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| Interviewee: Jim Kirkland (JK) | Interviewer: Alyne Jones (AJ) |
| Date of Interview: 5 July 2012 | Ref: DG6-1-1-1 (part 1of2) |

Jim Kirkland (JK) looking at and reading from his father's diaries. Diary entries in italics.

Speaking to ?

JK: Jim Kirkland, Cowcourse, Kirkbean, and we're in the living room at Cowcourse at the moment, studying father's diaries, which he kept from Nineteen twenty-six, to Eighty-six when he died. It's a diary of what happened in the farm and the surroundin' area, a' these years.

?: For people who don't know Cowcourse Jim could you give a kind of description o' what kind o' farm it is and where it's located?

JK: It's in Kirkbean area, near the Solway. Two hundred and fifty acres, arable, grain, silage, and used to milk a hundred and thirty-five cows till we were taken out wi' foot and mouth in Two-oh-one, and we never put them back on. And I produce silage to winter other people's cattle durin' the winter time, and any surplus grass, son-in-law fae West Preston greases it.

?: Now to go back to your childhood we do have in one of the diaries actually it was Nineteen...thirty-eight? I think we've got your birth recorded in the diary in Nineteen thirty-eight.

JK: Aye, lookin' at father's diary, on the Ninth of September, Thirty-eight. At the top o' the page it just says *baby boy arrived this mornin', four thirty five AM, almost seven pounds'*.

?: So can you go back to before your father how your father grew up did he have the farm here?

JK: Father came here with his sister and brother in Nineteen ninety-five May ninety-five he came here, from a farm at Criffel House at Kirkbean, which is the other side o' Kirkbean Village from here, where his...where my great-granny and grandfather started farming at Criffel House in Eighteen...Eighteen eighty-two. They came from Sorn in Ayrshire, tae start farmin' at Criffel House, and they were there till Eighteen ninety-five, when they gave the tenancy up at Criffel House, and came to Cowcourse.

?: Do you remember your grandparents, Jim?

JK: I can remember granny, but not grandfather. I can't remember when he died, to tell the truth. But I can remember granny ok she died in...I've a feeling it was Nineteen forty-seven she died.

00:03:20

?: Now before we go on to all these diaries in front of us which is quite a considerable task, there are certain things that came out recently when you were talking to your daughter when you were doing a show for Nineteen fifty-three. Could you tell us the kind of terminology that people who are not in farming might find difficult?

JK: Well we were readin' through Nineteen fifty-three, from about the start of May, till the...up through till about the middle o' March Fifty-four, and we were comin' on articles in the diary, men scarifyin' turnips. Well anybody that knows about agriculture they know that that's takin' the top off the drill at the sides o' the turnips, so's it's easier to hoe. Then there was another one that they were [saddlebacking] potatoes, which is a half-moon harrow, pulled behind the horse, that scraped the dreels clean, to get rid o' a' the weeds, 'cause there was no chemical spray, it a' had tae be done manually, tae keep it clean.

?: So when did chemicals come into the farm?

JK: Now you've got me. I honestly couldn't tell ye, when chemicals started.

?: But you don't use many, even today?

JK: As little as possible, mm hmm, aye. Just on...we use it on barley, and on grass land tae kill dockens, and keep the weeds down. That's aboot the only thing we use.

[They switch off the machine]

00:05:20