INTERVIEWER: Dianne Zieman DATE: March 15, 1972

INTERVIEW: TIME: 1 hr. 45 min.

1. Mrs. Janet McFarlane
2.
3. Janet Wattam
4. 50 Mary St., New Liskeard
5. 647-4558
6. 73.
7. Frontenac County - Godfrey, near Kingston, Ontario.
8. Parents from there - Father at Harrismith, Mother from Godfrey.
9. England - Granpa McFarlane was Irish.
10. Came to New Liskeard in 1916.
11. Came on the train; brought furniture and cattle in the box car.
12. Tichborne - out of Kingston; doesn't remember the exact route, but they probably went to Toronto to North Bay and from there to New Liskeard.
13. Three - her two brothers and herself - their parents were dead.
14. Her brothers came on a farm - they brought their own cattle and farm machinery. Her husband worked on a farm when they were first married; then they went into the meat and grocery business - at one point they had a store in Cobalt, although they continued to live in New Liskeard and surrounding area.
15. Worked on the farm; she used to make butter and go to the market in Cobalt to sell butter, cream and vegetables. Would go to Cobalt by streetcar and take everything over in a big basket or box.
16. Deceased.
17. Retired.
17. (a) W.W.11 meant good times for them - were in Kirkland Lake and they had work. Mrs. McFarlane has moved several times: from the farm to New Liskeard - they had a business where Holmes now is; then moved to another house on Armstrong Street. From there, to the farm - during the Depression in the '30's; then to Cadillac, Quebec in 1938. Only stayed

17. (a) continued .... there for a year because the schools were not very good for the children; then moved to Kirkland Lake - stayed there for about 30 years. Her husband got sick and they moved to Charlton - there for four years and then he died. Mrs. McFarlane moved back to New Liskeard - has been here for about ten years now.
Many young men in the area went to fight in the war; no big victory celebrations as far as she remembers, although there must have been something at the end of the war.

18. They moved because down in Kingston area, all the farmland was rough and stony. Lived on the North Road about two miles out - no stones. Good soil. Still loves it here. A lot of people grumble about it, but she likes it.

19. Not too many people - there was no pavement on the streets then; the wagons would come into town juston ruts. All horses and buggies in the summer and horses and sleighs and cutters in the winter.

20. Their aunt and uncle owned a good farm; he was stationmaster in Haileybury. He had cleared the farm and kept writing to her brother and told them that it was good up here - better opportunities. They took their uncle's word for it that there was good soil and a better farming district than where they had lived. Everybody didn't have an education to do other things.

21. Hill, Clark & Francis were here - Mr. Clark built this house - one of the first houses in this town. There was a Mr. Armstrong who was connected with the Hudson Bay Company and so Mr. Clark built this house for him. Mr. Clark's son runs the business for him now. There was the Wabi Iron Works - that was about all the industry- mostly a farmer's town. The hospital was away up on the hill; still there but it is an apartment building now. No beach at that point. Nobody thought the Dawson Point Road would be like it is now - just farms out there then.
The old Cadmans lived out on the Point; Mr. Fitzpatrick had a farm out there - Mr. Gibson has that farm now - he must have been in the lumber business then as he built nice buildings, including a barn with a sil

22. Early morning until late at night on the farm.

23. No pay - just was keeping house for her brothers - not a regular job.

24. Very nice house and the land all around was cleared off - lovely and level, both wide and long - not a tree on it. Quite a good size house; three bedrooms - the house was on the farm when they arrived; her uncle had built it.

25. Certainly all alone, just the three of them. Always had a little tree. They were all pretty well grown up by then - her youngest brother was fourteen; other brother was 30 years of age. Her oldest sister worked for the railroad - she worked first in Haileybury up here and then moved to New Liskeard. She had lived in a boxcar in Haileybury with her aunt and uncle until the stationhouse was finished. Originally, this sister had worked in Kingston then was transferred up here when the railroad went through.

26. There was a drilled well right at the door.

27. Had an Aladdin lamp - burned kerosene oil - had some kind of a little cone in it so it gave a lovely light. She couldn't remember where they had bought it - probably a traveller was going through selling them.

