

Bula Lathem

May 30, 1972

1½ hours

1. Henry Vahey
2. North Cobalt, R.R.1
5. 672-3818
6. 65 years
7. New Liskeard
8. Mother Newcastle, England, Father Tarbalton County.

My father came from the Ottawa Valley in 1904 came by horse all the way here. He was a jobber in the bush for J.R.Booth, Murphy, Grant and Kennedy. Moved out to the Old Temiskaming Mine by Kerr Lake in 1918 to look after a piggery and pigs took a disease and had to destroy them.

We came to North Cobalt and stayed until the Fall of 1922 just left before the fire and took up a farm in Lorraine. Here we took out mine timber for the Keeley and Frontier Mines in Silver Centre . At this time nearly everything was brought by boat to Silver Centre dock Captain Bill Bolger looked after the dock and the mail winter and summer to Silver Centre.

There was a Findlander settlement East of the Valley between the road and lake and they were real pioneers especially Otto Harju he was about six foot 5 inches and had to leave mining as he developed silicosis. He made his own lumber cut by hand made his own leather and boots and also for his family, tapped pine trees and made his own pine tar. Tanned his own leather and made harness for horses etc. made oxes planes, skis, practically everything he needed.

I worked in 1921 for Dept. of Highways putting a bridge in at Martineau Bay took the logs from Devil's rock. We got \$7.00 a day for man and team. We lived in a log house 16 feet square and the cracks were packed with moss out of bush. This house was very warm small cast iron stove with four lids heated this. For entertainment we'd hitch up horses and pick up some at each farm house along the road and go to some ones house for a dance.

The first Post Office after we moved down there was at Jerry Bigelows and you address then was (Bigelow Ont.) after two years it was changed to Lorraine Valley. Now it's R.R.# North Coablt. Larry Bremmen and Art Commando drove horses for Keeley Mine there whole load of ore was put under seat of wagon and was loaded at Silver Centre dock and took to Haileybury and loaded in cars on railroad.

The ladt winter the mines worked in Silver Centre 1931-32 I drew timber down with four horse teams I received \$29.50 per day just for the hauling I paid 2½¢ for standing timber 7¢ for men to cut and load and I took 100 lagen to a land to Frontier. My expenses were 9½¢ a log for cutting and loading.

Joined army in 1942 when my age group was called. Took basic training in Sherbrooke Quebec then back to Camp Borden and took instructions for tank driver then spent winter in London Ont. and took a mechanics course then back to Camp Borden on tanks and had my back injured then to Christie St. Hospital and then discharged..