

Judge Anderson (42)

TAPE GUIDE

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Subject: Judge J. C. Anderson (J)
Case Number: 42
Code: III/1/H
Date: July 9, 1975
Interviewer: Robert Miller (M)

J: My father was a methodist minister and his first parish after he was married in Bancroft, in this county. So I have a contiuing interest in this area. We only lived in Bancroft for I think three years, so we left there when I was very young. Therefore I have no personal recollection of Bancroft at that time. My parents have often told me interesting incidences that they were in that part of the county of Hastings. For instance my father had church services in several areas and he had to drive a horse and buggy of course in those days. The roads anything like they are now, it was all up hill and down hill and pretty ruff sometimes. Of course a sléigh in the winter time. There were a number of amusing incidences that were passed on to me and there parents to them when they were in the Bancroft area. When I came down to Belleville as Judge the latter part of 1946, my father told me to look up an old gentlemen. He would be old at that time, he was running a wool mill in Bancroft in their time. So I did that at the first opertunity that I had, I was going to the small claims court in Bancroft. There was old Mr. Fuller walking up and down the aisle of his wool mill and wearing a stiff katie hat perhaps even the same one he had worn many years before when my father was there. He was wearing a suite that was almost like a semi-dress suite, so old it had turned green. But there he was in his mill as he had been at the time my father was there.

Some four score years before. And of course as is the custome the wife of the minister is entitled to get any little gift that is given by the people being married. This is to the minister for preforming the service. So my mother was entitled to get any gifts that came by reason of a marriages, and apparently my parents always liked to visit with the young people at least once before the marriage was preformed. Most of the marriages were preformed as I understand it at the actual parishes in the city of Bancroft. But I remember my mother telling me that on one occasion that she was visiting with the bride to be. She was asking her what her plans were and what she had gathered together, so that she could start housekeeping. She said, oh well we are doing very well we have a cake of soap, and a couple of cans of salmon, so we are now on our way. My father said to me if you have a fireplace in your home in Belleville, you should be able to get some good wood, around Bancroft. Many years ago, a married couple, a man didn't have any money but promised me a cord of maple hard wood, and he is still waiting for the delivery of hard wood many years later. Perhaps I could collect the hard wood if I could find the man. On another occasion, I remember my father telling about having to go to marry somebody north of Batise Lake. He had to travel by horse and buggy, leave the horse at Batise Lake and take the boat across the lake, marry the couple and then come back. He started out early in the morning and got back sometime after dark at night. The bridegroom in giving him his little tip or gift for preforming the marriage, handed him a two dollar bill. He said, I'm sorry but I haven't got anything smaller. After he had been all day on this trip, out to Batise lake and back.

Other incidences that happened in the village of Bancroft, one of them had to do with a man who later became assoc^{sser}~~ate~~ for the village of Bancroft. He was only a young man, a teenage boy at that time. The parish was right next to the church, and there was a bell on the parish and a fence behind. This man along with some other boys, one day climbed up into the bellfry. They put a wire on the bell rope and ran it down to the ground, through the grass and beyond the fence. When my father came home at night, he had to put the horse away and after he had just nicely got into the house. The bell on the church started to ring, as it was too late for any meetings and he knew there were no meetings in the church. He went out to investigate, he couldn't find anything wrong so he thought perhaps the wind had caused the bell to ring. So he went back to bed, he had just nicely got into bed, and settled down when the bell began to ring furiously again. This time he went out and found nothing wrong of course but he saw this wire. The boys had waited for him to return, and after he had got settled down. They thought they were having some fun with him, which of course they did. Ringing this church bell in the middle of the night. When I came down to Belleville, I use to have to go to court not only in Bancroft, but in Manooth, St. Orwell, and in Cahill. So I would travel to Bancroft and hold court in any of those places. While I was there I would stay at the Bancroft Hotel and I remember one night when I was staying there. There was some man holding court a social court in the common room, at the Bancroft hotel. After visiting very vigorously with a lot of people who came, to a meeting there. After these people left, I went over to speak to Dr. Everie. I said, Well doctor Everie how are you getting along, are you... He said, why who are you. Well, I said, you wouldn't know me but I was born,

