

Consent Form

I, hereby release my taped interview for use by researchers subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Use by researchers only
- 2) Open to public
- 3) To be made of use to researchers and/or public only after _____
- 4) Special conditions: _____

Signed

Ruth A.E. Graham
interviewee

Signed

Kerroy Allan
interviewer

Date April 12, 1979

Oral History

Donor: Ruth H.E. Graham

Inverness, Que

Date: April 12th, 1979

Interviewer: Henry Allan

Footage

1 - 9

10 - 14

15 - 26

27 - 55

56 - 75

Subject Headings

A. Background

1. occupation - farmer's wife

B. Great Depression

C. Beginning of WWII

1. living conditions

D. Rationing

1. black market

2. national unity

3. conscription

E. End of the war

1. effects

Interviewer- Kenny Allan

Interviewee- Ruth H.E. Graham

What's your name please?

It's Ruth Graham.

What's your marital status?

Well, I'm Mrs. Weston Graham.

Could you tell us a bit about your family background?

Yes, I was born up at a place called Denison Mills, near Richmond, Quebec, which is in the Eastern Townships too. And I went to school up at Denison Mills for a few years and I moved from Denison Mills up to Danville, I finished my schooling there. I went to MacDonald College and I taught school up there first and then I came down here and was married down here.

During the war what was your occupation?

Well, I guess a farmer's wife. Working on the farm.

And when World War II began had the Great Depression ended in your area?

Partly, it was still hard enough for people at that time.

So you hadn't fully recovered from it.

Partially, just partially.

In what way did World War II most affect you?

It didn't really affect us too badly in this area because we had our own food, a great deal of it, on the farm, it's not

like in town. We had our own garden our own meat. This helped.

Did you own a Victory Garden or have a Victory Garden?

No, we had our own garden.

Do you remember what you were doing when the war began?

No, I haven't any idea.

How did you learn of the war's outbreak with the newspaper?

From the radio.

Do you have any family members or relatives who volunteered?

Yes

They went overseas?

Yes, I had a nephew Bill the lost one in the war.

What were living conditions like?

Well, I don't know of anybody except living on a farm. You know the same as most of the time except things were much shorter, you didn't do much travelling around I'll tell you in those days.

What was your source on income?

Just from the farm.

Can you explain to me anything about rationing?

Oh, I know we had rationing books, I still have them. Plus we had two boys and that was a help in the rationing too because one was only a baby. And we had two teachers boarding here, one French and one English. And then of course, you know when you have more people you can use more things cause you have more ration books, which was a help too.

What things were rationed?

Oh, butter, sugar, gasoline, those were the main ones. Of course, gasoline we didn't bother us too much because we didn't go too far. But the sugar when it came to jam, and things like that was a bit harder. But we had our own maple syrup, we made some maple syrup so and maple sugar so we were alright.

Was there a black market?

No, not right in our area.

You knew of the black market.

Yes, we heard, we heard of it, yes.

No one in this area was involved in it?

Not that we know of. Some people I think went places where there was black markets though.

What rationed goods did you most miss?

I think possibly sugar the most of any. But as far as butter was concerned that wouldn't matter too much cause we had our own cows anyway. We could always make a little.

Did the male-female ratio affect social life?

Not really. Not here.

Did you or your family or friends have a sence of national unity, pulling together?

Indeed yes!

Could you explain briefly?

Well, I find that we had little problems that people can disagree so much but with anything big, like war, everybody is trying to end up on the winning side and everybody

pulled together naturally. You had to or else.

Do you remember either of the conscription crises in 1942 or 1944?

Well, it didn't really affect us much. We heard lots of talk about it in the neighborhood but it didn't really affect us too much.

Did you have resent or envy for these zombies?

No, not really.

You didn't make any, no opinion?

No

Do you recall the end of the war?

I recall when it ended, but I don't remember just how, in what way. I remember when it ended cause I was soo thankful it was over. We heard it on the radio I know.

Did lots of people come back to this area?

The ones that were away, yes. A great many of them hadn't been there too long.

So there wasn't a large percentage that didn't return?

Well, there was some, of course that didn't come.

The majority returned.

Yes, I think so. I would think so. There is a plaque up in the old school, you know, of those who didn't come back.

How did the end of the war affect you personally?

Not really in anyway or shape except that I was very thankful that all the soldiers could come home and that things could get back to normal again. There would be no more killing.

Did the rationing stop as soon as the war ended?

That I don't remember. I don't think it did exactly at the time. I think it went on for a little while after. But don't ask me for sure. I couldn't guarantee that anymore. I don't know how long though.

Did you know of any military installations in this area?

I don't know of any. There might have been, but I don't know them. I never heard of them.

You mentioned the one in Thetford. Do you know any more?

No, I don't know. I could find out for sure, but I don't know myself.