

Interviewee: Kennedy Donnan (KD)	Interviewer: Julia Muir Watt (JMW)
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JMW: So, can you tell me a little bit about how your family came to be in the area and where you were born?

KD: Yes, I was born at (Kersdochan?) and then they moved tae...oot tae ...[?] Mosspark down near Whithorn.

JMW: Oh, right, ok.

KD: And Mother and Father split in, I think it was '36, that's when we came tae Barrachan House. And we walked in kye from Barrachan House tae...we left Barrachan House, we came fae Mosspark tae Barrachan House, wi ten cows. Father arrived up the next morning, wi two polismen and walked the cows back tae Mosspark (laughter). Ah don't know, ah was just a ten year old then, ah suppose we could hae stopped him, ma mother could hae come tae a share o the cows...still more cows left.

JMW: I see, right.

KD: I'd an invalid brother which was a lot o' work on my mother.

JMW: Yes.

KD: And ah gave her a hand while I could and then ah went tae stay wi ma sister down at Whithorn, to finish ma schooling at Whithorn.

JMW: Oh right.

KD: And after that ah got a job at West Freugh for aboot two year and then when ah finished there ah got a job at (Slahabart?) at Whauphill, ah was there for four year. Ma brother and me started contracting after that. We had two mills, then we got a baler, stationary baler and then we had a small baler, then a combine and ah had ma name in for a holding, ah got the offer of a holding at Kilfillan but ah'd had tae hae contracted tae make a living so ah turned it down. About a year later ah got 3 High Boreland and one of the conditions was that ah didn't contract.

JMW: Ah.

KD: Yes. Ah met Annie, she was walkin to Barrachan village and we started to keep in company for a while and eventually we started...we got together and then we married in 1955 and when we went to Boreland, Annie was homesick, she was gonnae come back to Kilinnan (laughs).

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JMW: Oh, right.

KD: So, that's how it was.

JMW: So, tell me about the Home Farm at Barrachan. How big was that farm?

KD: Thirty-one acre.

JMW: Thirty-one. And it was you're...your mother was the tenant, is that right?

KD: Yes, well, it was through...she got it...she was quite big hands wi Davie Jamieson that was in Woodside and he had it and he let it tae my mother.

JMW: Right, ok.

KD: Yes, it was pretty hard times then. Yes, for she didnae get anything for wur invalid brother at that time.

JMW: No, you wouldn't.

KD: No, he took infant paralysis at two year old.

JMW: Right. So, it was just your mother running the farm?

KD: Yes-

JMW: That really was quite hard.

KD: -and ma brother and me was there.

JMW: Yes, as much as you could but you were just children at the time.

KD: That's right. After we started the contracting we used to muck the byres an that and dae the milkin afore we went tae the mill.

JMW: Right.

KD: Yes.

JMW: Can you describe the buildings up at Barrachan Home Farm?

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KD: Well, there...much...maistly a square, there was one big shed what was supposed to be the barn, there was a byre, and there was one, two, three, four outhouses, not very big, used for hen-houses and ducks and that.

JMW: And what was the land like?

KD: It was reasonable, it was reasonable, what we called the [?] was, it never was ploughed. The hill, which was the biggest part o it, it was aye ploughed.

JMW: And was it a dairy farm principally?

KD: Yes.

JMW: Like all these farms then?

KD: They were all dairy then, milk cans.

JMW: So, how many cows did your mother have?

KD: About ten.

JMW: Right.

KD: Yes, and then we had calves and that, we had ten, tae. Annie and me got Falcumner afore we got Boreland.

JMW: Right.

KD: That was Mr Cockrell then and in that for two year.

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