

Mr. Boldrick (12)

TAPE GUIDE

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Mr. Boldrick
Belcrest Villa
November 28, 1974

Case Number 12
Code: K/I/NH

B: Mr. Boldrick
N: Nancy Foster

- N: Where were you from originally?
- B: I was born right there on the farm where I lived.
- N: Where was ^{your} the farm?
- B: Out east of Plainfield, north of Plainfield
- N: Where did you go to school?
- B: Right there, about a mile from the school?
- N: Was it just a one room school?
- B: Uh-huh (yes)
- N: And who was the teacher?
- B: Oh, there were four or fived different teachers.
- N: Do you remember any in particular, maybe a favourite teacher you had?
- B: Eh?
- N: A favorite teacher you had or one you...?
- B: Oh, no. The first teacher I went to was a first cousin of mine.
- N: What was the name of the school?
- B: Mount Pleasant, no Moults School, Moults School, M-O-U-L-T-S.
- N: What kind of farming did your parents do?
- B: Just ordinary farming, dairy farming, milked cows, made butter.
- N: Made butter, where would you sell your butter and your milk?
- B: At the Belleville market.
- N: Every Saturday?
- B: Oh, yes, sometimes through to Saturday?
- N: And was marketing, was market day a really big day for you?
- B: Oh, yes. We had hens, had a bundh of hens and we used to take the eggs down there. People that bought the eggs, we took them

B: right to them.

N: Did you grow any crops?

B: Oh, yes we had cows, too.

N: What kind of crops did you have?

B: Oh, everything, grain, corn, everything, everything we used.

N: Now did you take over your parents farm, or did you have a farm of your own?

B: I lived right there, and then as soon as I got married and my son took over the farm.

N: Is your son still operating the farm?

B: Yes, runs a mail route too, not a mail route a school route.

N: Can you tell me ~~has~~ how farming methods have changed, say from the time you were small and your parents ran the farm to maybe when your son took over.

B: Well we didn't have much machinery when I, and after my son got older and big enough and I got big enough too we got machinery.

N: What kind of machinery?

B: All kinds, everything from a plough to a stable cleaner.

N: You said you did some carpentry work..?

B: Yes

N: Where was this?

B: It was at, on the airports. I was at mountain View, Picton, and Batawa over here.

N: What sort of work did you do?

B: Carpentry work, putting up the buildings.

N: Airplane hangars?

B: Airplane hangars we built, didn't have much to do with the airplanes though

N: What sort of things would you do on the farm for entertainment, like in the evenings?

B: I don't know, we used to go visiting nights, you know, always, you never know when somebody was coming.

N: And did you have sleigh ^{ing parties} rides and haying ^{ride} parties and that sort of thing?

B: Yes.

N: I suppose out on a farm, would the radio have been a big thing at night?

B: What's that?

N: A radio at night, listening to all the old radio shows?

B: We didn't have radio at that time.

N: You didn't?

B: NO

N: Do you remember getting your first radio?

B: Oh, yes.

N: Was it a big event?

B: Yes it was.

N: What kind of shows did you listen to on the radio?

B: I don't know hardly what kind. Us young fellers used go visiting nights, you know, so you never know when somebody was coming.

You didn't have to wait for an invitation then to go. You just felt like
thought-ef going someplace, you just up and went.

N: Did you help each other out with farm work, sort of a community effort on things like harvesting.

B: Yes, yes we sure did. The thrashing machines in the fall, we used to store the grain in the barn and then the thashing machines would come ~~around~~ along and we'd all turn out, out to thrash.

- N: You talked about going to market on Saturdays. What kind of prices would you get for things like eggs and butter?
- B: Any where from 9¢ a dozen up for eggs, butter, all prices.
- N: Can you tell us a bit more about farming methods, the planting and that sort of thing?
- B: We used to have just little spots here and there. Maybe half an acre in the place. Just had... well my first uncle had oxen. Then horses. And a plough.
- N: So it would have been a lot harder work than it is now.
- B: Yes. People don't know what hard work is now. My parents both come from... one come from Ireland another come from England.
- N: Whereabouts in Ireland and England did they come from?
- B: I really couldn't tell you. I had the papers at home there and I had my marriage ^{and everything else} and I couldn't find it. ^{them}
- N: Did they get married in England or...?
- B: No they were married out here.
- N: Out here?
- B: Mother come out first. Then my father came out about a year or so after. Settled on the next place to them.
- N: Do you remember what year it was they came over?
- B: Well, could you figure there?
- N: ^{was} Was it be...? It was before this century?
- B: Oh yes. ^{Mother} ~~Well~~ ^{she} ~~he~~ was eight years old when ^{she} ~~they~~ come. ^{out}
- N: How old was your father?
- B: I really don't know. I was only three years old when he died.

