 19, 1974

No. 21
U/5/B

Reel VII

H: Mrs. Hanna
M: Mrs. McGuire
N: Nancy Foster
R: Robert Miller

H: ...and he used to go out and meet the troupe trains at all hours of the day and night when they came back from overseas, the troupe trains. He was also in the Belleville citizens band, he played the French horn. And then he went into Parliament and I remember being, sitting on the stage of the Griffin Opera House and I was introduced to Sir Mackenzie King who was Prime Minister of Canada at that time. I met him and I also met Lester Pearson.

R: Can you tell me, what was politics like to Belleville?

H: Like it is now, Belleville always went Conservative. Belleville is a Conservative territory, am I right Millie? Very few Liberals get in in Belleville. Charlie was the first Liberal to get in in twenty one years, I think it was.

M: He Beat Mr. Parker out.

R: Was politics very important to the people in this area or did they just sort of let it go by?

H: No, I think we were all interested, we're interested in what they do for our country, I know I am, I work on every election. Millie of course she can't but her husband did. She's crippled you know but Jack was a great worker in politics and elections wasn't he.

M: Twenty eight years he was a poll clerk up at, on Church Street opposite the high school there.

H: The old county home, it's torn down now.

R: Did Charlie ever talk to you about his experiences with the Wharf Street Debating Club?

H: Oh he was a great man down there of course. No, I knew him as a family man. I've been to his house many times but I never talked politics with him.

R: Can you tell us what your husbands did for a living?

H: My husband was a forman, he worked fifty years for the Marsh Engineering Works and the Stephen Adamson Company, from the time he was fourteen and a half years old until he died. He retired in the first of March and he died the twenty ninth. He was forman in the assembling line, shop.

M: My husband was a, he was a first world war veteran and then he was a buffer and polisher down at the hardware on Pinnical Street for twenty eight years.

H: Tell them the name of the hardware Millie.

M: Well I can't..

H: International

M: I can't remember it so how can I tell it.

R: What year was it that Stephen Adamson came to Belleville?

H: 1928, they bought out the Marsh Engineering.

R: So it's been there for quite a while then. You said your husband was shop forman?

H: Yes, assembly forman, my son is now

R: So you would have some idea of what it is like now I suppose ~~of~~ over a period of time like that there would have been ^{developed} a lot of new techniques and a lot of new machinery.

H: Oh, yes, all kinds of modern equipment and conveyors that run for miles under the ocean. At Newfoundland they run for fifteen miles under the ocean off the coast of Labrador. They ^{put} ~~built~~ that and they ^{put} ~~built~~ the big conveyors over on Vancouver to move the coal, move the coal. I saw that when I was in Vancouver. They make all kinds of mining equipment for all over the world you know.

M: My husband was a first world war veteram. He got wounded in the Princess, serving with the Princess Patricia's.

R: Was he in the navy or the army?

M: No, in the army.

H: He lost his eye.

N: Where in Europe was he stationed?

M: Oh, all over. In England first of all and then he went overseas.

H: in France. Tell them the name of the battle he was wounded in.

M: Well the Princess Patricia's he was serving in. Amiens, the Battle of Amiens.

R: Amiens, that's a very famous Canadian battle.

H: He was also in the Battle of Passiondale.

M: But, Amiens he was wounded in.

N: What year did you come to Canada?

M: 1913

N: And it was from Wales?

M: Yes, landed here I think the twelfth of April, 1913. My mother brought out nine children and there were one out here and one back there which she brought out later. She were married, and she were torpedoed in the first world war.

H: My sister was and she had her little girl with her, but they were rescued and..

M: ...picked up with a mine sweeper riding around for twenty eight hours.

N: Did you come directly to Belleville from Wales?

H: Yes and we've stayed here ever since, I don't know why.

R: Was there any particular thing that attracted you to the Belleville area?

M: My father was out here first and he sent for us.

R: Did you, when you were young do you remember what your first reactions to Belleville were?

M: Well we come here in April and the streets, Front Street wasn't like it is now. It was just a street all mud. We were so many of us it took two democrats to bring us. We got here about one o'clock in the morning.

H: We had all our luggage.

M: No, that didn't come till later.

H: I remember when Front Street had a horse drawn street car like, it had seat in it, and wooden sidewalks. I can remember them because I use to be particular to ~~walk~~^{down} walk to run down the centre of them because if you get on the end boards you were liable to go up and tip you. you know. I used to be sure to run down the centre of the boards. And I remember when, going up to meet, to see the troupes going east for the first world war. We used to go up to the station, there'd be a big crowd and the Salvation Army would be there giving them donuts and coffee

M: There is a tapestry from Wales when our Prince of Wales now was crowned and there's an old building where ~~she~~^{we}

M: was born behind in the family farm. Oh, I'll bet it's all dusty.

