Barbara Riordon

May 9,1972
1 hour

1. Mr. John Albert Stewart
3. Northdale Manor, New Liskeard
5. Retired
6. Glasgow, Scotland
7. Scotland
8. Widowed
9. b86 years
10. He thinks Haileybury is an attractive town and he has had a good life there.

Haileybury's Past

Mr. Stewart arrived in Canada in 1910. He left Scotland because the country was in a depressed state due to continuous strikes in the shipyards. Mr. Stewart was rather outspoken about strikes and unions and his mother thought it best he leave the country before he was harmed. When he arrived in Canada at the age of 24, he boarded the Immigrants Train and crossed the country to British Columbia. He was going to work forhisuncles who were working in Washington State, USA. But he returned to Canada because he wanted to reamain a British subject. He returned to Vancouver. He remembers that the city then was a busy port where lumbering and shipbuilding were the primary activities. He did not want to work in either of these so he decided to return to Eastern Canada. He rode the rails back in empty box cars. Many men were travellingabout the country in this manner When war broke out he joined the Canadian Army and went overseas. When the war was over he returned to Canada.

In August of 1919 he sent for his girlfriend in Scotland. She came by boat and it cost him $300. for her ticket. She came up to Haileybury from Quebec ~~xxxx~~ by train. They were married in Haileybury by a methodist minister (a Mr. Matheson he believes). The only work that was readily available was as an underground miner in Cobalt. But this type of work did not agree with him and he had to stop it. He then decided to try farming. He bought some land west of Haileybury. He was completely ignorant of farming and soils but soon discovered that the land was too stoney and the soils poor. He did bush work on his land cutting jack pine and spruce. Both Mr. Stewart and his wife Eleanor were town people at heart and did not enjoy farming. But he adds that she was a much better cow milker than he. At the time of thefire in 1922 his wife and daughter were in town, buying groceries. He was working in the bush and took the wagon to look for them. He found them alongside the road with towels over their heads. They reutrned to the "so called farm' he said. Their farm and house did not burn. The smoke was so heavy it was almost black as night. When he went

into town after the fire he said he was utterly amazed at the destruction. E ything had burned except the north end of town. He said it reminded him of a battlefield. Three years after the fire he built a house in Haileybury Lumber was cheap then and he bought it from the Haileybury Lumber Company. At this time Mr. Stewart was cutting timber and taking it to a small local sawmill to have it cut. He says there were a lot of mills around then. He sold 2 inch pieces of lumber to the town for the sidewalks. He remembers how lovely it was for he and his wife to walk along the board sidewalk on the Lakeshore Road. They raised five children here in Haileybury. During the early 30's he had to go and look for work. He then worked for three years in the planni planing mill of the Haileybury Lumber Company. He was laid off when the depression hit full force as the company had difficulties. Afterwards he says the mill was moved to Swastika because it was decided that Haileybury was a poor place to have such a mill. He then went to work for Mr. Holditch who owned a bakery here. At one time the Holditch Bakery employed six men and in later years had three trucks. One for Haileybury, New Liskeard and Cobalt. Mr. Stewart remembers that when the automatic bread slicers came out if almost broke Mr. Holditch's heart. He thought people should slice their own bread. But the b iness failed and once again Mr. Stewart was unemployed. Mr. Stewart was unemployed. Mr. Stewart remembers when the electric railway was ripped up and how sad he was to see it go.The streetcars were replaced by the buses then. Mr. Stewart started his own bakery booking on the stove at home. He began by delivering bread via the streetcar but found this did not pay.

He then would carry his bread in cardboard boxes and do his deliveries on his foot. He did this for seventeen years and built up a reliable clientele. When he reached the age ofseventy he thought it was time ti to retire.

He now lives in Northdale Manor and enjoys a comfortable life there.