

Barbara Riordon

May 10, 1972

1 hour

1. Mrs. Thyra Fancy
2. Thyra Atkinson
3. 434 Broadway, Haileybury
4. 672-3482
5. Retired
6. Haileybury
7. Father - England, Mother - Quebec
8. Widowed

Mrs. Fancy's interview was restricted mainly to her father and what she can remember of his career. He was Magistrate Atkinson from 1908 until his retirement in 1955. He died in Haileybury in 1961 at the age of 81. He was born in London, England and was educated in a private school. When his father died Mr. Atkinson was only 16 years old and the solicitor of the estate decided to send the two brothers to Haileybury in Canada to become gentlemen farmers. C.C. Farr had advertised in London about Haileybury and wanted to get people to settle there. He came to Haileybury but discovered that the farming was quite poor here. When asked why he did not return to England he replied, that he had too much pride to do that. This was 1896 that he first arrived here. In 1899 he married a Miss Nelson from Montreal who was up visiting her brother and sister. Her brother was Dr. Cobb a missionary doctor.

She remembers that before the fire there was a jail and court house across the road from where it is now. Her father became magistrate in 1908. She believes a court was held in each of the Tri-Towns in the beginning and his territory was expanded to include Kirkland Lake, South Porcupine and Timmins. She remembers her father talking about the strike in the Cobalt mines and she can remember the hanging of a Chinese man not long after her father became magistrate. Her father wanted to revise the criminal code in some respects but was not allowed to. She remembers him as a clever witty man who worked hard and read a great deal and enjoyed gardening very much. Mrs. Fancy's mother played the organ in the Anglican Church here for over fifty years. At the time of the Haileybury fire they were living in the house where John McFarlane now lives. Their house was not burned. She and her brother had wet gunny sacks that they put out cinders with that lit on the house and grounds. Mrs. Fancy's husband was manager of the Frontier Mine at Silver Centre for three years.