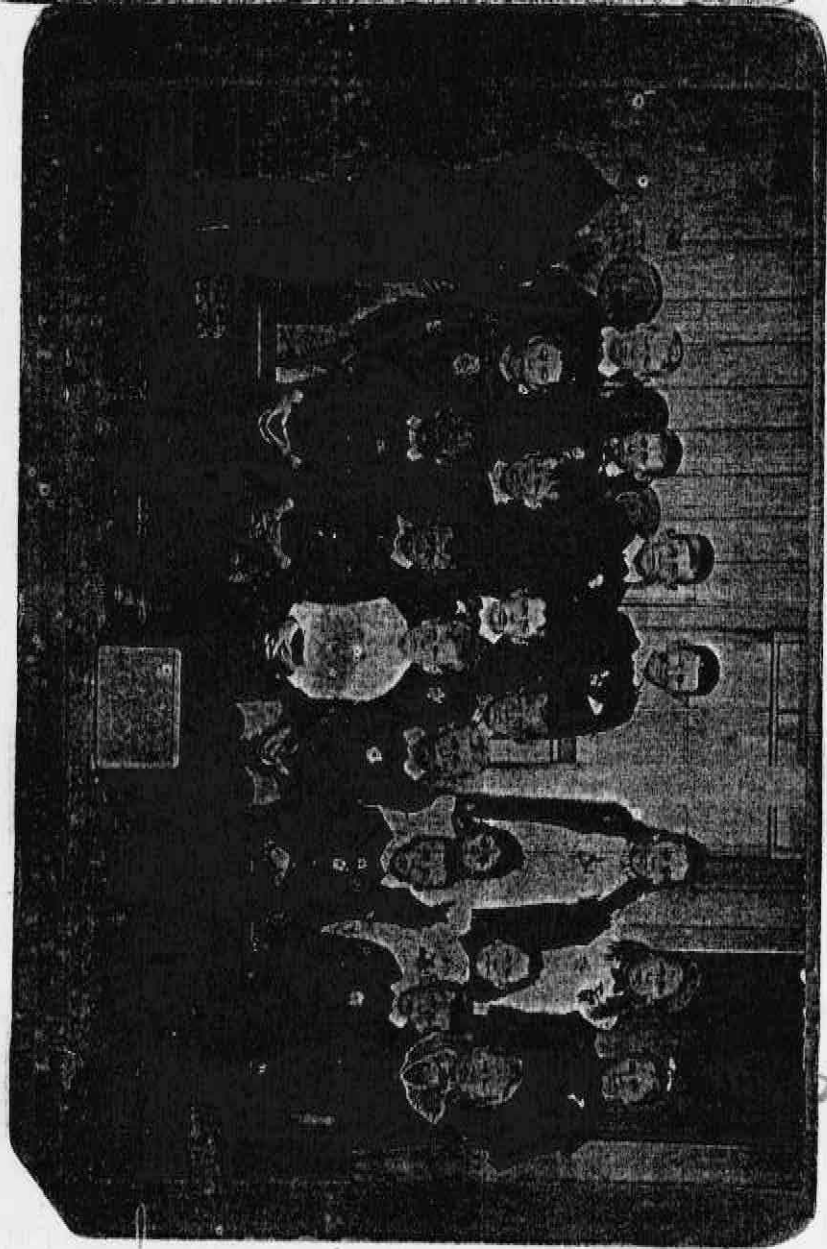


A7463(xiii)



MR FEAR

4th Oct. 1897
Lynna Stott

OEN FOUNDATION COURSE
WEDNESDAY PM CLASS, 1988.
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY.
ANN FENWICK.

Research Project. Local history assignment.

Open foundation Course, 1988. Ann Fenwick.

LIFE IN THE COUNTRY, 1890-1910. A YOUNG GIRL'S OUTLOOK ON HER ENVOIRONMENT. MISS EVA STOTT, born 22nd July, 1887.

The day was bright and shining; young Eva was going to school, taken along the 1½ mile route by her brothers. The schoolhouse was a small, one-roomed building, measuring only 17foot 6inches by 15foot 6inches,¹ but the young Eva was very proud as she looked at it. The school at Monkerai had been erected by her father in 1879, and completed in November of that year.² The teacher, who would direct her education till the age of 14 years, was Mr William Fell, who had been appointed to the school at Monkerai in 1873.³ He was to serve the community in the position of school teacher till his retirement in 1902.⁴ Mr Fell was well versed in the behaviour of young children and Eva, carrying her new slate, scurried into her place along with the rest of her classmates, who had come in from the surrounding farms.⁵ Another day had begun at Monkerai School!

The school teacher had pupils at all levels and ages. All the pupils were taught their letters, recited arithmetic tables, studied History and Geography and the basics of English as a language.⁶ They learned out of books, but did all working out on slates, which were cleaned by a wet sponge, kept for this purpose.⁷ The children had to take their own lunch, as it was too far to return home for the lunch break. On wet days attendance dropped dramatically, the Stott children having two river crossings to ford, ⁸ whilst the teacher was at times unable to get to the school because of flooding caused by inclement weather.⁹ The severity of the flooding can be imagined by a report in March of 1894 which was submitted by Mr Fell to the School Inspector, Mr Waterhouse, which told of the river overflowing its banks and sweeping away a:

"greater part of the school fencing, and causing a portion of the land, about 20 feet, to fall into the river.." ¹⁰ and requesting new fencing, moved further away from the river, to be erected around the school.

The school was open to children up to 14 years of age; no

high school education being available to the school pupils at this time and place. When the pupils reached the required age, they were tested by a visit from the School Inspector who, if he was satisfied they were proficient in the subjects being studied, presented the pupils with a certificate to show they had 'passed'. Eva had passed all her subjects and was considered to be particularly good at Arithmetic. This examination ended her school days. 11

As Eva was growing up, she not only had to attend school, but also had her chores around the home and mixed farm she lived on to do. These chores included helping her mother with cleaning, baking, washing, making tallow candles and soap from the slaughter of the beasts for meat, and putting up preserves from their own garden and fruit orchard. There were chickens also to be cared for. 12 The eggs and fowls were for the families consumption, but the extras were sold to Billy Howe, the travelling shop man. Billy used a covered wagonette from which to sell his produce. he came around fortnightly, selling groceries, buying the excess eggs and fowls from the Stott farm. 13 The groceries came from Dungog, whereas the drapery came around monthly from Stroud. The drapery wagon was much looked for, as he sold such items as Sunlight soap for hair washing, skeins of wool for knitting, 14 the farm being unsuitable for sheep, so natural wool was unavailable, material and ribbons for sewing, these were all part of the stock offered. Shop 'day' was eagerly looked forward to with great delight by all!

Though life was busy, sometimes Eva was given a treat by being allowed to go to Dungog with Father when he went to the town. This was usually when the corn, grown on the farm, was taken into the Wades Cornflour Mill, or when banking was to be done. Riding on the wagon seat made Eva feel very excited, and, as the roads were in reasonably good repair, the ride was relatively smooth. Dungog was exciting with the Cornflour Mill, timber yards, shops and banks at each end of the main street. Such journeys were few, but indeed were treasured memories which

would last a lifetime. 15

Entertainment was self-made. Eva had been taught to play the organ and accordian. She would play for the singing around the organ at home, when neighbours would come over to visit. Such songs as 'If You Were The Only Girl In The World' were [^]palyed, sung and enjoyed by all the company. Neighbours visits were not the only occassions that Eva played for, she also played the organ for the church services held at the Monkerai School of Arts, as there was no church building in the village. 16

The School of Arts, erected by Eva's father, had been opened, just after her 1st birthday, on the 27th July, 1888. It was a :

"little building, which was erected near the public school,....., is a mark of the progress and intelligence of the inhabitants of the river. the building is built of hardwood, with cedar finishings, is 32ft long by 17ft wide, with an iron roof. It is exceptionally well finished, and reflects great credit on the contractors who had the work in hand." 17

The building was much used by the community, not only for church services but for dances, concerts, weddings and any other entertainment which came to the area. Mr S. Stott, Eva's father was the Secretary of the School of Arts, with Mr W. Fell, the school teacher, the Treasurer. the community was very proud of the School of Arts; a credit to such a small, scattered population such as the people of Monkerai were.