... and then I pointed to the direction up on the hill, the house up there not too far from the hotel. Although he was at a vast age at that time, as quick as a wink he turned to me and said, my boy I'm the first man who ever saw you. This was doctor Everie, the father in law now what I was saying a son in law of Dr. Everie was now an Anglican Bishop in Ontario. Dr. Empey had been a practitioner, a medical practitioner in Bancroft and later he became a member of parliament in Ottawa. He must of had very many friends in the Bancroft area because on this particular evening, people in the area knew he was going to be there and they folked around to meet him. This was just a little thing that happened at that time that I remembered. At the time my father and mother were in Bancroft, about the time of my birth Bancroft was quite a little town, even then. It was one of the first towns that had electric lights and the railway was running into Bancroft and doing a big business. Bancroft was a thriving centre as it is today, but perhaps in a different sense. The lumbering and the forestry work and the opening up of that area, meant that the whole area was high ground of activity back in the early part of the century. Many citizens that were raised in the Bancroft general area have gone aboard, and made there living. While it may have been difficult recollect a living as a farmer at the same time there were many excellent citizens in the Bancroft area. It would take to second place with no town of its size, even though it is a bit remote from what we know as the front of Hastings County. I went to highschool in Colbourne, Ontario. My father and mother, at that time living in the village of Smith Field just west of Brighton. I took the senior matriculation or now know as grade thirteen in the Napanee

Colliagate. My father at that time was in Napanee, so when I came back as Judge in 1946. I was coming to an area that wasn't unfamiliar to me, as a younger man. I have practised in Oshawa for twenty years. I had been active in community work there, I was a member of the Board of Education, and Chairman of the city council for many years. I was mayor for a couple of years and interested in other community activities such as the Chamber of Commerce. In our own community organization, and when I came down to Belleville, I of course lost attachment with all those organizations. I have been told about, what a wonderful institution what a part it played in the life of the people of Belleville, that is the YMCA. I was told about this by Mr. Amrstrong who went from Bellevillé to Oshawa, and operates and still operates a funeral parlor in the city of Oshawa. So when I came to Belleville, I became interested to some extent in the work of the YMCA. I'm thinking about that now because I have been on the board of the Y, and in some advisory capacity, for some considerable time. I was on the Y, when it had to move from the down town location, which is now the city police station. To a splendid spot, a five acre setting out in the eastern part of the city. Today I just took part in a news conference with Dr. Horn the president of the Board of Directors of the YMCA, and Mr. Don Tees the general secretary, and Alderman J. D. Cork. Mr. Cork was able to announce that the private canvas campagne to retire the debt of the Belleville Family YMCA had exceeded its objective by some two thousand dollars. It had raised in cash up to this time 95% of its objective of a hundred thousand dollars, I should say. And then the pledges, which would mean when there collected

the campaign would go over the top, for at least a couple of thousand dollars. This shows that the Y.M.C.A. now the family Y.M.C.A. in the city of Belleville has been a living institution for upwards of over a hundred years. While new people are interested in the Y and the Y's program has changed to some extent, it is still serving as it has for over one hundred years. A very broad cross section of the younger people and the older people in the community as well. It is of some interest to note, that the present Belleville Police Station formally was the Belleville Y. That Ed Zeigler was the architect who planned the changes in the old Y, to make it a very functional and modern police building which will serve the city of Belleville, I'm sure for some years to come. At the same time Mr. Ed Zeigler also planned the present Y.M.C.A. The plans for the present Y.M.C.A. were in their initial stage much more elaborate than the actual buildings that are there now. But they are well planned and there's a conception a conceptual plan developed by Mr. Zeigler, which I hope some day will become an actuality because it can all be contained on that five acre site which is really a beautiful site, for a family Y.M.C.A. It maybe of some interest to note that Mr. Zeigler, although he was working on some other small projects such as the rebuilding of the old Y making it into a police station, for the city of Belleville. And drawing the plans for the Y.M.C.A. recently has been the consulting architect in fact I think the chief architect in relation to Ontario Place. And is now one of the chief architects in relation to the new Eatons centre. So the building which the Y.M.C.A. has, has been planned by a man who has great imagination and great practicality. I hope that when the additions are made to the Y, that the same

