Christabel Bremner

Feb.21,1972
2 - 4:30 p.m.

1. George Alvin Bateson - Wilhelmina
2. Allie (most common nickname)
3. McGillivray
4. 143 Pine West, New Liskeard.
5. 647-5052
6. Mr. Bateson will be 83 on June 5 (1889).Mrs. Bateson will be 73 in Dec.
7. Mr. Bateson was born in Mindon Township,Ont. Mrs. Bateson was born at St. Anne, Quebec near Vaudreil so I would presume this to be St. Anne de Bellevue.
8. The Bateson family was from the Haliburton area and Mr. Bateson's mother was of German origins. Mrs. Bateson had no idea where her people were from originally.
9.
10. Mr. Bateson came north in 1890. Mrs. Bateson came here from hockeal, Glengarry County in June 1907.
11. The Batesons took the train to Mattawa and the steamboat from South Temiskaming. Ville Marie was settled earlier than this area and the early settlers to Northeastern Ont. were told that the Indians would kill them. Mr. Bateson told how his father would take the canoe to the Hudson's Bay Post at Haileybury to buy groceries. Upon his return to Liskeard he would pull his canoe up onto the bank and leave under it what groceries he could not carry. The Indians never touched either the groceries or the canoe. Mrs. Bateson's family came by train.
12.
13. Mr. and Mrs. Bateson, Allie and his sister. Mr. and Mrs. McGillivray, a sister and a brother, another brother came north later.
14. Jack of all trades, labourer, logging, clearing land, carpenter at Hill Clarke last 17 years he worked.
15. Mrs. Bateson married early. Housewife
16. Retired
17. Housewife

7A Mr. Bateson spent 22 months in France with the 228th. He left June 3, 1916, and returned to Toronto in March 1919.

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18. Mrs. Bateson remembered the station being knee deep in mud.
19. Mr. Bateson didn't remember anything but he knew that his parents left the hard rocky farm of Haliburton to come to the clay belt.
20. He told me that most of the Liskeard area was a cedar swamp then the second growth was used for spruce pulp. The town paid Harry Davis to plant the cedars along the river bank after the Fisher Block was moved to the opposite side of Sharpe St. Mr. Davis was an Englishman who married a Jelly, Audrey Turner is his dauther daughter. Bill Madill planted the trees at the high school.
21. Farming and logging.
22. Till it was done.
23. 1895 - McFaydens hired men to cut cedar at Sutton Bay for $24. a month. Emmerson paid trail cutters $17. for 26 days a month. A worker could not be forced to work in the rain but he still got his pay. The coming of J.R. Booth's Lumber Co. from Ottawa changed this and paid men by the hour, thus if it rained, they didn't get paid. Booth had lumber limits to Matachewan from Elk Lake. $17. a month was their pay rate for that area and quite often after a winter's work, the men owed the company money at the company shop. MacDougall and then Tessier were agents for Booth lumber at Elk Lake. Mr. McCamus and Mr. McKelvie ran a lumber mill and Mr. Bateson went to work for them when he was seventeen. He worked cutting in the camp. They slept on balsom brush in the camps. Bob Thompson was the foreman. Mort Mason and Sam Micks ran the dump cart which carried the slabs (4 ft. length). Charlie Dozier was the teamster and Alex Douglas was the walking boss. Sometimes McCamus and McKelvie didn't make enough to pay the men but they always made their employees credit good at the stores. At that time the Temiskaming and Hudson Bay Mining Company was paying big dividends. Mr. Bateson's mother kept the McKelvies supplied with crocks of butter. Mr. Ritchie cut the road through to Hilliardton.
24. The Batesons were married Nov. 15/16 and their honeymoon home was a room in Toronto.
25. Bateson had been accepted into the army and he had received his vaccination on his arm.
26. Their first home in Liskeard was on the Creighton farm near where Mick's now live on Dawson Point Road. Bill Craig was the homestead inspector.

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27. They got water from a spring 100 yards from house.
28. The Batesons cooked on a wood stove until ten years ago. He remembers using sulpher in the stove to kill the bed bugs.
29. Up until ten years ago, they also heated with coal but then the gas line was put down Pine Street.
30.
31. Playing on the lake. Mr. Bates told me of a Sunday in 1901, he was 12 years old. There was a Northwest wind blowing and he was out rowing in a punt on the lake. At about dinnertime he saw flames near the point and ran home. They only had time to move one wagon load before everything else was destroyed by a forest fire.
32. Work - he was nine and his brother Lawrence was seven and they had to saw wood.
33. When the Batesons came to New Liskeard they farmed on Dawson Point Road. His father was John and his uncle was called Jumbo. They owned or squatted on the first place east of John Dawson's property. The point at that time was known as Wabi Point. Mr. Bateson's father along with a Mr. Spence, and a Mr. Davison built their own school and hired their own teacher. Ada Hamond was the first teacher and the three men each arranged to board the teacher in their home for part of the year while sharing the expenses three ways. Other teachers at the little school were Miss Parker (she was only 15) Billy Evans, Maud Wilson (sister of P.T. Havelor) and Sadie Harmer. When school was moved to Ball's school on the north road, Mr. Bateson's schooling ended. Mrs. Bateson attended the local school and received her entrance at 14.
34.
35.
36. Dr. McNaughton, then Dr. Field and Dr. Young. Mr. Bateson had typhoid fever in 1922 the time of the big fire.
37.
38. The Batesons have one daughter Dorothy Thompson and she lives in North Bay.
39. Dorothy finished school at nineteen and got married.
40.
41.
42.

43.

44.

45.

