

Joanna Stubinski May 16,1972
3 hours

1. Mrs. Gertrude Underwood
2. Gertie
3. Gartside
4. R.R#1, Cobalt
5. 679-8629
6. 76
7. Oedem Lancashire, England. A seaside resort
8. England
9. England

10. March 3,1910 - went to Port Arthur May 10,1910 moved to Cobalt. Mother and I came ahead as dad had to wait for his cheque. I was 12 years old mum and dad were in there early 30's., when we said we were going to Cobalt. The conductor said, we had better not get off the train there as there would be no place to stay especially for 2 women, but my uncle Bill Creighton lived there, so we knew there was no problem. I remember when

we got off the train mom was wearing her seal skin coat, there were flowers around in the gardens so mum telephoned Uncle Bill. They lived at the Princess Prop. We stayed with them for a while. I remember it was

fever time and tents all over the Nipissing and Connor Hill. Dad came the following day. He worked at Princess Cobalt Lake and Mining Corp. I went to school in the old Public School. Never worked after I finished (home) school. Mom kept boarders and I stayed home to help. I taught myself music and still play today. Uncle Bill helped dad build a 14 by 16 house. On the property they built down by Uncle Bill's. We nearly froze that winter the following year we built a better home and here mom kept boarders. Jack Underwood my husband stayed with us. I was about 17 then-he enlisted in 1914 went overseas and returned Oct. 1918. In the meanwhile we moved to Toronto for a few years. Where I worked for telephone office. Started at \$8.00 a week, but worked a lot of overtime. When Jack came back from the war he came to Toronto to visit us, and stayed for awhile. He asked me to marry him. I said yes we went back to Cobalt and married in the Baptist Church in 1919. Jack worked at McKinley and Darragh. Also King Edward Mines. Which reminds me - Gertrude's first X-mas in Cobalt was grand. She had her first X-mas tree, and her mother had dressed for Eaton Beauty Dolls. For her Lize and Allison Creighton. A month after we were married the mines went on strike. So Jack got a job at the pumping station on the Mud Lake. This belonged to the Mine Managers. After the mines had used so much water they would have to repay it to the Town of Cobalt. So they needed this station. Jack was paid \$125. a month

first 3 children were born there. Part of the cement walls still there today - when the place closed Jack and I moved to West Cobalt. Ted went to school there for a while. We lived there a few years then Jack bought a lot on Gillies Lake(Mud). We had heard the highway was going through there but things changed so we bought where we are now. and have been here over 40 years. This is known as Underwood's corner or better known "Dead Man's Corner" as so many people have been killed or hurt in car accidents. When we first moved there there was a big Sand Hill with a rickety old bridge. In the

summertime the blue berries were really something. Now I never see any. We had 7 children in 1910 West Cobalt had streets. People had a wonderful time dancing and singing till dawn. My dad played the concertina at most of these parties. I remember before I was married and living with my parents when we were delivered groceries. It was brought by horse and the horse would be up to his tummy in water. They brought us coal oil in a can with a potato in the spout If they hadn't come that way it would have been necessary to go right around the lake. We went to town by street car as it went in and out to Kerr Lake. It costs 5cents to go. We caught it at McKinley Daraugh Mine. Cobalt was very busy then night and day. I would say there was no more than 5,000 people. I remember when Red Lake started they took all the dogs from Cobalt for dog teams. When they brought them back into the spring there were so many around they started selling dog licences. I think the actual downfall of Cobalt was when the Prince of Wales

came. He was a young man the day dawned, grey and dreary and never changed. Colonel Rodgers as he was called the Manager of Coniagas where they took the prince even the mine looked grey and cold. I think after this visit they pulled out most of their money from Cobalt. Meaning the Royal family. Because it just never picked up afterwards. My treasures are few as each time my family comes they clean out the attic and basement. I still have my piano and my home which I treasure. I remember being at the first Ladies Auxiliary meeting in 1939 for the Legion. Mrs. Adshead, Mrs. Leonard, and Mrs. Coles and myself would walk into Cobalt and back. We thought nothing of it. I don't spend too much time there now as I have no way of getting into town. Mrs. Underwood is a sweet elderly lady. I had never met her before but I'm sure I've made a friend and "boy" can she make scones. She was also thrilled to pieces because I drank only tea.