Linda Cote

May 26,1972

2½ hours

1. Mrs. S.B.Moore (Edna Kerr)
2. 34 Mary St. New Liskeard
3. 75 years old

I was four years old when I came here on Oct. 9,1901. I was born near Guelph, Ont., we came by boat as this was the only means of travel and it took us three days to come from Brantford.

There was a building called Government House where new arrivals could stay while they built a house (which were called shanties) to settle in. A whole family would be alotted one room. I can remember the day we arrived and came from Sharpe Bay in a lumber wagon, there was mud up to the wheels and it pouring rain, there was my father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, and three of us children and we got one of these rooms. We had to sleep on the floor until Father got our house built right next to the Methodist Church.

Right after my father had our house built we moved in and my uncle and his family arrived and that made fourteen of us living in our 12 foot wide house with 2 beds. Mother use to feed us children first then they would eat. Mother could not keep food ahead, she had to bake every day. One Sunday (on Sundays we were not allowed to do anything) she was baking and the minister came to the door and she was mortified.

My father William E. Kerr was the first foreman of the first roads built here. They called him the colization road inspector in 1905 to 1 920.The next two years after this he built bridges, any old wooden bridge that you might s ee to-dayaround here was built by him. People that wanted roads would make a petition up and bring it to my father , he would present it to the Government to get their road. He was well liked and known all over the area.

In 1908 he travelled almost eight months by horse and buggy for roads.

In 1914 we moved to Hilliard Township on a farm.

I went to school on Whitewood Grove in New Liskeard. There was one room one teacher for eight grades.

I can remember John Grills General Store across the river. He often use to run out of things when the ice was froze over and the boats could not get through, but it was not thick enough for the horses to cross, often they w ould drown trying to cross. I remember once running short of coal oil and salt, we bought salt pork and scraped it to get the salt off of it.

Binkley's also had a general store and I remember one Spring it was so hot and all the people had to waer their long winter underwear until the boat came. One evening at 7.00 P.M. it came in and Mr. Binkley was selling the underwear

right there at the dock as they brought it off the boat, he never had time to get it to his store.

I married Blain Moore in 1921, he was working in the Imperial Bank in Cobalt where he had started in 1911. He went overseas and after he came back we lived in New Liskeard. He then went to Kirkland Lake where he worked for an Insurance Business. In 1933 he bought D. Stewarts Insurance Business (he was the first Insurance Agent) down where the Bank of Nova Scotia is to-day and he workes there until 1962.

We had very good times in these days, we made our own entertaiment. We use to have box socials, dances and sleigh rides to Uno Park.

I would love to see the tourism stepped up and an outlet for crafts that could be sold as there is some beautiful things around.

I spin and weave for a past time, every fall we have a sale of spun and woven articles here in my house for the church and it is very successful. I am never bored.

Mrs. Moore has a beautiful collection of antiques in her house such as: her grandfathers plush vest trimmed with jewel buttons, one of her grandmothers chairs, two chairs of her mothers, a love seat ensemble, crystal, dishes, foot stools, even an old shoe store seat that you use to sit on to try on shoes, many many more items, and any number of pictures i.e. one of her father on their farm in Hillard Town = ship, the first Hotel in New Liskeard, Canada Hotel, first Post Office 1895-1902, New Liskeard Harbour-1903, her grandfathers report card 1871, a brooch made out of melted coins from the 1922 fire in Haileybury.

This is taken from a graduation exercise programme that she has:
New Liskeard Public School, 1906 since 1895.
Miss Cochrane now Mrs. Jas. Brown first teacher until 1898.
Miss Dawzer 1898 to 1900.
In spring of 1901 built a new 2 storey school which cost $2000.00 and had 87 children enrolled in it.
In 1906 had seven teachers: Miss Sproule, Miss Baynes, Miss McLachlin, Miss Hewsons, Miss Gaugh, Miss Stonehouse.
Board of trustees in 1906 were: J.H.O"Brien, Rev. John Shapre, George Hansman, E. Monaghan, James Mathews, Rev. F.E.Pitts B.A.