46. Regular clothes everyday but on Sunday.

47. On Sunday there was a special outfit which you wore to Sunday school or Church and then came home and changed.

48.

49. They have some wedding gifts that are 56 years old. Mrs. Bateson has a picture from school in 1914. She has a dance card with the tiny pencil from the Lumberman's Ball at the Town Hall in Haliburton dated Friday March 14, 1884, and an invitation to a function in the same area in the year 1888.

50. No answer either way about changes.

51.

52.

53.

54.

55.

56.

57.

58. Mr. Bateson likes the fall.

59. They bowl on Thursday and attend the Senior Citizens Club on Tuesday

60. No hobbies Mr. Bateson has a ring(still wears it) which he made out of silver. They read, he does some carpentry. He has a forged steel sharpening which he used at the mines and prospecting.

61. The mines are all mined out therefore we need industry related to farming.

62.

63.

Highlights

Mr. Bateson told a story about the Reverand Hickland. He would hold a service at Dawson Point and he was quite gullable. One day he asked a question about the current streaks on the lake and was quite fascinated by the fact that they were the results of cracks in the ice the previous winter. He would never stay for dinner at anyone's home.

When he was 5, Mr. Bateson told me that he remembers the Jehovah's

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Witnesses or Malinium Don's as they were known at that time, saying that the world would end in 14 years. The Jehovah's Witnesses all lived in Harris Township - Ritchies, Charles Tucker, Bob Phillips and had big families.

Bill Judge challenged the Presbyterian Minister Pitts to a race down the streets of Ville Marie on white horses on July 12 (Orangeman's Day)

Mr. Tom Armstrong, who lives at the Manor had a hired man whose name was Ross. He had a [illegible] beard of bright red whiskers. Ross supposedly found two large skeletons in a shanty on Windy Point. The skeletons were giants because the jaw bone would fit over Ross's beard. There were also heads and rusty knives. The skeletons had been covered with limestone. Mr. Bateson said no Indian would stay over night at Windy Point because they believed it to be haunted. It was originally called Pacey's Point after Tom Pacey. Didn't know what happened to the skeletons.

Dawson's Point was originally Wabi Point. In 1893 John Armstrong gave squatters rights to John [illegible].Dawson. Mr. Armstrong was the first Crown Land Agent. The Indians trapped and Mr. Brunson cut and squared timber there.

Lucy Damiani May 12,1972

Add to George Alvin Bateson Interview, New Liskeard

Families at Dawson Point

Mr. and Mrs. George Waugh, Mr. and Mrs. John Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Tucker, mr. and Mrs. Pollie Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Carr, mr. and Mrs. J. Cadman, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Allie Bateson, Lawrence Bateson brother of Ollie sister Agnes Bateson, Mr. and Mrs. John Spence, Mr. and Mrs. Farr, Mr. and Mrs. John Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson (Waugh), mrs Menary, Dick Russell his wife and son Albert, Mr. and Mrs. McKormack, Mr. and Mrs. Laidlow, Maggie Burns.

Jumbo Bateson owned what was called Jumbo Farms at south end of lake 2 miles out of what is now Dymond-Harris Township.

Sunnydale Cabins and Stevensons farms were on Harris Township Concession #4!

Mr. Fitzpatrick had a sleep camp but it burned down.

Mr. Farr, C.C.Farr's father lived at spot where Don Gibson Cabins are to-day.

John Mann's mother lived at location of Moore's now.

My father, John Dawsonand John Spence built first road, below hill on back part of point close to Don Gibson Cabins to-day. First school teacher was Mrs. Bob Herron (Edna Dumond) and besides receiving a small pay most of the families on the point agreed to take turns keeping their teacher at their home for free room and board.

Maggie Burns had a hotel at the Narrows.

All supplies came in by boat live cattle, vegetables and all that was needed.

In those days we didn't pay taxes. Until it became an organized township, we bought squatters rights.

Mrs. Gibson (Annie Waugh) and Mrs. Menary have been in the homes they are living in now for 42 years.

In 1889 John Dawson bought settlers rights to the Point from Indians known as the Wabis? He cleared 25 to 30 acres below hill on the back part. He farmed and for futher keep contracted in winter.

When my dad came he was working for Quebec Lumber Co. in Haliburton he and his

brother John Bateson were to come together but John heard some stories about how the Indians would kick them out so he backed out and my father came alone. He took the Meteor from Ville Marie.

On Christmas Day 1922 it rained and Captain Reynolds was firing his steam engine on Lake Temiskaming by Windsor Hotel. Everyone that remembered said that was the year the lake didn't freeze over and the same thing had previously happened in 1900.

Once a year there was what was called Procession Sunday and the priest and Indians all had a big day.

Dick and son Albert Russell owed the bank and George Taylor Harware so much that they had a foreclosure and seized everything thry held a sale and I think John Wilson was bailif. There was a metal case piano biught by Tom McChesney in the auction.

Charlie Tucker came up and located north of Ritchies a farm on the lake he and Bob Phillips split 160 acres into 2 lots on which there were no roads. They anded up with 80 acres each of lake frontage.

Anglican Church was at the Point. Mrs. Bateson has hymn books from there.

Bill Jelly was a Massey Harris Dealer.

McKormack planted acres on farmland he bought but he was no farmer and lost everything.

Albert Russell and his father Dick owned George Taylor Hardware and Bank so much they foreclosed on them and seized everything. Hels an auction sale. John Wilson was balif. There was a metal case piano being auctioned and Sam McChesney bought it.

My father John Dawson and John Spence used to cut cedar posts and logs and took them to Ville Marie. to see JR.Booth Lumber.

Once a year the Catholic Church held what was called Procession Sunday and the priests and Indians walked in the procession.