28. Wood stove.

29. By the wood stove.

30. Grocery stores - a blacksmith shop, as there was always a village blacksmith because of the number of horses. A stationery store. Hardware stores. Butcher shops were pretty well separate then - carried a few groceries then but not many. Clothing stores. An ice cream parlour - the Sir girls owned it. Greenwood's had an ice cream parlour and grocery store.

31. Opera house - people would put on plays. Perhaps outsiders would come in and perform. Maybe the odd political meeting would be held there - she remembers attending one there. No movie theatres - silent pictures were shown in the Opera House, which was where Canadian Tire now is. The fires around here did more harm in Haileybury and further north around Matheson. They fought like anything to save the hospital in New Liskeard during '22; everybody got out of town as they were sure the town was going to go but the wind turned just in time. She has a newspaper clipping of the old firewagon pulled by a horse.

32. None - brothers neither. Working on the farm didn't leave them with enough time and energy to participate in sports.

33. No.

34. as above.

35. Horses, buggies; streetcar and a rough trail between towns. They used to have two seated things called a Democrat - longer than a buggy - the two seats were one behind the other. Some people even had cutters built like that although she never saw one like itaround here. Lots of people just had a wagon. Must have been someone around who sold wagons. Livery stables - used like taxis - Mr. Brown had a stable and Mr. Kennedy had a little bus-like wagon pulled by horses - kind of glassed in wagon. He would drive people from the station to their hotels or whatever in town - would take the people from the train downtown with their luggage.

36. Dr. McNaughton. He would drive with a horse and cutter or buggy in the summer - would go all through the country and would go out at any time, day or night. Had a little spaniel dog that would run behind him. She wonders why he never picked the dog up and let it ride in the wagon with him - but the dog seemed to enjoy running behind. The doctor must have had a faithful horse - she would see the doctor nodding in the wagon as if he were half asleep - probably was, considering the hours he had to keep, and the horse would just plod along.

36. continued .... Dr. McCullough came when the town started to grow.

37. The hospital up on the hill - never been in a hospital in her life and doesn't intend to. Lots of nurses - had an operating room. Good as they could have in this area for those times.

38. Out on the farm, over in Harris Township.

39. Evelyn - at 18, started to work at the telephone company.
Jean - at 18, she went to work for Mr. Clark at Hill, Clark & Francis.
One son, at 18, started to work in the gold mines in Kirkland - there until he got married, then joined the O.P.P. Moved to Vancouver and is now working as an electrician.
Her other son worked in the gold mines too until he was killed in a rock fall at Kirkland Lake.

40. as above.

41. The mines were pretty well advanced by the time they had moved to Kirkland Lake and her sons were working there. The miners started to strike then - she doesn't think the town or the mines were ever the same after that. Doesn't think that conditions were very different, although on the farms, they didn't have electric lights and water in the houses. Bathrooms were simply a little house out back. But, it was a good life - grew their own garden and raised their own meat. It's different now - don't know what you are eating. The big problem was to have a basement so that things didn't freeze - no furnace. Her brothers would bank the snow up around the house to act as insulation. They stored the vegetables and the wild fruit that they picked in the basement - canned fruit and put meat into jars to preserve. Also, they would salt pork - would pack it down in the summer.

42. Not applicable.

43. & 44. Good, always lots of vegetables and meat. Probably not good for everyone but they enjoyed it. The fact that you grew your own food, as there wasn't the money coming in with which to buy groceries, made it tastier. If you didn't go to work and grow anything - no food.

44. Continued .... Raised chickens for eggs and chickens for meat; also ducks and geese. Everyone in town used to have a little henhouse out back to grow chickens to produce eggs - cannot do that now - it isn't supposed to be healthy say the authorities. Seems a pity to her - seems the natural life for people to raise their food; also it was nice for the children. They always had a pet hen or chicken. Children had to split the wood - something for them to do.

45. Wore print housedresses - and large aprons. Sometimes, the apron was as big as the dress, then they cut it down to just a bib and a skirt type apron.