B: But I don't know much about him.

N: Who ran the farm after your father died?

B: Well we were still living on it.

N: Who ran it? Did your mother run it?

B: No, we worked it, my brothers worked it.

N: You had older brothers?

B: Yes

N: How many were there in your family?

B: There was six of us. I was three years old when he died.

N: Did you do any service during the wars?

B: No, I was all alone.

N: Running the farm?

B: Running the farm, yes.

N: What was your mother's maiden name.

B: Wallace.

N: You say she lived on the farm next to your father's?

B: Yes, after my father died she lived on the farm, us boys had got up big enough to run it.

N: Where did your wife come from, did she live on a farm near you?

B: She lived back near Hungerford. That's where she, she was born back there. She was living down near Shannonville when I married her.

N: Was she from a farm?

B: Yes

N: What sort of things would you do within the farms to celebrate things like Christmas? Would you have big parties out there?

B: Yes

N: Sleigh rides and that sort of thing?

B: Sleigh rides, we used to sleigh ride nights.

N: Can you tell me something about the area you came from up around Roslin and Plainfield? Were there any sort of industries or maybe a general store, or things like that?

B: There was a store and a post office, a post office about every mile or better, two or three stores.

N: General stores?

B: Yes. Oh, there was quite alot of stores. There was a blacksmith, and there was cabinet makers, and that make wagons and the likes of that.

N: Can you remember the name of the people that made wagons?

B: The which?

N: The carriage makers.

B: Rutherford

N: Rutherford?

B: He made at Roslin.

N: Do you remember any mills, saw mills, grist mills back there?

B: There was Pouchers Mills, Latta Mills, Latta, L,A,T,T,A, a saw mill.

N: What about churches in the area?

B: Within a mile of us.

N: What churches were there?

B: The Methodist Church, they were a mile and there was another one about four or five miles.

N: Both Methodists?

B: Yes. There was all kinds of churches. There was Church of England and Presbyterian Methodists, there wasn't any United at that time.

N: And were you a Methodist?

- B: Yes. They joined the churches, you know, a number of years ago.
- N: Do you remember the churches joining?
- B: Oh, yes.
- N: And were the people in the area, were they basically for the joining or against it?
- B: Oh, most of them was for it. They took a vote on it and they carried it.
- N: Do you remember the names of any of the churches?
- B: Mount Pleasant was our church, Plainfield, Roslin, Church of England.
- N: Did you have any activities in the church outside of the church service?
- B: Which?
- N: Any sort of activities in the church outside of the church service?
- B: We used to have, revival meetings they called them. They had one pritten near every year.
- N: Did they have a women's group? A women's group with big fall Bazars and things?
- B: No, I don't know as they did. They used to have what they called a revival meeting and it would last for maybe six weeks or two months, nights.
- N: What would you do at a meeting like this?
- B: Well the preacher would be there and he'd preach and get them to come up front and join the church. . . . I built airports all over. I was boss on the airports for a long long time, carpentry work you know.
- N: Was this when the airports were starting up? Did you go out and build the airport for them?

B: Yes.

N: So you wouldn't have had much to do with the planes.

B: Oh, no, we didn't have nothing to do with the planes. After they got the planes in we had to go up and go through the gates. They shot at us one morning, shot the bullets right up over our heads.

N: Oh, dear. Were they airforce planes?

B: Yes.

N: What year would this have been, before the first war or the second war?

B: First war.

N: Before the first war or during the first war?

B: Yes

N: And did they train ^{pilots} ~~pilots~~ there?

B: Yes they did.

N: Do you remember any of the kinds of planes they had?

B: No we didn't have much to do with the planes. They were awful strict after the planes came in and the gas came in and every thing they were awful strict..... a log house

N: A log house?

B: A log house first.

N: Did your father build the house.

B: Well I guess maybe, I don't remember that long, I guess maybe he did. Then we got building to it, the last I built myself.

N: What sort of, how many rooms did the log house have.

B: Oh, one, two, three, three rooms besides the upstairs. The upstairs wasn't finished.

N: What kind of heating would you have in a house like that, fire places?

B: Wood, fireplaces.

N: Did you cut the wood off your own property?

B: Yes.

N: Did you cut any wood for the saw mills and things like that or was it just for your own use?