Life was hard on the farm, but the depression of the 1890's seems to have had little impact on the young Eva. There was little to interrupt the days as they were lived on the farm. Baking, using the brick oven out the back of the house(astove wasn't installed until the early part of the twentieth century) was a days work. Washing, using the home-made tallow and caustic soda soap, was a labourious job. the clothes were first washed, using the wooden 'washer'

, then boiled, rinsed, 'blued' and hung to dry. Eva's job was to rock the wooden 'washer'. When dry, the clothes were brought in, folded, 'damped' and ironed. the iron was heated on the cooking fire, , an exhausting task, one which made all involved glad to complete.¹⁸

Some events on the farm were not all hard work for the children. The farm homestead was being enlarged, Eva's father using timber sawn on their own property. Two sawyers had come to the farm and felled and dressed the timber, using cross-cut saws for the work. The house was lined in cedar on the walls, ceiling and doors, all gathered from the farm property. The renovations joined the kitchen to the house, and were done after the instillation of a stove. This allowed a fire, necessary in the cold mountain air, to be used for warmth in the dining room attached to the sitting room. ¹⁹ The house, after the additions described, became a comfortable dwelling that had a:

" ...sitting room and a hall and there were 3 bedrooms and a verandah round across the front and side."

Conclusion

Eva Stott never married- she nursed both her parents until their deaths, her father in 1921 and her mother in 1934. She lived in Stroud after her fathers death and before her mothers death. She learned to dressmake, at the Miss Samuels dressmaking Academy in Scott Street, Newcastle and became a ladies dressmaker in Stroud. After her mother died, she moved to Newcastle to be near her sister. She was for a short time deputy matron of the Burnside Boys Home in Newcastle before, in 1937, embarking on a steamer trip to England. She was away 8 months and still has vivid memories of her travels. To keep herself on her return to Newcastle, she crocheted professionally, the only work open to her as she had ill-health and required surgery during the 1940's. her life had no further highlights such as she remembers from her childhood, till she became a resident of a nursing home at the age of 86. Although, at the age of 101, she is blind

, partially deaf and in a wheelchair from arthritis, this delightful lady remains mentally active and enjoys immensely talking of her girlhood in the farming community of Monkerai.

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Ann Fenwick

Australian History

Wednesday 7-9pm

Summary of taped interview.

3rd term Assignment.

Miss Eva Stott, 101 years of age, is the subject of my taped interview. This blind and slightly deaf lady, has a remarkably clear memory for someone born on the 22nd July, 1887. She was born in the village of Monkerai, which is situated in the Upper Hunter Valley region, between Stroud and Dungog, and is the youngest of five children

Her family were farming people, living in a small community with a scattered population. The times she has recalled range from early childhood, through school days, on to adulthood. These memories go from the 1890's to post World War 2 and are not of world-shattering events, but represent a simpler life in a society vastly different from present day life.

Miss Stott, a 'maiden lady', worked in the home and on the farm with her mother. Household chores such as cleaning, baking, washing and ironing, and preparation of household commodities as tallow candle and soap making and preserving foods grown on the property were her main concern. Her schooling was in a one teacher schoolhouse, having the same teacher, Mr Fell, throughout her learning days. She 'passed' the examination put to her by the School Inspector and left school at the age of 14 years. After leaving school, she worked in the home, but also played the organ and the accordian, using these skills for playing for church services and for entertainment in her own home.

Life was hard but rewarding. The family rarely went to town, shopping being done when the travelling 'shop', covered wagonettes, visited the community. There were two 'shops'. - one visited fortnightly with groceries and the other monthly with drapery items. All supplies not grown or made on the farm came from this source, including such things as Sunlight soap for hair shampoo and skeins of wool for knitting.

Miss Stotts father was also a builder. He built the

School of Arts, opened on 27th July, 1888, and also at one stage repaired the schoolhouse and teachers dwelling. The homestead was also added to around the turn of the century; Miss Stott is able to describe how the cedar was felled and sawn on their property, and the use the cedar was put to in the home.

Retiring from the farm in 1921, Miss Stott and her parents went to live in Stroud, where her father died shortly afterwards. She and her mother continued to live in Stroud until her mothers death in 1934. During this time, Miss Stott had attended a dressmaking course in Newcastle, at Miss L. Samuels Dressmaking Academy, Scott Street, and became a dressmaker in Stroud, where she continued to live for 4 years after her mothers death. She moved to Newcastle in 1937, to be with her sister and brother, who both lived in Newcastle at that time. In Newcastle, she worked for a short time as deputy matron at the Burnside Home for Boys, before leaving for an 8 months trip to England.

The trip to England was the highlight in her life, her memories of that time being clear and vivid. Describing some of the things she did and the places she had visited, she became very animated. On her return to Newcastle, she bought her own home and lived in it till her move to the nursing home she now resides in, in 1973 at the age of 86 years.

The Depression experienced by the rest of the country in the 1890's and 1930's, seems to have made little, if any impression, on her. The two World Wars she lived through appeared to have touched her lightly, her only memories are having knitted for both the wars. She suffered some ill-health and is able to describe all her illnesses in some detail, including names of surgeons who operated on her in the 1930's and 1940's. From the post World War 2 period she has little memory, except living in Newcastle and doing professional crocheting for as living.

The interview invokes a period of time which has now gone, a period of rigid behavioural expectations, the unmarried daughter staying at home and caring for the parents and the family, without expectations of a life of her own away from home and family.

INTERVIEW WITH MISS EVA STOTT - Born 22nd July, 1887
at Monkerai. Taped 18th-19th June, 1988.
Interviewee is blind and slightly deaf)
Reminiscences of her life.

INTERVIEWER: Miss Ann Fenwick, Open Foundation History
Course, 1988.

QUESTION:

Where were you born?

MISS STOTT:

At Monkerai, do you know where that is?

QUESTION:

Yes, its up the valley.

MISS STOTT:

Yes, I was born there.

QUESTION:

Well, did you have any brothers or sisters?

MISS STOTT:

One brother and three sisters,

QUESTION:

Were they younger or older?

MISS STOTT:

No, I was the youngest of the family.

QUESTION:

What did your father do, dear?

MISS STOTT:

Well, er, we were on a farm, you see.

QUESTION:

Yes?

MISS STOTT:

And it was a mixed farm, all different kinds of work...

QUESTION:

Good.

MISS STOTT:

There was no bakers, so we had to make our own bread
and had no butchers or bakers those days.

QUESTION:

So you butchered your own meat as well, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Good. Now did you help at all? Where did you help,
in the house or out on the farm?

MISS STOTT:

Well (hesitant), I helped in both.

QUESTION:

Did you go to school?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Where did you go to school?

MISS STOTT:

At Monkerai.

QUESTION:

Was it just a little school or a big school?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, it was only a little school, I couldn't tell you
just how many was there but might have been 20 or so.
I just forget.

