

Transcription of Interview with Fred Hahnen.

family came from Low Countries. mother was Dutch, father was French descent.

came over 1910--fall of 1909. Landed in Stellarton.

worked at the ~~steel~~ works and car works there.

lined the boilers and that.

his dad worked in the Allen Shaft, Hahnen himself worked at the Back Mines and the Macgregor. Then from that worked out in New Brunswick--Minto--worked at the Black Diamond in ~~Riston~~ near Maccan.

John David Betts--Maccan. Black Diamond.

finished that, came up to Springhill 1920. started in No.2.

father's family lived in Stellarton pretty well, then we went up to New Brunswick. moved to New Brunswick 1918.

had a farm in Stellarton on the back road to Westville. they were burned out.

worked the farm at same time as mining.

went to school in Stellarton.

seven when he came over. [consequently b.1903]. [but he says 1902].

started at Back Mines when he was 14--driving a horse, ~~then~~ but trapping a door first. trapping a door was 50c a day (5 c an hour)--driving a horse, 9c an hour. kind of small ~~ages~~--Back Mines.

slope down quite a ways.

Catholic family.

1923, lost his brother-in-law in a bump. 1923, she started bumping.

hired on as a miner, 1920.

Mr. Ward became his buttie. "A great worker--one of the finest workers, he could shovel coal along with any young man." Butty system--one fellow would be cutting the coal, the other would be loading the coal and getting it out. Both equals, each got 50/50 share. Vint didn't mine--Hahnen was the miner.

[manager, John C. Nicholson, went to W.Virginia to find out about the longwall system. Keep one wall behind the other. Drove the level in first and came out. You didn't line them all up--one would be ahead of another.]

[once they lined them up, it was like a springboard.]

[NO.2 seam was soft coal, no.3 was soft coal, no.1 laid in between these two and then there was no. 6 and 7 seam--all kind of twisted up. When they got into the no.3, it closed up, and they flooded it. she caught fire. The first bump, Sandy Gable was killed--4700, 1917. next one that was killed was his brother-in-law and a foreigner. drove a stone tunnel from 6-7 to no.4 connected that up to no.2. connected no.1, no.1 seam and worked that out. water pressure come down--so put electric pumps in and put lodgements in no.2 soft coal.]

[engineers studied it for the last three years. they said they'd have to try it or close down the mine.

Minto--hard coal, shafts. pretty primitive little mines. in Minto 1918-1920.

Maccan--pitching seam. Just a bunch of small little cabins. 1914. war was on and trying to get whatever coal they could get. He put on two coats and told them he was 14--he was only 12.

whole family lived in the little camp at Maccan. Betts.

rented a place. company had built them.

his father got great offers--he was a bricklayer by trade, got an offer from Trenton. bricklaying, mason work. he was acquainted with management of Allan

Shaft.

Caught in the bump--that's how I got caught up pretty bad,

got the eight-hour shift through the UMW.
on the AMM:

'Well, I'll tell you, the way I see it, it was getting the checkoff,...and there was nothing coming back those last years. You know, it was too much across. I'd say one time when you paid your dues across the table you had a good union. The people was interested. And if you didn't have a case you'd speak for the other fellow. You helped one another. You know, the working class always tries to beat one another...There's nobody condemns the working class any more than a workingman, I'd say.'

committee-member in the 1950s.

'And then they went for checkoff, for to get taken off your envelope. Well, then, when she got taken off your envelopes, then things started going to the dogs, I think. Everybody put in for expense money and big salaries. A whole lot can help one or one can't help a whole lot....They could have done more things, I think.

had a company house first then built a little house.
m. 1928.

sons go to Lynn, Mass.
emigrate to the States.