B: Yes saw mills too.

N: Where would you take it?

B: Chi~~els~~olms, at that time. That's back near Roslin. Sold alot of wood. I drew alot of wood to Shannonville for four dollars a cord.

N: And how big would a cord of wood be?

B: A cord of wood was four by eight by eight, no, fourr by four by eight.

N: And how would you haul this wood?

B: Team of hourses.

N: Would you do most of your lumbering in the winter?

B: How's that?

N: Would you do most of this in the winter when you weren't...

B: Yes.

N: And would you have, what kind of wood was it back there, what kind of trees?

B: Maple the most of it, maple and elm.

N: Did you have a sugar bush?

B: Yes.

N: Did you sell your sugar on the market or was it just for your own family.

B: For our own family and market too. I'd deliver it around to the people.

N: Can you tell us how you would make the sugar out in the bush.

B: We just had a big arch, something like a big a... we had pans

B: at that time but the first we run off we only had kettles, then we got up a little higher and we got pans. Some years we'd make a hundred gallons.

N: How much would you sell a gallon for?

B: Anywhere from twenty-five cents up.

N: For a gallon?

B: Yes.

N: I think it's a couple of dollars a quart, ^{now}

B: I guess so, more than that.

N: And would you sell it on the Belleville market.

B: Out in the wagon and peddle it around. One woman bought thirteen gallons. She wouldn't want to buy that now, would she?

N: ^{No}, Did the Belleville market run all year round?

B: Yes

N: Was it a closed in market?

B: Well there was a closed in market and an open market both.

N: Where was the market located in Belleville? Behind the city hall like it is now?

B: Right, yes right behind the city hall. We used to sell the wood there on the market too, and they'd come there and buy it then we'd deliver it to their houses.

N: Firewood?

B: Yes

N: What do you remember about Belleville from your visits? What kind of town was it when you came in on Saturday for your market?

B: Oh, it was, I don't know.

N: Well it wasn't as large as it is now.

B: ^{Oh no.} My uncle was a policeman here.

N: On the Belleville force?

B: Yes, he was a policeman for a long time.

N: Did they have a large police force at that time?

B: I think there was about eight all together.....

N: Would you like to go over that bit again about the river.

B: The big river, yes, we used to drive logs down it in the spring, logs down from the north country.

N: And what was this place Mrs. Duffy was talking about?

B: Skuttle hole.

N: What was it?

B: Well it was just a big hole up along the river, there was hardly any bottom to it, just off the side of the river.

N: Was it filled with water?

B: Filled with water, yes, up so high?

Did you use it as

N: [^] Was ~~it~~ a swimming place?

B: No, it wasn't hardly big enough. There used to be an awful lot of people go to see it. It used to be hollow, hollow in under, you could hear the water running in under, in the ground People would come from miles and miles to see that skuttle hole.

N: What was the name of the river it ran near?

B: Moira

N: The Moira.

DEATHS

BOLDRICK, William — Of Belcrest Nursing Home and formerly of Plainfield (7th Concession Tyendinaga) on Thursday morning, June 3, 1976 at the Belleville General Hospital, in his 90th year. Beloved husband of the late Sarah Alma Johnston. Loving father of Mrs. Raymond Lawrenson (Hilda), Belleville, Norman of Plainfield. Loved by 5 grandchildren.

Friends may call at the Grant Funeral Home, 44 Front Street, North, Belleville, where services will be held in the Chapel on Saturday, June 5 at 1:30 p.m. Reverend James Stewart officiating.

Interment Victoria Cemetery.

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WILLIAM BOLDRICK
Plainfield

Funeral for William Boldrick of Concession 7, Tyendinega was conducted June 5 by Rev. James Stewart from Grant Funeral Home to Victoria Cemetery, Plainfield for burial.

He died June 3 after a lengthy illness at Belleville General Hospital in his 89th year.

Bearers were Earl Harrison, Ted Wilson, Allan Gibson, Gene Hunt, Frank Shannon and Joe Shannon.

Mr. Boldrick is survived by daughter Hilda (Mrs. Raymond Lawrenson) of Belleville, son Norman of Plainfield and by five grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife the former Sarah Alma Johnston, by brothers George, John and Andrew and by his sister Eliza.

Born at Concession 7, Tyendinega, Mr. Boldrick was self-employed as a farmer and carpenter and he worked until the early 1970's. He was employed by the Tyendinega School Board and he was a member of Roslin United Church where he was an Elder and active in other church activities.