46. Always had good clothes for church on Sunday. When they came home, they would take these clothes off and change to something else - had to keep their Sunday clothes nice.

47. Church. Always had milking to do and chores to do. Now the farmers have milking machines - they must live the life of Riley now! Sundays were visiting days - always had visitors out on the farm.

48. A chair - liked the carving so she has kept it. Has a poster bed that she has also kept. Every time she moved, she does away with some more. Pretty small amount of things now. Has a brass bed stored away, altho' none of her children seem to want it They just left the pictures that they had in Kingston on the walls of the house when they left - apparently those pictures were quite valubale, although they didn't know it then.

49. Loves everything - doesn't know anything she doesn't like about it. The people, the air. Thinks it is the best place to live. Area doesn't have alot of industry to pollute the air - lots of good land for people if they want to farm and grow a living. Comfortable homes - what more could people want?

50. as above.

51. Getting electric lights, gas furnaces for central heating. Electric washing machines. Look at how the town has grown - the population increase. Things have gone ahead - nothing has gone the other way.

52. No.

53. No.

54. No.

55. No. People who lived here in the early days appreciate all this now, while their children have been used to the new things, and now can think of more things to be changed. Her daughter says she hates every minute of the winter. Can grow beautiful crops despite the long winters in this area - beautiful flowers, grain and vegetables. Lots of people think it is a terrible place to live - down south, they probably think we are just a bunch of Indians! Had a cousin come up to visit her and they went out to the Lookout - they just couldn't believe how lovely this country is. In years to come, the north will develop more than it has - doesn't know what it is that is holding it back now. Even the mines say that it is so expensive to ship out materials. Perhaps just having the one railroad, that railway can be too independent.

56. as above.

57. Spring - everything comes to life. You can then look forward to the summer and the fall.

58. Goes to Senior Citizens once a week and bowling once a week. Makes quilts and knits. Tried other hobbies, but she doesn't want anymore things in her house so why make things and just clutter up the place. Learned to paint china and weave in night school - liked weaving but wasn't particularly fond of it - had a little loom but gave it to her daughter. Mrs. Moore who lives along her street has a very large loom on which she weaves things like drapes, et.

59. as above.

60. There are a lot of people who could work but won't. Once they get welfare with no taxes deducted, how much better could it be. However, there is not much for people to work at. People depended so much on the mines and now, nearly all the mines are closed down. Think the young are choosy - want to do what they want to do and won't take anything else. Thinks the young are going to have to learn to go where the work is. The wives have to be prepared to go where their husbands can get work.

61. "I guess it depends on what the visitors like" - nothing more than the beaches. Visitors come to her house - she doesn't know what in the world to do with them - mostof them come in a trailor or car so that they can get around to see things. Little museum on the south Y into Kirkland Lake; another museum in Kirkland, and one in Cobalt. So many mosquitoes and blackflies - cannot expect people to come for a vacation up here, away from the city and to find everything from the city. Have sports here at the beach - the best we can muster - on a smaller scale than in the city.

62. Thinks that ~~that~~ if they come here to live, they have to come to work - the young don't seem impressed with the country. People who have nice farms in the south don't want to come up here to farm. With the spread of the cities, the farmers get a fantastic price for their land. Tourists - lots of fishing. Can go to Esker Park - east of King Kirkland - beautiful lakes.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Her husband's father came in here by boat - on the "Meteor". It was here even after the Wattams came from Kingston. The boat would take the tourists along the lake. The McFarlanes had brought their cattle up here on the boat - couldn't get close enough to the shore so they dumped the cattle off the boat and into the lake - the animals had to swim to shore.

HIGHLIGHTS - continued

McFarlanes lived out on the North Road - cleared all the bush back.

During the fire of '22, when they went out of town, along with most of the residents of New Liskeard, they stayed with some people out near the site of the present government farm. When they got home, they found some people from Haileybury in their house - hanging their wet clothes up. The people had to go to the lake to escape the fire.

FOLLOW:UP

Mr. Frank Herron

Mr. John Clark - son of original Clark of Hill, Clark and Francis