H: No it isn't really very dusty. I was born right here and that's Tintern Abbey,.....down in around the valley

M: The top was shelled off of...

R: William Wordsworth wrote a poem....

M: And that is Tintern Abbey and it was built in the form of a cross. The top was blown off it in the time of Oliver Cromwell when he destroyed the monestaries.

H: He hid in that monestary didn't he Millie?

M: I never heard that.

R: There's a famous poem by William Wordsworth called Tintern Abbey; it's a very long poem; it's probably his most famous and he wrote it, it wasn't so much about the abbey, he wrote it looking down into the valley

H: Do you have a copy of it...?

R: I can get a copy of it .

M: Yes, there was a hillside, the canon, canons from the time of Henry VIII. The canon was up above our house where they shot across the river and blew the top off it. Thousands of people go there every year and paint that.

R: It would be a very beautiful place to live.

M: And there's big hiding places underneath it and outlets to the river for the monks to get away.

R: Oh, I see, that sounds interesting.

H: Millie wasn't there some king hid there and that's why they shelled it?

M: It was a monestary and he destroyed it, he went from the.. you know the Catholic religion wasn't it to the Protestant.

M: I got a job to speak I got a stroke and all and my throat.

R: I'm sure it's coming out clearly. That was very interesting because I bet he might have been looking right down where your house was. Do you know how old your house would have been.

M: No it was a very, farmhouse a dairy farm.

N: Were your parents farmers?

M: No, the farmer lived in the village part and he rented his farm. He was our postmaster. He rented his farm, no run his farm, run it only he didn't live there you see we lived there.

H: Tell them something in Welsh Millie. Can you speak Welsh now, can you remember?

M: Oh, no I can't speak much Welsh. Un, di, tri, pedwa, pimp, chwich, that's Welsh, one, two, three, four, five, six. and bana menin is bread and butter. Bana caws is bread and cheese, cheese and gwylⁱ is bed. Nos da is good night.

H: Tell them where you, the city or village where you were born in, I can't.

M: Ystradove

H: Ystradove, can you spell that?

R: I don't think so, I wouldn't want to try.

N: How would you spell it?

H: How do you spell it she said.

M: Y-S-T-R-A-D-O-V-C

R: When your parents came to Belleville what work did they do here?

M: Oh, there was a depression on when we come, you had to get what you can get. My brother worked for Springer Locke

M: factory for five dollars a week. If he wanted a pair of shoes he couldn't pay no board.

R: It's Springers Lock

M: Yes it's over down

H: Corbin's now

R: It's quite an interesting story about Springer Locke and how they eventually became Corbin Lock. Can you tell me any of the history?

H: They paid starvation wages. I worked at Deacon's shirt factory for six dollars a week and that was ten hours a day down there.

M: Twelve hours the men worked.

R: Well I guess this is how a lot of Belleville industries succeeded by paying as low wages as they could.

H: Well I guess so.

M: This is one of the poorest paid places in Ontario, I think well the poorest the paper said for wages.

R: I think that's probably an old tradition in Belleville.

H: They want to keep it quiet and secure and like a site seeing place. They don't want to get it industrialized.

M: Well they used to blame the farmers. The farmers wanted to retire to Belleville and they didn't want industries here. That's what they used to tell us years ago.

R: Many people who remember Belleville before it became as industrialized as it is now felt that Belleville lost something when it became a non ~~agricultural~~ agricultural place. Do you feel that was too?

H: Well when my husband started he made twelve dollars and

H: fifty cents a week and I brought five children up on seventeen dollars and thirty cents and when the first of the unions started coming in that's what brought the wages up.

M: Belleville was just like stagnant for years; it never budged an inch and then all at once it grew in to a great big spreading place

H: It didn't actually it was a railroad town, most every one worked on the railroad.

M: Well it was the Grand Trunk Railroad. Oh it was some thing to get on the railroad and you had to work a month they kept a month behind, you was always ~~/ ~~/ ~~/ ~~/ ~~/~~~~~~ behind a month with everything before you got one month's pay and they could guarantee your wages. It were twelve hours a day. My father used to walk from here up to the round house up there to work and the snow would be all piled up. They didn't have snow plows to clean up the sidewalks then.~~~~

R: So your father was a railroad man, the Grand Trunk?

M: Well he were on the Great Western before that for years.

R: What kind of work did he do on the railroad?

M: Well he was a boiler washer up here.

H: And he was a section man in England wasn't he Millie?

M: He was on the section in England.

R: What was it again he was here?

M: Boiler washer

R: Boiler washer, I see.

N: Did you go to school in Belleville?