QUESTION:

Oh, thats OK. So it was a bush school, in other words?

MISS STOTT:

Yes. Mr Fell was the teacher.

QUESTION:

Was He? How far did you go? Just primary school or did you go any further?

MISS STOTT:

No, there was no high schools those days.

QUESTION:

So you just got an education?

MISS STOTT:

I got my, er, certificate, like for what I learned.

QUESTION:

Oh, good. Well, how old were you when you left school?

MISS STOTT:

Beg Pardon?

QUESTION:

How old were you when you left school?

MISS STOTT:

14.

QUESTION:

So what did you do then?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well I just did whatever work there was to do.

QUESTION:

So you stayed home, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Oh, well did you have anything to help in the house (louder) did you have...

MISS STOTT:

Beg Pardon?

QUESTION:

Did you have to help in the house or did your mother have some help?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, no. I had to help in the house and do anything that was wanted doing.

QUESTION:

And did you have anything... like did you have an open stove or a closed stove to cook on?

MISS STOTT:

Beg Pardon?

QUESTION:

What did you have to cook on, was it an open stove or a range?

MISS STOTT:

Well, er, at one time in the first place it was a brick oven - but in the latter part we had a stove.

QUESTION:

Well, when did you get your stove, before the first world war or after it?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well I couldn't tell you that.

QUESTION:

It was when you were young, was it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Did you have anything else...did you have an old copper and washboard or did you have something a bit better to work with?

MISS STOTT:

Well, we had a washboard and then we had a washer that you turned a handle, you know?

QUESTION:

Oh, one of those! I've seen one of those in a museum.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What else did you use when you were...did you use anything else...like, you didn't have any sort of vacuum cleaner, did you?

MISS STOTT:

No, no vacuum cleaners. We had to scrub...we had bare floors.

QUESTION:

Yes, and you had to scrub..?

MISS STOTT:

There was no carpets in those days.

QUESTION:

Well, when you went to town, what did you go to town in?

MISS STOTT:

Well, we had in the first place..it was a spring cart and then we got a sulky (oh, yes!). You know what a sulky is?

QUESTION:

Yes, yes, so that's how you used to go to town?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Is there anything else you can remember about those young days?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well not a lot.

QUESTION:

Oh well, it was a long time ago, wasn't it?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

It was a long time ago wasn't it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Well, when you got to be a young woman, what happened then?

MISS STOTT:

Well, we left the farm and went to live in Stroud. I don't know whether you know Stroud?

QUESTION:

Oh, yes. I know Stroud.

MISS STOTT:

Well, I went to live there. My brother got married and he took over the farm.

QUESTION:

Yes. So what did you do in Stroud?

MISS STOTT:

On, well I just lived there with my mother. My father died in the year we moved to Stroud in 1921, Father died there.

QUESTION:

(hesitant) Did he, er, well, er, did, er, yes.

MISS STOTT:

And we lived there for 13 years with Mother.

QUESTION:

Yes, did you look after you mother?

MISS STOTT:

Yes and she was in bed for 16 weeks before she died.

QUESTION:

So you had to nurse her?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Oh, that must have been hard.

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I was worn out.

QUESTION:

What happened after that? (Question Repeated)

MISS STOTT:

Well, then I went for a trip to England.

QUESTION:

How did you go to England?

MISS STOTT:

By ship.

QUESTION:

What sort of ship?

MISS STOTT:

The 'Orion'.

QUESTION:

What sort of ship was it? Was it a steamer?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Did it have a coal engine in it or

MISS STOTT:

It was a passenger ship.

QUESTION:

A passenger ship?

MISS STOTT:

There was no aeroplanes in those days.

QUESTION:

It would have made life easier, wouldn't it?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

It would have been easier to go by plane, wouldn't it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What happened on the ship? How long did it take you to get to England?

MISS STOTT:

42 days.

QUESTION:

Were you seasick?

MISS STOTT:

No.

QUESTION:

Oh, you were lucky! What did you do when you got to England?

MISS STOTT:

Well I went...they invited me over, that's why I went.

QUESTION:

Who invited you over?

MISS STOTT:

Well, my cousin - you see, my father came from Yorkshire.

QUESTION:

Yorkshire! Which part, darling?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Which part of Yorkshire?

MISS STOTT:

Well, er, you know where Leeds is..?

QUESTION:

Yes.

MISS STOTT:

Do you know where Bedford is?

QUESTION:

Yes.

MISS STOTT:

Well, Ockley was where I was staying.

QUESTION:

Ockley! Oh, yes - lovely. What did you do when you were in England?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well I travelled about a bit. I went up to Scotland.

QUESTION:

What happened then?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I came back and we moved to Newcastle.

QUESTION:

Oh, so you lived in Newcastle then?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Who did you live with?

MISS STOTT:

Myself.

QUESTION:

You looked after yourself, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, for a while. But I got so bad with arthritis that I couldn't manage.

QUESTION:

So what happened then?

MISS STOTT:

Well I got...applied and got into the Nursing Home.

QUESTION:

But that wouldn't have been that long ago, would it?

MISS STOTT:

It would be about fif...I think it was in 1973.

QUESTION:

1973? So that's not so long ago - so you must have looked after yourself a long time!

MISS STOTT:

I was 86 when I first came in here.

QUESTION:

Oh well, yes. So can you remember...that's just generally what you did with your life?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

So that's what happened in your life?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Well, can you tell me some more details - can you remember a few more details about Newcastle when you first came down here?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I can't say...there's so much happened that I forget.

QUESTION:

Well, is there anything you can remember, anything at all. What I want you to do now is just talk about anything you like to remember about your life. It doesn't matter what it is.

MISS STOTT:

No, er, well I didn't do anything, I used to do a lot of crochet work but, see, my eyes is gone.

QUESTION:

Did you work in any charities or work with people?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I worked at Burnside Home for a little while, before I went to England.

QUESTION:

What were you doing there?

MISS STOTT:

I was Deputy Matron, Acting Deputy Matron for a little while. I wasn't there very long. But they wanted me to stay on but I'd booked, you see, to go to England.

QUESTION:

Oh, when was that, can you remember?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

What year was that?

MISS STOTT:

1936 I went to England.

QUESTION:

So you got in just before the war.

MISS STOTT:

Yes, yes, I was...there was talk of war and my health wasn't very good, but my cousin said if war broke out he wouldn't let me come back, he'd keep me there (oh, so) My cousin was very good to me.

QUESTION:

Took you everywhere. How long were you in England?

MISS STOTT:

I was away, I think 8 months altogether.

QUESTION:

Oh, so that was a good trip.

MISS STOTT:

We had 13 ports of call.

QUESTION:

Can you remember which ones you went into?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, some of them I can.

QUESTION:

Well, will you tell me?

MISS STOTT:

Well, for one I went to Monte Carlo.

QUESTION:

Oh, did you go to the casino?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Did you win any money?

MISS STOTT:

Lost it! (disgusted expression)

QUESTION:

That's terrible! Where else did you go?

MISS STOTT:

Oh well I went to Colombo, we went up to Kandi and the ancient city of Kandi there. Do you know there?

QUESTION:

Yes.

MISS STOTT:

And...I went ashore at most ports - some I didn't.

QUESTION:

Did you go through Suez Canal, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Did you go into Egypt?

MISS STOTT:

In where?

QUESTION:

Into Cairo or Egypt.

MISS STOTT:

No. I didn't go onto the Pyramids or anything. I stayed on on the ship to go through the Canal.

QUESTION:

So anything else you can remember about the trip?