standards are exhibited in the building that is presently there will be carried forward into the new building. You have asked me to say something about other community organizations which I have been interested since I came to Belleville. I was for a number of years, interested in the Red Cross and I was chairman of the annual campagne, on a couple of occasions. The former member of parliament, Mr. Lee Grills was the campagne chairman one year, which I was the president of the Red Cross. We had many interesting trips together, many interesting talks planning how we would raise money necessary to carry on the work of the Red Cross, in this community. More laterally since I was earlier interested in Education, I was named by the government one of the first members of the board of governors of whats now know as Loyalist College. As it was first organized there was only one administration for the college which was to situated in the Belleville, Trenton area, also one in the Peterbource, Lindsey area. That first board then operated the two colleges, one in the Peterbource area and one down here. The late Leslie Frost the former Premier of Ontario was on the board. At that time of course there was quite pull towards Peterbource and that area which had somewhat more population than Belleville. But I tried hard and with the help of many others in the course of a couple of years, we were able to get the one board broked into two boards. So there became a town board, here in Belleville. We named our community college, Loyalist College because of the tradition of loyalists in this area. The college in the Peterbource area was named the Sir Sanford Flemming College sort of an honor to the man who introduced standard time to the world. It seems as though, although Loyalist College was only started seven or eight years ago, that great

changes have taken place. The first great problem we had was to decide on a site for the college. And you can imagine that there were many areas wanting the honor of having the new community college in a particular spot. I remember that the Bate people at Frankford actually offered without reineration a beautiful site on a side of a hill not far from the Bata factory, in Batawa Ontario. And throughen in as sort of a bonus would be the presidents residence up on the hill commanding a view of the valley. This was supported by very elabraste ideas and plans by a planning expert, as the case for establishing a college at Batawa was presented to the board. We hired some experts to recommend certain sites and I think there were five sites which were on the agenda after these specialists had looked over the situation. Of course from the five sites it was worked down, and one site where the college now stands was the final chose. Looking back even a few years, it seems to me that it was a wise chose and at that time it seemed quite a ways out of Belleville. But since that time the road, the number two highway has been made a four lane highway between Belleville and Trenton. The Wallbridge road now know as the Loyalist and Wal bridge road has been paved and there are very modern college buildings on the site. And as time passes and money becomes available the hundred and forty acre site can be turned into a very beautiful area. Some of which no doubt retained in parks

THERE IS A STREAM THAT RUNS THROUGH THE SITE, and a dam and it could provide a very delightful view across the valley, to the extensive College buildings that are now there. The college has developed, I became the first chairman of the divided administration. The college

has developed so now its a permanent part of the area, which services not only Hastings County and Belleville and Trenton but part of Northumberland County and all of Prince Edward and Lennox and Addington County. And I am satisfied that the introduction of Loyalist College to this community has made a great contribution, towards the development of the area. It also provides a great opportunity for the younger people, in the area who up to then would of had to leave home, if they wanted to presue there education past the secondary level. There have been considerable changes in the administration of justice, in the amount of work involved. The amount of court work involved and the subsidiary work that falls upon a county court judge, since I came to Belleville some twenty seven or eight years ago. When I came to Belleville there wasn't a full time reporter. The lady who did the reporting in the courts was also the chief clerk in the sherriffs office. The volume of work at that time would be less than a third of the amount of work that is involved now, in the same court. At that time there were ten small claim courts at that time known as divison courts, situated through the county from Deseronto on the east to Trenton on the west and extending to Frankford, Stirling, Madoc, Marmara, Tweed, Bancroft, Maynooth, St. Ola and Cchill. And now by the reason of ability to travel of the roads, the small claims court only holds its session in four sentres, Belleville, Trenton, Madoc and Bancroft. I think it services the people in the area just as well by only the four centres as it did with ten centres before. So when I first came the small claims courts took up some forty five days of work as a judge. More than that, perhaps sixty days, now it is still forty days when you consider that you have court for two days