H: I did, I went to the Pine Street school. I went to school in England for about a year and then we came out here and then I had to go all through the kindergarten and here I went to Pine Street when I was seven years old and my mother bought this house here and we moved over here and then I went to the old Bridge Street school which is now Wilson's machine shop or something out there where you go past. Now we had outside toilets. The school was lit with a few lamps on the wall and a big pot bellied stove.

M: And there was no sewer up the street here, that all come up after we was here.

H: We had more severe winters then than we do now, much colder weather.

R: And so you went to a, was it a one room school?

H: No there was four rooms, two rooms up and two rooms down.

M: Mr. Simpsons was the principal there.

H: That was Doctor Stobey's...

M: ...wife's father

H: What he didn't teach us he wallpped into us.

R: That was sort of my next question, how was the teaching done at that time.

H: Well if they didn't behave themselves they got the strap and I remember one time my baby brother, he now lives down in California, they brought him up to Mr. Simpson's room with some other little boys and he got the strap. Well I thought to myself he's going to strap my baby brother and so, he wasn't, he told me after he wasn't going to but he was scaring these little kids you see and

H: he made them put ~~the~~ their hands out and I jumped right out of my seat and up and grabbed his hand, he ordered me back to my seat.

N: How many children were there in your family?

H: Eleven all together.

M: My mother raised eleven, there were thirteen to the table for three meals a day.

H: My dad always kept a good...

M: We never went cold or hungry.

R: Did you live in this house or was there another.

H: In the house.

R: In this house?

M: My mother brought us to this country to give us a better chance than they had in the old country. Now we older ones didn't benefit by it but the younger ones got educated and now we got the younger ones again. We got one a doctor, one a geologist, one a school teacher which we couldn't of had in the old country. She would be proud of them today. She brought nine of us out and there were a baby eighteen months old, that's quite an undertaking. And that was the biggest family that ship ever carried. They might have carried big families but not all together like we were. They were quite interested in us but that ship got torpedoed and sank during the war.

H: The next year my mother sent for my elder sister and her little girl. Her husband was killed in the war. My mother sent for her and brought here back and she was ship-wrecked the following year in the same boat that we came out on.

M: That was my husband ^{and me} when we were, after we were married I sent my picture to him in France. He had his, he never seen it until he came back, he had it took with that ~~Karsh, Carr~~ ^{Karsh, Karsh} that is that big portrait painter that paints all the royal family. He had a small ~~studio~~ little store on Bank Street, no not on, in Ottawa anyway on the main street and he have his picture taken on the way to Toronto to go overseas and he never seen them until he got back. And now that Karsh does a great big portrait business, paints, or photographer he takes all the photographs of the kings and queens and nobility of overseas.

R: On the school thing, at small schools, local schools often there would be a Christmas pagent.

H: Oh, yes I used to be in that.

R: Can you tell me a little bit about what your pagents were like?

^{One-time}
H: I remember having to ride a big wooden hourse and I was kind of a fat child, you know, and I remember feeling kind of foolish sitting up on a big wooden hourse. Another thing there was a, we had to carry our dolls and sang and coming to school the leg of my doll fell off and I ~~felt~~ ^{was} terribly embarrassed standing up on the stage with a one legged doll.

M: Well the war was on, they wouldn't know but what it had been to war.

R: How would they set up a Christmas pagent, would each class put on a skit.

H: Well at Greer Street we just held it in the front of the class and moved the teacher's desk along and held it, we had no platform or anything. Of course Pine Street had an auditorium, but we just, Greer Street just..

M: They used to have the nativity and you'd be a little angel of Joseph or Mary or something like that. Oh, that were a great time when you were practising for that. Like my little granddaughter, her mother, there was a Catholic church opposite them one side the street and a Protestant the other. Mouny was about three. "Mommy," she said says "what are we Catholics or Pontiacs?".

R: We'd like to know about what social life was like, what teenagers would do say during the teenage years.

M: Work we did

H: We all had to go to work as soon as we were old enough to.

M: Help keep the others.

H: And you know I quit school, I was through public school when I was thirteen and I never went to high school and my mother put me out to work. I used to work minding kids and helping with the housework and we had no transportation only our two feet and legs to get around on.

M: The entertainment we had was we'd

H: a piano

M: What do you call it dancing

H: Square dancing

M: Square dancing

H: Well then mother had the piano and of course I took piano lessons and my elder sister did, my brother played the

H: viollin. It was great to listen to him practise.

M: We had one brother a beautiful professional singer.

H: And then we'd gather around the piano at you know Christmas time and a when we'd gather home we'd all gather around the piano and have a good old sing song. We had a gramophone. You'd wind it up and we'd dance to that right here in the parlour that I'm in.

M: My brother had all the Crusoe's records and he had all Madame Butterflys records on this, we brought this gramophone from England, it had a big horn on.