MISS STOTT:

We went to Pompeii (oh yes) you know the ancient city that was destroyed (yes). I went ashore at Gibraltar.

QUESTION:

Anywhere else?

MISS STOTT:

The...of course at Naples we went to where they made the cameos, you know?

QUESTION:

Yes. Was that interesting?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, very interesting.

QUESTION:

Did you get yourself one?

MISS STOTT:

No, I didn't get myself one, but I went to where they made white gloves (yes). I forget where that was.

QUESTION:

Oh, it doesn't matter. Yes, was that interesting?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Was that interesting to see how they made the gloves - was that interesting?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Of course, everybody wore gloves then?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Not like now.

MISS STOTT:

No gloves now.

QUESTION:

No, so anything else you can remember about your trip?

MISS STOTT:

Not much.

QUESTION:

Well, how did you come back to Australia? Which port did you see first when you came back?

MISS STOTT:

I came back by ship.

QUESTION:

Yes. Which ports did you get into in Australia?

MISS STOTT:

First port was Freemantle.

QUESTION:

Then where?

MISS STOTT:

Then Adelaide, I think.

QUESTION:

Did you go into Melbourne too?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Did you get off at any of those places?

MISS STOTT:

I got off at Melbourne, I stayed a night ashore in Melbourne.

QUESTION:

Mmm and then what happened?

MISS STOTT:

Then I came back to Sydney.

QUESTION:

Yes. Were you glad to get home?

MISS STOTT:

Well, it was nice to be home again.

QUESTION:

Yes, but you had such a good time, heh?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So, when you came back to Newcastle, what did you do?

MISS STOTT:

Well, my sister lived in Stroud, but she moved to Newcastle and bought a home - I lived with her for a while and then I got one of my own afterwards.

QUESTION:

Yes. So what did you do when you were in your own home? Did you work again?

MISS STOTT:

Only with my hands. I did a lot of crochet work.

QUESTION:

For charity, was it?

MISS STOTT:

No, I used to sell it.

QUESTION:

Oh, so that's what you did to keep yourself?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Where did you live in Newcastle?

MISS STOTT:

New Lambton.

QUESTION:

New Lambton? You had your own house there, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Oh. Anything you can remember about...anything more that you can remember?

MISS STOTT:

Well, not just now I can't.

QUESTION:

That's alright. Well, what ever you know er if you...another day, what I'll do is if you can start thinking about when you were little - about when you were young and you can tell me a little more about the farm, or do you think you can tell me a little bit more now?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well I can tell you that we made our own candles.

QUESTION:

How did you do that?

MISS STOTT:

In moulds.

QUESTION:

What did you use for wax?

MISS STOTT:

Tallow.

QUESTION:

How did you get the tallow?

MISS STOTT:

Well, from when we killed a beast. You see they saved the tallow and they'd have to tie the wicks across the moulds, you know, and the wick was put in and you'd pour the hot tallow on it and filled it up with hot tallow and that was the candles. We made our own bread.

QUESTION:

Did you have your own oven or just used the stove.

MISS STOTT:

Well the latter part we had the stove.

QUESTION:

What happened before that?

MISS STOTT:

It's a brick oven.

QUESTION:

Was that out the back, was it?

MISS STOTT:

That was out at the..the..er..away from the house a little bit, not far.

QUESTION:

Anything else that you did when you were young?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Did you make anything else when you were young. Bread and tallow candles, what else did you make?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well, jams and preserves - we had to make everything ourselves.

QUESTION:

Can you remember about some of the things you used to wear?

MISS STOTT:

Well, not particular.

QUESTION:

Well, were there still long skirts then?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, they were fairly long skirts. I learned to play the organ.

QUESTION:

Where did you play the organ?

MISS STOTT:

I used to play for Church.

QUESTION:

Did you have one of your own?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What did you...did you just use to play the organ...was there anything else you used to play when you were young?

MISS STOTT:

I used to play the accordian.

QUESTION:

An accordian! What sort of music did you play?

MISS STOTT:

It was an accordian after the style of a concertina.

QUESTION:

Oh, so you were very musical. Could you sing too?

MISS STOTT:

Well, only what I learned, I wasn't taught singing.

QUESTION:

You just picked it up yourself?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

You used to sing a lot at home?

MISS STOTT:

No, they used to sing a lot in Church.

QUESTION:

In Church? What church did you go to?

MISS STOTT:

Oh. Well, it was all protestant.

QUESTION:

So it wasn't a sort of a specialist church, it was just a protestant church?

MISS STOTT:

It was a School of Arts - there was no church there. It was a School of Arts and each religion, each faith and their own Sunday - I used to play for the different ones.

QUESTION:

You were the organist for the whole lot?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, except for the Baptists.

QUESTION:

They didn't use an organ?

MISS STOTT:

No, they had another lady play for the Baptists.

QUESTION:

Oh, that would be interesting. What else did you do? You played the organ and you played the accordian.. Is there anything else you did - did you play at home and did you all sing?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, yes. We used to have the boys from the next door used to come and we'd have sing-song at night.

QUESTION:

So you would play?

MISS STOTT:

I'd play the organ.

QUESTION:

For them to sing to.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What sort of songs, do you remember?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, different ones, you know, what was then 'If you were the only girl in the world', all those sorts of things.

QUESTION:

Oh, yes, that would have been lovely - of course there was no other entertainment, was there?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

There was no other entertainment, was there?

MISS STOTT:

No, none those days - no electric light.

QUESTION:

What sort of lighting did you have?

MISS STOTT:

Kerosene lamps.

QUESTION:

You did your own knitting?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Well, how did you get your wool?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I bought it.

QUESTION:

So you didn't have sheep, you didn't do your own wool?

MISS STOTT:

No. No I bought it to do - in skeins.

QUESTION:

Yes, the old skeins you had to wind up.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What did you knit, socks and jumpers?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well, I did a lot of knitting for the war when it broke out.

QUESTION:

That was World War I?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Did any of your brothers go to the war?

MISS STOTT:

No, one died when he was 19 with Typhoid Fever.

QUESTION:

So he had Typhoid Fever! Do you know what year that was?

MISS STOTT:

No, I just can't tell you, but I think somewhere about 1902.

QUESTION:

So the other boys didn't have to go to the war?

MISS STOTT:

Well, one died at 43 with pneumonia.

QUESTION:

Yes.

MISS STOTT:

And the other one, he lived to be 85.

QUESTION:

So you were a lot..you lived a long time in your family then?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So what happened in the World War I - did you do any more work except knitting for the First World War?

MISS STOTT:

No, I didn't do any more work, only kintting for them; balaclavas and things like that.

QUESTION:

Were you still in Stroud or on the farm then?

MISS STOTT:

No I was in Stroud then I moved to Stroud and in 1937... moved to Newcastle in 1937 from Stroud.

QUESTION:

So you've been in Newcastle for a long time now.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So you may as well say it's your home, eh?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon.

QUESTION:

It's your home now, isn't it? Is there anything else you can remember?

MISS STOTT:

No, not very much.

QUESTION:

Oh, I think you've done very well dear! I tell you what we'll do is...we'll stop now, darling, because you're getting tired.
(pause)

QUESTION:

Well, how did you wash you hair?

MISS STOTT:

Well, in a dish.

QUESTION:

What did you use to wash it with?

MISS STOTT:

Sunlight soap.

QUESTION:

You didn't make you own soap?

MISS STOTT:

No, we made our own soap for cleaning..er..cleaning..you know and that sort of thing, but not..we was able to buy Sunlight soap and I used that on my hair.

QUESTION:

Well, how did you make the soap?

