

Transcription of Interview with Mrs. William Campbell. Mrs. William F. Campbell.

[ b.17 May, 1839.]

[ b.Springhill. down on Lisgar Street.

born at home.

[ father came from the old country. his name was Charlie Downie. a mining community from England. doesn't know what year he came to Springhill.

he came out with a crowd of relatives. he wasn't long before he got his mother out here.

here for quite a while before she was born--marridd in this country.

eight in her family.

father was with her for 25 years. her mother died when she was ten years old.

worked in the mine all his life. then worked in the Mines Wash house and look after that.

he dug coal in the mine. []

[ her husband was superintendent of mine.  
in the mine for 5 1/4 years.

her mother... 'I can still see her, I can remember her.' ]

[ PMA member--his father. night shift, mine was always three-shifted. husband use to call the 11 o'clock shift the "dead man shift." ]

--interesting that the mine superintendent's wife has a vivid recollection of deprivation in a mining household.

washing on the old wash-board.

you made your own bread.

[ When her mother died, the whole family was separated. Her father couldn't look after them. Cousin took in the baby--only 8 months old--and she lived with her aunt and stayed and worked. She had 12 of a family. (McPhersons). Two sisters went to the States.]

[ stayed at McPherson's until she was married at 22. five men going out to work in the McPherson's in the morning--making their cans ready, everything. That was a lot of work.]

'A Hard Row, some hard times.'

'I think he could call everybody by their first name.'

when she married him he was just running the chain.  
[ come out from Yorkshire, England.]

then he took overman, and underground manager, manager, then worked himself up to superintendent of mines. went to night school for five years.

after work he'd go to school. he loved mining.

you'd meet all kinds of people--"some agitators"--but "they all liked him."

Q. Were there agitators around here? A. Oh, lots of them, in the mine, I'd guess.

...little house parties. they'd sing at parties.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. now all go to Wesley United.

Dan Rogers was the scourge of the drink. 'He lived there and watched that hotel.' Everybody despised him.... He was so busy.

George Smith--the one policeman. kids were scared to death of him.

1st of July were always the horse races. Cowans followed by JC Nicholson?  
then Alec Mcleod, then Glendenning.... barn just like

'When I used to think of that big barn that they had there, just like a house, it was just beautiful inside, for them horses. Lot of people in town didn't have have that good enough to live in.'

--seemed a bit unfair.

married a McLeod girl from Springhill, Dan McLeod's daughter.

all schoolteachers--a sort of manager/school teacher nexus. a definite middle class in Springhill(

Cowans and wife never missed church. 'And she was dressed so beautiful-- oh, my, she was a beautiful looking woman. And we'd always just wait for them to come in. She looked so beautiful and she had such beautiful clothes. We was all dressed good enough, but not like the things she had. Beautiful silks.'

didn't get any money from the McPhersons. doesn't remember--just pocket money. they gave her room and board and clothes.

Kids outside hollering when they return from their honeymoon--he had to give what little bit of change he had left to them.

husbands family from Cape Breton. Little River. Cape Breton.