H: I was telling them about that the other day. Now I told you about my brother being a good singer and he was a personal friend and they went around singing and I remember him going to New York with Sandy Burrows of the museum, Glanmore House. Here's his picture on the wall.

M: Well take them in, they can see them that went to college and that, that are doing good, they all in good positions getting about thirty thousand a year or more, now. One's a bone surgeon.

N: Where does he practise?

M: Thunder Bay ***** I have my mother's bride and groom she had on her golden wedding cake when I had my golden wedding.

H: Are you going to ask us what we think of the world today like you did me the other day?

M: Well I think we're in a very unhappy world today and I think the world is in the worst position that's it's ever been in today.

R: One other question we have here about Belleville in the

R: past is other local businesses that you recall, any memories you have of shopping in downtown Belleville.

H: Well there was the old Ritchies store. I remember when the flood, we had a terrible flood, at least we had two and I remember my youngest sister was on the footbridge

M: And she went down with it

H: It gave away, her and her girlfriend, a neighbour down the road and some men rescued her and they took her into the, them into Ritchie's store, they were soaking wet and rigged them up with some clothes and brought them home. My mother didn't know anything about it. They were floating on the ice in the river.

M: Among the ice blocks when the ice gave way.

H: The bridge just, the footbridge gangway gave way. That was only kind of a roap bridge at that time you see.

R: So they were on the bridge when it fell

H: They were when it give away

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Charles Cemetery, Reed, Ontario.

HANNA: Mrs. Edith Charlotte of 163 Burnham St. at the Belleville General Hospital on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1981, in her 77th year. Beloved wife of the late John Hanna; dear daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Ebenezer Cooke; dear mother of Robert of Corbyville, John of Belleville; Mrs. Doris Truman and Mrs. Douglas Parker (Dorothy) both of R.R. 4 Belleville and Mrs. Donald Cain (Barbara) of Belleville. Dear sister of Jack Cooke of Belleville, James of Fresno, California and Mrs. Vernon Huffman (Josephine) of Port Colborne. Also survived by 17 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Resting at the John R. Bush Funeral Home, 80 Highland Ave. Service in the Chapel on Friday, Sept. 18 at 1 P.M. Cannon R. B. D. Wright officiating. Interment Belleville Cemetery.

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The Intelligencer Sep. 16, 1981, p. 2

McGUIRE, Eibel Mildred — Of 70 Gordon St., Belleville, on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 8, 1975 at Belleville General Hospital, in her 78th year. Daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ebenezer Cooke. Beloved wife of the late John McGuire. Dear mother of Charles of Peterboro. Sister of John Cooke of Belleville, James Cooke of Fresno, Calif., Mrs. James Johnston (Iora), Springfield, Ill., Mrs. Vernon Hoffman (Amy), Fort Colborne, Mrs. Jens Bolm (Grace), Montreal and Mrs. John Hanna (Edith) of Belleville. Loved by 5 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Friends may call at Grant Funeral Home, 65 North Front St., Belleville, where funeral service will be held in the Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. Rev. Peter Tett officiating.

Interment Belleville Cemetery.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of Duke of Edinburgh No. 301 will hold a Memorial Service Monday evening at 7 p.m. in the Funeral Home.

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The Intelligencer Feb. 10, 1975, p. 2

MRS. JOHN McGUIRE

Funeral service was held Feb. 11 at the chapel of the Grant Funeral Home for Mrs. Ethel Mildred McGuire. Rev. Peter Tett will officiate.

Mrs. McGuire of 70 Gordon St. died Feb. 8 at Belleville General Hospital. She was 79.

Born in Wales, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ebenezer Cooke, she is predeceased by her husband, John. She has resided in Belleville for the last 72 years.

She leaves a son, Charles of Peterborough and two brothers and four sisters: John Cooke of Belleville, James Cooke, of Fresno, Calif., Mrs. James (Nora) Johnstone of Springfield, Ill., Mrs. Vernon (Amy) Hoffman of Port Colborne, Mrs. Gene (Grace) Bolm of Montreal and Mrs. John (Edith) Hanna of Belleville.

Also surviving are five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mrs. McGuire is predeceased by two brothers, Percy and Charles and two sisters, May and Jessie.

Mrs. McGuire was a member of St. Margaret's Anglican Church and the Ladies' Auxiliary, ANAF, Duke of Edinburgh Unit 201., who held a memorial service for her Feb. 10. Interment is in Belleville Cemetery.

Bearers were: Jim Sanford, Jack Hall, Dan Simpson and Gerry Doyle.

A memorial service was held at the Grant Funeral Home by members and officers of ANAF, Duke of Edinburgh Unit 201 under the direction of Alice Storms and Eileen Sills.

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