MISS STOTT:

Well, we made it with tallow..you used the tallow to do that.

QUESTION:

What..how did you make it so it turned into soap?

MISS STOTT:

Well, you had to boil it - put caustic soda in that with it.

QUESTION:

And then what did you do with it?

MISS STOTT:

You put it in a, if I remember right, you put it in a kerosene tin, cut down ito half, with a cloth around it.

QUESTION:

And what did you do with it?

MISS STOTT:

You had to let it sit there and then you could take it out and cut it into bars that was used for scrubbing floors and that.

QUESTION:

So what did you use for washing?

MISS STOTT:

Well, we used that soap for washing.

QUESTION:

That would have been hard on your hands and clothes wouldn't it?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

It would have been hard on your clothes.

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well, it took the dirt out of them.

QUESTION:

It probably took the clothes too! Did you have an old copper as well for your wash?

MISS STOTT:

No, we had a boiler.

QUESTION:

You had a boiler, did you, and you had to boil it first?

MISS STOTT:

Out in the open.

QUESTION:

So washday was a big day.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

How did you go about it, can you remember?

MISS STOTT:

Well, we just had to get the things ready and then washed them and put them onto boil.

QUESTION:

So you boiled your clothes first?

MISS STOTT:

Boiled them after we sort of washed them first.

QUESTION:

Mmm, then boiled them, then what?

MISS STOTT:

Then we boiled them and had to rinse them well and then blue them - you could buy blue.

QUESTION:

That was because everything was white then, wasn't it?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

You didn't have any coloured clothes.

MISS STOTT:

Oh, we had some coloured ones, but we didn't boil them.

QUESTION:

You only boiled the 'whites'?

MISS STOTT:

The white ones.

QUESTION:

Just before we finish, could you tell me a little about Monkton (Monkerai) in those days?

MISS STOTT:

About what?

QUESTION:

About Monkton (Monkerai) where you were born, in those days - was it a big place or a little place?

MISS STOTT:

It was only a village, you know, there was no shops or anything and we went to school there, you see. I never went to school anywhere else. Mr Fell was the teacher.

QUESTION:

Yes..So what did you have to write on, books or slates?

MISS STOTT:

Slates, and we had books too, but we had to do homework in books, but we did our work on slates and had to wash the slates with a sponge.

QUESTION:

How did you get to school?

MISS STOTT:

Walk.

QUESTION:

It wasn't very far, was it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, about 1½ miles.

QUESTION:

So you had to walk 1½ miles there and 1½ miles back?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What else happened. Did anything else happen in Monkton (Monkerai)?

MISS STOTT:

No, nothing very much - only the School of Arts - my father built the school and he built the School of Arts.

QUESTION:

Did he? What year was that, do you know - was it before you were born?

MISS STOTT:

Well, they said I was 12 months old when the School of Arts was opened (opened 27/07/1888)

QUESTION:

So he actually built it, your father?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Oh! So what else.. is there anything else you can remember about that time?

MISS STOTT:

No, I don't remember anything at that time - They only told me I was 12 months old when the School of Arts was opened.

QUESTION:

Did you do anything else in the town?

MISS STOTT:

It wasn't a town, only a village - there was no shops.

QUESTION:

Where did you shop?

MISS STOTT:

Well, they used to come around with dealers with carts, you know, and you'd buy what you wanted off them.

QUESTION:

Did you ever get into the town?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Which was the closest town to you?

MISS STOTT:

Dungog or Stroud, much the same distance.

QUESTION:

Did you go there much, or not very much?

MISS STOTT:

No, not very much.

QUESTION:

Did you grow all your own vegetables?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What about fruit?

MISS STOTT:

We grew all our own fruit.

QUESTION:

You must have been busy.

MISS STOTT:

There was always plenty of work to be done.

QUESTION:

What sort of farm was it?

MISS STOTT:

Mixed.

QUESTION:

What, did you have dairy as well?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What else did you have?

MISS STOTT:

Farming and bees, we had bees - kept pigs and we didn't have sheep - it wasn't sheep country.

QUESTION:

Mainly dairy, was there anything else you can remember about it?

MISS STOTT:

No, not very much.

QUESTION:

Oh, I think you have done very well; it was a long time ago, I couldn't remember my teacher at that age and you've remembered yours. It's very good.

MISS STOTT:

I remember our teacher.

QUESTION:

Why?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I suppose we got used to him.

QUESTION:

How long did you have him, the whole time you were at school?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, I didn't have any other teacher.

QUESTION:

How well did you do at school?

MISS STOTT:

They said I did well.

QUESTION:

Anything interest you in particular?

MISS STOTT:

No, only they said I was good at arithmetic.

QUESTION:

Oh, you did better than me.

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

You did better than me, I'm very bad at it! So, is there anything else?

MISS STOTT:

No, I used to have scripture lessons once a week.

QUESTION:

Who took them?

MISS STOTT:

Well, the teacher gave them. It was all a protestant school.

QUESTION:

Yes..what happened to the Catholics, did they go to another school, did they?

MISS STOTT:

I don't know if there was any Catholics there - we all went to school together.

QUESTION:

It was all the children from the farms and the village was it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

END OF INTERVIEW 1

INTERVIEW 2 - 19th June, 1988

MISS STOTT:

The School of Arts was built and everything in it - Church and everything - was held in that. There was no church, so they had Church services in the School of Arts.

QUESTION:

What else did they use it for?

MISS STOTT:

Then for entertainment like dances and everything like that.

QUESTION:

Did you play for the dances?

MISS STOTT:

No, I didn't. I played for the church.

QUESTION:

What about..er..who played for the dances? Did you have a band?

MISS STOTT:

No, they had sometimes concertinas or something like that.. accordion.

QUESTION:

And everybody had a go at playing for it, did they?

MISS STOTT:

Well, there was someone there who could play them well, and he played for the dances.

QUESTION:

Good, did you do any dancing?

MISS STOTT:

A little, not a lot - I used to do the country dances and that.

QUESTION:

What else was the School of Arts used for; Church and dances. Anything else?

MISS STOTT:

No, no, not anything else really, but any entertainment came along, you know, it was held in the School of Arts - my father built the School of Arts and (yes love) he built - I think I told you he built the school, didn't I?

QUESTION:

Yes, you did dear. That's alright.

MISS STOTT:

And it's still standing I believe.

QUESTION:

Well, I haven't been up that way, but next time I do I'll have a look for you. Now, is there anything more you can tell me? You told me yesterday that you used to have travelling sales people come around, for the shop.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Could you tell me a little bit more about them?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well, they used to come around and bring goods with them, you see, and we bought what we wanted that way - we didn't go to town a lot, we didn't go to Dungog or Stroud a lot.

QUESTION:

Well, do you know what was...could you tell me a little bit what was on them?

MISS STOTT:

Well, some had groceries and some had drapery - you know what I mean?

QUESTION:

Yes, ribbons and stuff..Ribbons and materials.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So you bought anything you needed from them?

MISS STOTT:

Pretty well everything.

QUESTION:

What did they come round in?

MISS STOTT:

Well, they had a wagonette, what they called it in those days.

QUESTION:

What was a wagonette?

MISS STOTT:

It was all covered in, you see, and they had their goods inside the wagonette.

QUESTION:

And where did it come from?

MISS STOTT:

Well, from Dungog and I think one used to come from Raymond Terrace.

QUESTION:

That far!

MISS STOTT:

Mmm.

QUESTION:

So, he'd go round all the farms, would he?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Did he come into your farm or did you have to go into Monerkai?

MISS STOTT:

No, he used to come into the Monkerai.