month in Belleville and one day a month in Trenton as well as other courts in Burlington and Haddon. But even there the jurisdiction has increased now, to take care of several cases up to four hundred dollars. So that there is much more business in the court than there was twenty-five years ago. Then the jurisdiction of the county court in these five years has been extending and becoming greater each year. So that for all practical purposes the judge at the county court has equal and coordinate jurisdiction with judges of the supreme court. At the present time over ninety percent of the work in the divorce courts is handled by county court judges. Now this is brand new work and the judge Honey presently the judge here. Finds it necessary to set aside time, at least two days a month sometimes more than that to handle the volume of which is carried on in the court. This was all together different from what it was when I came when the cases for divorce were quite different from what they are now. And they could only be heard by Supreme Court Judges so my guess is that the average amount of divorce acts in the county at that time may have been twelve to fifteen a year. And now I am sure that the number exceeds over three hundred. This just shows in one area the changes that have taken place in the last twenty five odd years. Also when I first came here there was no such thing as the juvenile or family court. I played some part in organizing the family court in this area. The setting up of the court was aided by the childrens aids society and some of the original cost were provided by the county and the city. Of course now it is taken over entirely by the province, while I still have the appointment of the family court I haven't presided for some years.

After being the first judge of this court for many years, Judge Wills and myself handled the juvenile and family court work. I was taken the juvenile work and he was taking the family work. Then of course recently Judge Wamsley has been appointed.

Side Two.

Q: ... by the name of Archie Winters, he was very proud of his work, and very interested in what was going on. So he showed me around the court house and one of the places he showed me was the basement of the courthouse. And in the basement he had stored away a rope which This was the rope which was around the neck of the last execution which took place right in the basement of the old Belleville courthouse. He was very proud to have this rope as a momento which he assisted. One of the earliest institutions in Belleville, Albert College. Albert College was organized by then branch of the old Methodist church to provide a secondary education, to young men mostly at that time. Who had not had the opportunity to go to Secondary School, and found that later in life they wanted or needed further education. And there were some very hard times and the first money that provided to organize Albert College came from very dedicated Methodist people. In this whole area that not only gave what ever money they could but certain produce that could be turned into money. So that the school could get started. And after, a hundred and seven teen years of its existence many people owe a great deal to educational training that they have recieved from Albert College. In those early days of course fees and instruction cost were very low as compared to what we know now. I think it

was in nineteen twenty five that under the principle ship of Doctor Baker, Albert College after a very dâstastrous fire on College Street in Belleville decided to rebuild. At that time the city gave acrage of land which the college prenently occupies, and the fine buildings that are there now, will be a fine monument to the late Dr. Baker., and his board of directors, which include many men who made great contributions to this community. One of whom, I would like to mention the late Harry Ackerman. He worked hard all along to get the college launched and to keep it going. In the thirties the college almost went out of existence. One time I understand that the number of students there was under thirty. The staff was desimated, there was no funds sometimes sometimes to pay the teachers. The late Herb Morton was a great friend of Dr. Bakers was always sympathetic to Albert College and always anxious to help. I have heard, Dr. Morton and Dr. Morton has told me that, no the late Herb Morton, has told me that on occasion that he had told Dr. Baker to come to him, if he# really got in trouble at any time. On more than one occasion Dr. Baker had to go down, and Mr. Morton made a contribution so that he could pay the teachers of the college. The needs of older students going back to school, now in view of the university secondary school system almost any person has valued in attending, are not the same as they were many years ago. At the same time there are at the present time there are a fairly large number of young people that do not find that the presently organized secondary school seems to fit in with there ideas. They sometimes have trouble in profiting, and they then seek out a private secondary school where the classes are smaller and the supervision is a little

