



**Harold Taylor**  
**November 23, 1992**

George Jackson interviewing them at their home on Hurd Street. Anne Coffee,  
Harold Taylor, Mrs. Taylor, Joe Saint, and Harry\* Moriarty

George asks Harold about his family history. Harold says his mother was a school teacher and she taught for 25 years at the Amsterdam school on the old highway 11. The building is still there but is a private residence now. His mother's maiden name was Larkin\*, Maude Mary. His father died in 1915 just after the war started. His mother was a qualified teacher and taught in England by the time she was 13 and came over here in October 1913. His father was over here before her and worked for a farmer named Richie. His father was also a semi-qualified preacher and he preached in Holland Landing and Keswick. He says his father came in 1912. His father's name was Edward and he came over by himself. Harold says he was born in Kittiminster\* in Summerset England and his dad was from that area. Harold came over when he was four years old. He had two brothers and a sister named Kathleen. His brothers were Herb and Arthur\*. His mother continued teaching in Amsterdam after his father passed and that was the only school she taught at until she retired. Harold says they lived in different places. Originally when his mom was teaching they lived where Greg Stein\* is now. Then they lived in a little house down behind Pedro Farms. They first came to this part of the country they lived out with the Thompsons\*.

Harold is asked about his father preaching and explains that he was an Anglican preacher and he doesn't think his father was fully qualified but that he was close and his church was Holland Landing Keswick and that was in 1913-1914. His family went to school at the Amsterdam school and were taught by his mother then they went to high school in Bradford. Harold remembers going to school with Tim Kenan\*, Bekeys\*, Graham's, Nelly, and Beke. Harold finished his 5 year high school education. After high school Harold tried to go to university but it didn't work out for him and then he had to quit his job so he could go to his sister's wedding. He then got a job as a Forman working for Professor Day. Tom Fuller was also a Forman for Professor Day. Harold wanted to go to school for chemical engineering but the math was too difficult and he did not know enough to study. Harold says he was just smart enough in high school that he didn't have to take his books home and could get his grades nicely, but when he got to university he did not have the foggiest idea on how to study. He worked in a paper mill owned by Smiths Falls as a chemical engineer. Harold got to work for Professor Day after his sister's wedding. He did not work on the dredging of the canal but he remembers it and says Tom Fuller worked on it. Harold says the tools had a habit of falling into the canal and Tom was quiet a swimmer so he used to dive into the canal to get the tools.

George explains that they are looking for a picture of the dredge and that they have been unable to find them. George asks how they moved the dredge. Harold explains that they built it on a scow, actually it was a steam shovel boarded scow so it would float up to the bank and they would

just float it along. It was a barge\* (barge and scow are used interchangeably) and it had a dredge built onto it. Marjorie Ramsey has a steam shovel that he's restored and was going to take pictures of it and give them to Joe Saint. Harold remembers crawling on his hands and knees for miles weeding for Prof Day. That was in the early 1930s. Professor Day started in 1929 farming mostly lettuce. Prof Day had an acre of lettuce and made \$900 off of that acre. Harold says he remembers one year where Professor Day grew a lot of celery, 45 acres, and he shipped it to Montreal and instead of any money he got a bill for dumping lettuce. That was the end of him.

Once the marsh got going and the Dutchmen settled there Harold remembers they passed the time trying to see how many marsh men they knew. The immigrants settling there were what really helped the marsh get going. What they call the small Bradford Marsh was owned by Professor Day, but he also owned some land on the big scheme just past the pump house he had about 100 acres. There was quite a bit of clearing that had to be done before it could be farmed, Harold explains it was mostly removing stumps. Harold says by this time someone else had cleared all the trees and speculates that was done by saw men in the 1890s and all they had to do as farmers was remove the stumps. The stumps were from pine and Tamarac trees. Some of them were big enough that they needed a tractor to remove them. Professor Day lived in the big house were the Gosling's\* were next to the high school. That was where they had their honeymoon. There was a tent on the marsh that was used as an office. When they had some money they tried to figure out the pay rolls in the tent. Down by the one market there's a shed there and Harold answers George by saying it was not a part of Professor Day's operation. Professor Day's operation was a small shed near some willows.

Harold was not married at this time. During the war he was inspector for the government and started out inspecting copper for shells at Anaconda Brass\* and he got hassled there for not passing a shipment. CD Hought\* was the big boss and was in town at the time and wanted to release him. Harold wanted to be released and the boss said come down to see me. Harold brought him a sample and went down with him. They said they'll find somewhere else for him and sent him to the Sue\* (believed to be Sue Saint Marie). Harold said his boss up in the Sue backed him and he was working for Algoma Steel... Margaret's maiden name was Sullivan and they met while she was working in the Sue telephone company and they would ride the train to Sudbury together.

Margaret's family came from Pembroke and North Cobolt. She has lots of nieces and nephews in the area but only one sister. George leaves the interview at this point and lets Joe Saint and Irene continue the interview. They ask Harold who his teachers were. Keenan was principal. There were four teachers Jesse Kurri\*, Agatha Webb (part-time), Mrs. Seaboard\* Lee (they think her maiden name was a Stranger). Irene asks about other people in the area that Harold went to high school with. Harold says Gordon Ferris, Harley Cummings (Doc Cummings son), Harvey Kurri\*, Evelyn Richie, Mariane Evans and Olivene Evans, Lew Neally\*, and there were about 40 in his class in 1921-1926. Harold explains that school exercise was not in a gym. Harold does not remember taking part in the school fairs and says they were public school fairs. Harold was in the Queensville fair and won prize there for best grocer and won eggs. High School Harold does not remember having physical education but they would play baseball if someone brought a ball and bat. Also, Harold remembers sneaking into the fair grounds to watch the lacrosse games. Harold says Doc Campbell, Ozzie McKinstry, Big Bob, Eddie Armstrong, Lauren Church, Ollie Robinson all played lacrosse as well as many others. Harold says it was the most popular sport in the area, they remember playing some hockey, a little bit of baseball and no soccer. Harold remembers starting a

softball team in the factory and they used to play in Dominic Fezeally's\* field. They had a girl play catcher for them named Valerie White. Harold moved onto David Street in 1935. His mother was no longer a teacher at this point. On David Street was his first house in Bradford. His father was 40 when he died. Harold remembers living on David Street with his mother until 20 years ago.

Mrs. Taylor and Harold both lived on David Street and raised their family of three kids. The oldest of their kids was Joyce, Arthur who lives in British Columbia as a welder but he was a plumber first, and Pauline the youngest. Mrs. Taylor looked after many children while living on David Street. Harold's wife was babysitting on David Street for around 35 years. Occasionally she would even babysit at the child's home. When Harold moved back from the Sue he lived on the marsh for about 3 years. Harold was asked where he sold his vegetables and he says that buyers would come around every month. Harold grew onions and carrots. After giving up the marsh he went to work for Holland River Gardens until he got in an argument. He worked at Holland River Garden for 4 years and then went to work for International. International was a packing plant where Bradford shippers are now and he worked there for 15 years until he retired. The head person at International was Bill Schultz\*. He worked for Bill Fuller for a while until Schultz took over. Bill was in the cold storage for a while but then moved over. Interview ends with Irene thanking Harold and Mrs. Taylor for their hospitality and the interview.

Banner image from the Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library Local History Collection depicting cars lining Holland Street East. ID Number 3696. <http://www.ibidnet.ca/details.php?IDnum=3696>