QUESTION:

And you used to go in?

MISS STOTT:

And they'd be round in each place.

QUESTION:

How often did he come round?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well, I just couldn't tell you how often he came, but one, the grocery, used to come about every fortnight.

QUESTION:

So, you had a constant supply, in other words.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Is there anything more you can remember about that?

MISS STOTT:

No, not very much, only it's the chap that bought the groceries, he used to stop at our place overnight.

QUESTION:

Did he?

MISS STOTT:

He came from Dungog.

QUESTION:

Do you remember his name?

MISS STOTT:

Howe, I think his name was Howe, Billy Howe.

QUESTION:

So he ran a sort of travelling store from Dungog?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, for somebody else it was. It wasn't his own, he was paid to travel.

QUESTION:

Mmm, that's good...that's very good to remember that much. There's nothing else about that?

MISS STOTT:

The one from Stroud, he used to bring both drapery and groceries - his name was Penfold.

QUESTION:

Oh, very good. So anything you wanted - any ribbons you had, came from the store, hrm?

MISS STOTT:

Well, you could buy them off him, you see - we didn't go to Dungog for any more than was really necessary.

QUESTION:

Hard travelling, the roads wouldn't have been very good, would they?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

There wouldn't have been very good roads.

MISS STOTT:

No, weren't bad; fairly good roads, but we had to go to Dungog for banking, you know and that sort of thing!

QUESTION:

Yes. Now there's nothing else you can remember about those?

MISS STOTT:

No, only, what I mean...you see there was no bank at Monerkai and we had to go to Dungog or Stroud. Well, it was to Dungog we... my father, did his business and that.

QUESTION:

Can you remember which bank?

MISS STOTT:

One was the Commercial, and the other was the Bank of NSW.

QUESTION:

From Dungog?

MISS STOTT:

I think they are still there.

QUESTION:

Yes, they are dear. I've been to Dungog recently and they are still there. They've all been redone, probably back to where you remember them.

MISS STOTT:

The Commercial, the first one you come to in the town and the Bank of NSW was further up the street.

QUESTION:

There's nothing more you can remember about the stores and how you used to buy your stuff?

MISS STOTT:

No, not really. Only they used to buy our eggs and things like that. The one from Stroud always bought eggs and fowls and you know what I mean - if we had any fowls for sale, he'd buy them.

QUESTION:

So it was a two-way trade, was it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, but we really lived off the land, and I told you, didn't I, that we did all our own jam making and things like that?

QUESTION:

Yes, you did dear. You described that yesterday very well.

Right, I think..there's nothing else you can remember?

MISS STOTT:

No, only going to school I went...you see, I think I told you we went to this same school and the same teacher all through my education.

QUESTION:

You told me you were very good at arithmetic. What other subjects did you study?

MISS STOTT:

I didn't study anything in particular.

QUESTION:

Well, what did you learn?

MISS STOTT:

History and English.

QUESTION:

What else, Geography?

MISS STOTT:

Geography, yes.

QUESTION:

And Arithmetic.

MISS STOTT:

Oh, yes, everything - a bit of everything there was.

QUESTION:

So you got a good general education?

MISS STOTT:

Yes. But there was no high schools in those days - you just went until you were 14.

QUESTION:

You told me yesterday that you had a school certificate, would you know where that is now?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, no. I don't know - but I guess it's burnt with a lot of rubbish, I don't know where it's got to. We got a certificate when we passed everything. There was an inspector used to come around to the school, you see, and when you passed in everything you got a certificate for it. But I don't know where it's got to.

QUESTION:

Well, it was a long time ago, wasn't it?

MISS STOTT:

yes, too long to remember.

QUESTION:

Yes, anything else about the school?

MISS STOTT:

No, only that we used to take our dinner with us. We had a 1½ mile walk to school and 1½ mile walk back. We had to cross the river twice and in flood-time we had to go around the hill, and I believe that they've now got a road around the hill. They put a bridge over the crossing next. That's near our place and it got washed away, and it destroyed the town basin. It should never had been built - not a bridge like they put there.

QUESTION:

There was a new bridge put there now, is there?

MISS STOTT:

No bridge at all now - they put a road round the..following as near to the river as they could.

QUESTION:

The way you used to go to school in the floods.

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

The way you used to go to school when it flooded.

MISS STOTT:

Yes, but we went higher up on the hill from where we went, but they tell me there's a road built following the river as near as they could all the way. But, of course, I haven't been there to see it or anything. 'Course if I went now I couldn't see it. You see, my eyes are gone.

QUESTION:

Well, you can't remember much more. You've been very good in remembering a lot about your childhood. Now, what about when you were in Stroud, you didn't tell me much about that.

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well, we moved to Stroud in 1921. My brother got married and he took over the farm and my father died in 1921. He was only there about 2 months when he died. Well, I lived there with my mother for 13 years.

QUESTION:

Well, what did you do in Stroud?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I did a lot. I did dressmaking and things like that - you know what I mean? I did a lot of crochet work.

QUESTION:

So you and your mum did it, did you?

MISS STOTT:

No, I did it, Mother didn't do it for me. She taught me to crochet.

QUESTION:

Who taught you dressmaking?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I went to Newcastle and took lessons.

QUESTION:

Where did you take the lessons?

MISS STOTT:

In Newcastle.

QUESTION:

Where?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I just forget. I think it was somewhere in Scotts Street, I forget now. (Miss L Samuels Dressmaking Academy)

MISS STOTT:

No, it was, mmm, they taught you how to draft patterns.

QUESTION:

So it was a proper school?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, it was a dressmaking school.

QUESTION:

When would that have been?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

When would that have been?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I can't just remember that.

QUESTION:

It was after you went to Stroud, was it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So it was after 1921?

MISS STOTT:

My father died, you see, in '21, my mother died in '34.

QUESTION:

So between 1921 and 1934 you were in Stroud and you came... how long did it take you to learn to dressmake?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well, it sort of came natural to me. I was fond of sewing and doing things like that.

QUESTION:

How often did you come down to Newcastle to learn?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I stayed down for 3 months.

QUESTION:

You stayed in Newcastle.

MISS STOTT:

yes, with some friends.

QUESTION:

Good and then you went to school and learned how to do it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, then I did dressmaking when I was in Stroud.

QUESTION:

For all the ladies, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Did you make the dresses for the ladies did you, in Stroud?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, not all of them - others were dressmaking besides me.

QUESTION:

Anything else you can remember about those days in Stroud?

MISS STOTT:

No, nothing in particular.

QUESTION:

Anything happen in Stroud while you were there - (louder) any special event happen in Stroud while you were there?

MISS STOTT:

No, I couldn't say there was.

QUESTION:

You can't remember anything?

MISS STOTT:

No..only..well I had..Mother was very sick for a long time, she had a long, lingering illness.

QUESTION:

That's very sad when that happens.

MISS STOTT:

Yes, she was in bed for 16 weeks before she died and they had to have a nurse to finish up. I was worn out. I couldn't carry on. We had to get a nurse to help, a trained nurse.

QUESTION:

Where did she come from?

MISS STOTT:

Who?

QUESTION:

The trained nurse.

MISS STOTT:

Newcastle.

QUESTION:

The doctor arranged it, did he?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I just forget...I think it was the doctor who arranged it - but she was with us a lot of part of her illness - she died in '34.

QUESTION:

And that's when you came down to Newcastle, was it?

MISS STOTT:

Not 'till '37.

QUESTION:

Oh, so you spent a lot of years in Stroud after your mum died.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Still doing dressmaking?

MISS STOTT:

No, I can't see to do it...

