

Transcription of Interview with Mrs. Lillian Lockhart.

[ b.1898. her husband died 42 years ago. she was 43. she was 17 when she got married. 1915, thereabouts.

b. in Southampton. Her maiden name was Gallagher. Came to Springhill at age of 6. her father worked all around the farms. then worked in carpenters' shop at the mine. worked at Adams' in Southampton.

started in Springhill 1904. went to work at the carpenters' shop.

her father born in Ireland. he came over when he was about 15 years old. came over to Southampton. he liked farms, ploughs and horses. He was 96 when he died of old man's pneumonia.

she had seven brothers and six sisters--now there's just her and her sister living. out of 14 children altogether, only two!

her father did not approve of unions. he would argue a lot, he was one of those old fellows who liked to argue. worked till four o'clock in the afternoon.

her brothers came up one by one and worked in the mines here.

she worked at All Saints' Hospital for two years.

three brothers had jobs in mine when the family moved up.]

[remembers boys strikes in the early years. he was 14 when he went on strike.]

never out of work, and not much seasonal variation--for carpenters.

rented a house--a "beautiful house"--\$10.00 a month.

"My mother never saw hot water coming out of a tap or sit on a toilet before she died."

all the girls in the family had their jobs to do.

put four grades in the one room--grades one, two, three and four.

at the hospital, she waited on the table for the doctors and the nurses. got to grade 7. used to ring the big bell and wake the nurses up. "I had a little black velvet uniform, with a white apron, and a white cap on my head."

took this job at the hospital when she was only about 15.

\$8 a month pay.

did not live at the hospital.

Old Canon Wilson used to be at the door if we were out after 10:00 o'clock. used to sneak out and use the excuse her mother was sick--prompting Canon Wilson to enquire, "Is your mother going to get better or is she going to die?"

made their own bread at the hospital.

married at 18. her mother didn't want her to get married. Moved down to Fur Street.

her maiden name was Gallagher. Her husband was a boss at the mine and his father was also a boss in the mine.

"He worshipped the mines. He'd stay there all night." "He thought that was his life."

her son was the very same. he went to Toronto after the bump.

1909-11 strike: "I can just barely remember them going to the woods, and carrying big logs on their shoulders....And my mother and father went across picking blueberries across the water...."

Everything they wore, was made by their mother. Used cement bags--when you bleach them out, they're white as snow. Made boys pants out of cement bags, and she hemmed them and used them for towels. used flour bags for aprons and slips.

She didn't have much of a life, comments Mrs. Lockhart. "Everything was so hard. She made bread every day....She was a very happy woman."

of her father: "He was a strong Liberal, but he wasn't interested in politics."

[On class differences] "Well, there were some people quite well off in Springhill....As girls, we always chummed together. Now, Hargreaves', they were pretty well-to-do. [also Cowans' daughters--"we all played together"] Then Dr. Simpson...that's a nice family. [Dr.Murray too].

"He used to tell them how foolish they were" [her father on the coal miners' strikes.]

[Had a big garden--"My, he loved to garden"--and hens. This would be at the big house on Pleasant Street.]

all her brothers were coal diggers--no real sense of division between mine craftsmen and miners.

a Methodist family.

her mother was particularly devout--went to church every Sunday, when she was old, old.

"Oh, she was a thrifty woman--or we wouldn't have got along."

Her mother made everybody bloomers.

Her father didn't go to church. "But he never swore. I don't think I ever heard my father swear any more than twice." He was Catholic.

Her son took up the Catholic Church very strongly.

The foreigners made their own wine...

" We lived by a whole lot of foreigners, there must have been twelve of them, in the same house. Two men doing the work and getting their meals....One was from Ireland.... They went to work in the mine and put Springhillers out of their jobs [in 1909-11 strike]....There was one foreigner who used to ask me if he could use the clothesline....One day I gave him a bottle of chow."

"They used to play music at night. They had guitars and things....Lovely music."

--little gestures of kindness: foreigner makes her an angora cap because he knows she likes them, as a return gesture for her kindness.

--house on Pleasant Street--way, way up. boarding-house with foreigners in it at top of hill. owned by Teddy Mishinak [phonetic spelling], who was killed in the bump.

--he died here. He showed me the picture of his wife and two daughters, but he never went back, he never went back.

--the foreigners would go to Church every Sunday.

\_\_\_"We heard afterwards that one fellow made home brew over there." They used to be "pretty full" on Saturday night and they'd all sing.

[re using her line for the foreigners' laundry] "My husband didn't think much of it. He didn't want me to get mixed up with them."

[Her husband was a "proud man". He liked to dress up an awful lot; he was always well-dressed. His pay was over \$200 a month in the 1920s. His attitude to the mines: "He thought it was his home."

She had all her children at home. "Those days they just had them and that's all there were to it."

Her mother was a midwife. An unpaid midwife. "My mother was a pretty fine woman. And tough as nails."