Better. So that Albert College caters to a different type of student than it did in those days. Still it is undergoing hard times because the cost of providing construction by qualified teachers and keeping up the high standard. The cost of operating the residence and the dining hall is such that the board of governors have to recover a fee that is very considerable sum of money just to make ends meet. Albert College always tried to provide an education for students who were not from wealthy families. It is somewhat of a change in policy made necessary by change of times. The fees have now become very substantial. The fear on the part of the board of governors which I have been a member for some thirty years, is the necessity for making the fees as high as they are now. And they are still over the province schools is such that many worthy students who would profit by instruction at Albert College, will not have the opportunity to do so. Albert College has always served students whose parents were out of the country working for oil companies or missionary. Or the student from the broken home and in from foreign countries and it presently keeps up that tradition. Actually I would think that probable Albert College is one of the few Co-educational private schools in the province. And probably the mix of students from many different countries, I think as many as nine or ten. It is different at Albert College than at the other private schools in the province, and therefore it seems to me there are still performing a very useful function. It is undergoing very difficult times and it is to be hoped that the struggle which it is undergoing to stay open and keep the traditions alive and it will be able to be carried on and instead of serving the youth of the province for a

Hundred and seventeen years. It may continue for another hundred years before it has to... characteristics completely changed again. When I came to Belleville, rent control was still in force and I acted as judge of the rent control court. That was held in many areas of the province, not only this area but as far as away as Ottawa. About nineteen hundred and fifty that the, after the war measures act had ceased to be as important as it was during the war. There was a great surge of organization among industrial employees and many unions were organized. The employees of industry became more organized into different unions. The system of conciliation was introduced and when the department of labour started to find that there was a great demand for conciliation services they turned to some extent to the county court judges for help and assistance. I suppose that it was considered that they were partially impartial and some of them were available and I was asked to assist in this area. I began to do it about 1949 and it seems to over the years a demand for my services in this area. I have been quite interested in the development of it and I have resided over a great many conciliation boards in the province and almost every industry. In the post office and the rail ways and as a matter of fact although I retired from the bench, I am still doing a considerable amount of that work. From 1964 to the present time I have been chairman of the Ontario Public Services Arbitration Board. This meant that the until recently the Ontario Public Service or the Service of Crown Agents in Ontario this had meant they did not have the right to strike as have other employees in private industry. If they were not able to work up an agreement to the province the final

resort to settling the differences in relation the conditions of work in employment had to be refered to the arbitration board for final dispostion. I have been chairman of this board, I was always assisted with the nomination of the party. During the years this has been very interesting work and even at the present time with the inflationary trend in the country and the greater organization of unionizm among public servents. The demand has been that public servents should have the right to strike this has been a contriversal matter for a good many years. But more recently under some conditions the have secured the right , some of them can strike. This is still a matter of contention because the public servents usually perform services that are not redily available to the public in the event that the services are suddenly gone.

FRANKFORD CEMETERY

Frankford Cemetery.

ANDERSON: The Honourable Judge Jacob Carroll, suddenly at the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, on Tues. Nov. 15, 1983. Jacob Carroll Anderson of Oakville. (Formerly of Belleville, beloved husband of Rhoda, Mary Bowles, dear father of David, of Vancouver, and Tom and Karen of Oakville. Loving grandfather of David, brother of Dr. Douglas Anderson of Coral Gables, Florida. And the late Marjorie Hudgin, of Belleville. Son of the late Rev. and Mrs. T.H.P. Anderson. Funeral service will be held at the "Russell Morden Chapel" of the Ward Funeral Home, 109 Reynolds St. Oakville, on Friday Nov. 18, at 2 p.m. Interment Belleville Cemetery. The family will receive friends after 1 p.m. Friday. In lieu of flowers donations to the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

ALEXANDER: Andrew (Veteran First World War) at

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