QUESTION:

(Interrupting) No, when you were in Stroud were you still doing dressmaking?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So when you came down to Newcastle you told me the other day you worked at the Burnside Home.

MISS STOTT:

For a little while.

QUESTION:

What was the Burnside Home, dear. What did you do there?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I was acting Deputy Matron.

QUESTION:

Well, who were the people at the Burnside Home?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Who were there..who did you have to look after - what did you have to do?

MISS STOTT:

Boys - I had 28 boys to look after.

QUESTION:

What sort of boys were they?

MISS STOTT:

They were nice boys, some of them.

QUESTION:

Why were they in the Home?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, they were in the home. You see, they were orphans or some were left...you know, their parents deserted them and then parted - I don't know what it was.

QUESTION:

So they were just sort of abandoned boys?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So you looked after them, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

What did you do for them?

MISS STOTT:

Cooked for them.

QUESTION:

Did you have to clean too?

MISS STOTT:

No, they used to do the cleaning.

QUESTION:

So you just did the cooking and kept them neat and tidy, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Was that a good time?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Did you enjoy that?

MISS STOTT:

It was good work. There was some nice boys among them, very nice. One in particular, he carved a little heart out of stone, red stone, and he gave it to me when I leaving and he said..I had a good cry when he gave it to me..he said that that was all he had to give me.

QUESTION:

I bet you treasured that.

MISS STOTT:

Yes, it might be among my things somewhere, but still....

QUESTION:

Anything else you can remember about Burnside?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, you see it was somewhere where there was younger children than where I was, but they were easy to manage, they were good boys.

QUESTION:

They gave you no trouble?

MISS STOTT:

NO, they didn't give me any trouble, but you see I wasn't there very long.

QUESTION:

That's when you went to England.

MISS STOTT:

yes, I'd booked to go to England and that was filling in time. I didn't waste time.

QUESTION:

You always had to be doing something?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, I never sat idle.

QUESTION:

Just a little bit...when you came down from Stroud to Newcastle, did you come in the train or by road?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, well, I couldn't tell you which er, I used to come by road, sometimes by train, but my mother - you see she had trouble with her eyes, I had to...I used to bring her down, but we came by road, by motor car.

QUESTION:

Who drove the motor car?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I couldn't tell you the name.

QUESTION:

No, did someone come and pick you up, did they?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, he ran...he had a run between Newcastle and Stroud.

QUESTION:

Was it a car or a bus?

MISS STOTT:

A car.

QUESTION:

So he just..he just..he used to just drive you down there and back. For hire, was he?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, no he used to come regular.

QUESTION:

So he had a regular route did he?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Did he just come from Stroud or did he come from everywhere else?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I think he was just from Stroud.

QUESTION:

He just came in from Newcastle, did he?

MISS STOTT:

He used to come to Newcastle regular.

QUESTION:

So anybody that had to come down could come with him?

MISS STOTT:

'Cause, I had to have my tonsils removed there and I remember it was he that brought me...I came by road - but I went into Woodlands - I...you know that?

QUESTION:

Yes, darling. It's not a hospital now, but it's still there.

MISS STOTT:

that's where I went for my tonsil operation.

QUESTION:

Do you remember what year that was - it was when you were in Stroud?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Just after you went there, or after you had been there a while?

MISS STOTT:

I was there for a while when the throat got so bad it had turned septic.

QUESTION:

Mmm, so do you remember the doctor you had?

MISS STOTT:

Ewing, I think his name was.

QUESTION:

Oh, you're very good remembering these names. So Dr Ewing operated for tonsils when you went into Woodlands, did he?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, I went into Woodlands to have the operation.

QUESTION:

How long were you there?

MISS STOTT:

Just forget how long I was there...about 9 or 10 days.

QUESTION:

So you were better when you came out?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Your throat got better?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, it got better.

QUESTION:

Good.

MISS STOTT:

Then I had a big operation in 1940 to my liver.

QUESTION:

Where was that, in Newcastle?

MISS STOTT:

No, I had to go to Sydney for that. I had a bad illness and er, um, the doctor said there was nothing, only an operation for it, so I had to go to Sydney and had it done at Gloucester House. It was Dr, er, Dr Coate(??) that did it, C M Coate, and then later he did a thyroid operation on me.

QUESTION:

How did you go to Sydney?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

How did you go to Sydney, on the train?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, yes, I went by train to Sydney.

QUESTION:

Anything else you can remember about that time?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Anything else you can remember about that time.

MISS STOTT:

No. I was in hospital 15 weeks, I remember that, and I had a bad thrombosis and they...on this left leg and its always been sore since.

QUESTION:

Yes, so after you had all that...were you better after that... you didn't have anymore problems?

MISS STOTT:

No, I er, er, I had to watch my diet all the time - there's a lot of things I can't eat and it upsets me.

QUESTION:

After 1940, after you got better, what did you do then, during World War II - what did you do?

MISS STOTT:

I did a lot of knitting and that for WWII.

QUESTION:

For the troops.

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

That's when you were in Newcastle, wasn't it?

MISS STOTT:

yes, yes, I used to go into Newcastle and get the wool - they used to give the wool out, you see, if anyone would knit it. Khaki, it was. It wasn't just any old colour and that, er, they'd give you the wool and you took it back to them when you knitted it and if there was any wool left over.

QUESTION:

Well, where did you take it - there was a war effort or something, was there?

MISS STOTT:

Somewhere near...not far from the station, I know it was.

QUESTION:

Now, anything else you can remember about that time during the war? Anything else you did during the war?

MISS STOTT:

No, well, I did help nurse, look..we.. I didn't say..well I was never a nurse, you know, but I did help look after a lady. She died of cancer, in Sydney.

QUESTION:

So you went to Sydney?

MISS STOTT:

I was in Sydney when they wanted somebody, and my sister got them to get me to go and help - but I was only a help, I wasn't a nurse.

QUESTION:

So you helped. How long were you there?

MISS STOTT:

Altogether I was there nearly 12 months. I was working all that time.

QUESTION:

After you finished there, did you come back to Newcastle?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So that was still during the war, was it?

MISS STOTT:

No the war was over then, I think, but I just forget.

QUESTION:

That's OK, anything else happen after the war, that you can remember?

MISS STOTT:

No, nothing in particular, really.

QUESTION:

You just sort of.....

MISS STOTT:

A lot of it's all a blank.

QUESTION:

Yes, you can remember a little bit earlier than that a bit better, can't you?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

You can remember when you were little a bit better.

MISS STOTT:

I do remember this - that our house where I was born had a shingle roof.

QUESTION:

Well, anything else about the house?

MISS STOTT:

Only we had bare floors, those days, there was no carpet.

QUESTION:

So who fixed the shingles. Did your father?

MISS STOTT:

No he didn't - built when they went to live there.

QUESTION:

Did it have a name, your farm? Can you remember if there was a name on it?

MISS STOTT:

It used to have a name, but I forget.

QUESTION:

Do you know what road it was on?

MISS STOTT:

Only the Monkerai road, that's all I know, there was only the one road.

QUESTION:

Did the farm go out of your family, or is it still in your family?

MISS STOTT:

I couldn't tell you that, who it belongs to now.

QUESTION:

Did your brother stay on it, the one that took it over?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, but he died, he died years ago.

QUESTION:

And he didn't have any children that wanted to take it on?

MISS STOTT:

He had a son, I think.

QUESTION:

But he didn't take the farm on?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I suppose he came in for it. I don't know, I've lost track of them, you see.

QUESTION:

Well, this is it, when you move out of the district you do, don't you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

One thing, did you help when they were killing the beasts for the meat?

MISS STOTT:

No, I didn't help do it.

QUESTION:

You just helped clean up, did you?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, that's all.

QUESTION:

So there's nothing else. We've been through.....

MISS STOTT:

(Interrupting) But we didn't have bakers and butchers or anybody. All the lighting we had was kerosene lamps, which had to be trimmed every day.

QUESTION:

What about the ironing, what did you use for ironing?

MISS STOTT:

Used to have the little what we called a ??Sedd iron, heated at the fire.

QUESTION:

And very heavy..was it a very heavy iron?

MISS STOTT:

No. We didn't have..we had certain weights there was of them, but we used to heat them at the fire, put on iron plate over the hearth, and put them on that to keep clean.

QUESTION:

So it was a big day when you had to iron, then?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

We've been through washing and ironing - is there anything else you can remember?

MISS STOTT:

No.

QUESTION:

When you played, what did you play with?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Did you play with anything in particular, did you play with dolls or hoops or...

MISS STOTT:

Well, we always had a dog and we always had a cat, we always had a cat and a dog.

QUESTION:

And a cat.

MISS STOTT:

And a cat. You see, they had to have a cat to go to the barn to keep the mice down.

QUESTION:

That's where you stored the grain, is it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes. It was corn we used to grow and they used to take that to Dungog to the flour..cornflour..Wades cornflour. You've heard of Wades Cornflour? Well, we used to sell corn to them.

QUESTION:

Did they do it..did they actually grind it in Dungog, did they?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So Wades had a grinding mill in Dungog, did they?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Did Wades have a mill in Dungog, did they?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

Anything else...any sort of other industries you can remember in Dungog or Stroud?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

There was the Wades Cornflour Mill, what else was there in Stroud or Dungog?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I don't know if there was anything else in particular where they made anything. There was saw mills in Dungog (??) Crouse was the people that owned the saw mill.

QUESTION:

You'd get all your timber from them, did you?

MISS STOTT:

No, we had used our own timber on the house we lived in. In latter half of the time was built out of timber off our own property.

QUESTION:

Did you saw it on your own property?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, they had 2 men that did the sawing.

QUESTION:

How did they..did they use a machine or did they dig a pit and have pit-sawn timber?

MISS STOTT:

They had, like, crosscut saws.

QUESTION:

And they just cut it into planks, did they?

MISS STOTT:

Planks and flooring boards and, er, our house was lined with cedar, the ceiling was cedar and the doors were all cedar.

QUESTION:

Grown on your own property?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

There's not much cedar left now, is there?

MISS STOTT:

No.

QUESTION:

Anything else about the house you can remember?

MISS STOTT:

No, nothing in particular, only that the dining room and kitchen were sort of built separate from the other part of the..we called it a sitting room those days and we had a fireplace built there. We had to, for to light the fire, you know, had to light a fire for warmth.

QUESTION:

It's very cold up there, isn't it?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

So your dining room and kitchen were separate to the rest of your house?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, just a little platform built between the 2 - not far...

QUESTION:

A few feet, was it?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

A couple of feet?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, perhaps 4 feet, 4 or 5 feet.

QUESTION:

Where were the bedrooms built?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

The bedrooms, were they on a verandah-type thing or what?

MISS STOTT:

No, they were in the house.

QUESTION:

So the main house contained the bedrooms?

MISS STOTT:

yes, bedrooms, sitting room and the hallway.

QUESTION:

Were the barns very close to the house, or were they a long way away?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, not far away, but across the road from where we lived.

QUESTION:

So the cows were milked and all that sort of thing on the other side of the road, were they?

MISS STOTT:

No, the dairy was on the same side as the house.

QUESTION:

Did you have to do any milking?

MISS STOTT:

Yes.

QUESTION:

How often...how many times a day did you have to milk?

MISS STOTT:

Twice.

QUESTION:

What time, before you went to school?

MISS STOTT:

Went early in the morning and then in the afternoon, but that was after we left..I left school, we went in for dairying.

QUESTION:

So you didn't have to milk while you were at school?

MISS STOTT:

No.

QUESTION:

That would have been hard, if you had to milk, then walk $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. You wouldn't feel much like school, would you?

MISS STOTT:

No.

QUESTION:

Is there anything else about those days?

MISS STOTT:

No, nothing in particular.

QUESTION:

Nothing more about the house you can remember?

MISS STOTT:

Well, I told you there was like a sitting room and a hall and there was 3 bedrooms and a verandah round across the front and the side.

QUESTION:

Did you have a vegetable garden around it too?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, umm, the vegetable garden was separate.

QUESTION:

Did your mother grow her own flowers?

MISS STOTT:

Beg pardon?

QUESTION:

Did your mother grow flowers?

MISS STOTT:

Yes, she had a flower garden.

QUESTION:

What was her favourite flower?

MISS STOTT:

Oh, I don't know, anything that.....

QUESTION:

Anything that grew, was it?

Page 29

MISS STOTT:

Long as it bloomed well.

QUESTION:

So your house was a very happy one by the sounds of it. Did you have a very happy house?

MISS STOTT:

We weren't unhappy. We had plenty of hard work, we had our own bread to make, you see, everything to make, that we had.

END OF INTERVIEW WITH MISS EVA STOTT.

Research Project. Local History Assignment.

Open Foundation Course, 1988. Ann Fenwick.

LIFE IN THE COUNTRY, 1890-1910. A YOUNG GIRL'S OUTLOOK ON
HER ENVIRONMENT. MISS EVA STOTT, BORN 22nd JULY, 1887 in
THE VILLAGE OF MONKERAI, UPPER HUNTER VALLEY.

Miss Eva Stott was born the 5th and last child in a rural farming family. She learned to work hard, both on the farm and at her schooling, which was undertaken at the small, one room, one teacher school situated in the village of Monkerai. The schoolhouse was a small building, measuring only 17 foot 6 inches by 15 foot 6 inches. 1. The school at Monkerai had been ~~erected~~ ^{REBUILT} by Eva's father in 1879, being completed in the November of that year. 2. The teacher, who would direct her education till the age of 14 years, was Mr William Fell, who had been appointed to the school at Monkerai in 1873. 3. He was to serve the community in the position of schoolteacher till his retirement in 1902. 4. Mr Fell was well versed in the behaviour of young children ~~children~~ and Eva, carrying her slate, took her place along with ~~the~~ rest of her classmates, who had come in from the surrounding farms. 5.

The schoolteacher had pupils at all levels and ages. All the pupils were taught their letters, recited Arithmetic tables, studied History and Geography and the basics of English as a language. 6. They learned out of books, but did all working out on slates, which were cleaned with a wet sponge, kept for this purpose. 7. The children had to take their own lunch, as the 1½ mile walk each way was too far to return home for the lunch break. On wet days attendance dropped, the Stott children alone having 2 river crossings to ford, 8, whilst the teacher was at times unable to get to the school because of flooding caused by inclement weather. 9. The severity of the flooding can be imagined by reading a report in March, 1894, which was submitted by Mr Fell to the School Inspector, Mr Waterhouse, which told of the river overflowing its banks and sweeping away a: "...greater part of the school fencing, and causing a portion of the land, about 20 feet, to fall into the river..." 10. and requesting new fencing, moved further away from the river, to be erected around the school.

The school was open to children up to 14 years of age; no

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

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1988

I, MISS EVA STOTT give my
permission to MISS ANN FORWICK

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*Verbal permission given - interviewee
is blind*
Signed M. Nelson RN (sister - in - charge)

Date 18.6.88

Interviewer 