

Interviewee: Margaret Wilson (MW)	Interviewer: Dave Hutchinson (DH)
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Dave Hutchinson: Just for the record this is Dave Hutchinson on the 28th of November 2012 interviewing Margaret Wilson. Tell me Margaret, how long have you lived in the village?

Margaret Wilson: Seventy-five years.

DH: Seventy-five years; and where did you... where did you live when you were very young; when you were first in the village, where did you stay?

MW: The Straight Steps.

DH: The Straight Steps; and that's the cottages down by the museum...

MW: That's near the museum, yes.

DH: And who did you live there with?

MW: My mother and my brother.

DH: Your mother and your brother; and what did your mother do?

MW: Just a housewife, she wis a widow...

DH: She was a widow; and those early years, what were they like, what was living in the cottage like? Cos they would have been very different from today... [1]

MW: Oh definitely, ah mean you had no electricity, you had no running water, you had tae carry yr water...

DH: Right; how far did you carry your water?

MW: Well tae start off with it was just a bit up, up a bit from the cottages where the first tap it wis, down there, and there wis no electricity so you had to use candles or a Tilley lamp...

DH: Tilley lamps, and candles;

MW: An candles...

DH: So, so when you went to bed did you go to bed in an ordinary bed or was it a box bed?

MW: It wis two box beds...

DH: Box beds...

MW: In wor living room, uh-huh...

DH: In the living room...

MW: An straw mattresses...

DH: Straw mattresses; and did you change the straw for those mattresses or was it always the same...

MW: It wis always the same; it would be aired in the summertime; put outside, we got some good weather, sometimes, and you had to wash yr boards that were underneath, the tresses... [2]

DH: So there were boards underneath the mattress...

MW: Which our mattresses went on tae that...

DH: Yeah, and you washed those...

MW: You washed those an scrubbed those in the summertime as well; an aired... you washed blankets once a year as well...

DH: Yes.

MW: An that was it for the beds...

DH: Did you have sheets or just blankets?

MW: Yes; no we did have the sheets, like, uh-huh; just cotton ones ah think it was in they days...

DH: Yeah, and were you in that bed on your own, or did you share it with your mother?

MW: No, no, no, well, my mother was in the one an ah was in the other one...

DH: Right.

MW: There was another wee room, and the wee room had another bed, an that was just an ordinary bed that one, where we would sleep in...

DH: Yes; and have you got any very early memories of those days; can you remember anything vividly before you went to school?

MW: Yes, aye, ah remember... ah was like playin an things like that, like, you know. [3]

DH: And what did you do?

MW: You were free, you know, to go about an everythin, you know, not like today sort ah thing...

DH: No; and that cottage now is on a road, was it on a proper road then or was it just on a track?

MW: Its just as it is now...

DH: Is it just exactly the same as it is today?

Ronnie Wilson: They were-nae tarred at the time...

MW: Main road? No the main road wouldnae be tarred, that's right [Inhaled aye]...

DH: No; and as you grew up where did you go to school?

MW: In the village...

DH: In the village.

MW: Uh-huh, the village school...

DH: And how many children would be there?

MW: Ah don't know, ah think wis quite a lot...

DH: How many in your class roughly?

MW: It's something ah don't... ah try to visualise because we just seem to be together...

DH: Right.

MW: ... all in the thingummy, well there must have been a lot of kids because, ah mean, there were quite a lot of kids in the village...

DH: Yes, so different from today. [4]

MW: Thirty maybe or something like that ah would say roughly.

DH: Yeah.

MW: Summin like that, uh-huh.

RW: An that wis with startin each day, twelve [???] Sanquhar...

MW: We went tae Sanquhar Academy after that...

DH: Right.

MW: At that time.

DH: And how long were you there for, you must have been fourteen? fifteen?

MW: Sixteen, [Inhaled aye] mm-hmm, well that's what yr age was up tae about sixteen at that time.

DH: And how did you get to Sanquhar?

MW: Bus.

DH: A bus.

MW: A bus went then, *Westbus*, the buses at that time.

DH: And it called in at the morning and brought you back at night?

MW: Uh-huh, that's right yes.

DH: And when you were living in the village did you have any transport at home?

MW: No.

DH: So how did you get about then?

RW: Bus and train; ye used tae go tae Edinburgh with yr mother on the train.

MW: Ah yeah right, ah forgot about [???]...

DH: And what would you go to Edinburgh for? [5]

MW: We used tae go visiting, my mother used tae visit somebody we knew...

DH: Right.

MW: ... that had a brother in the village, and she went away and stayed in Edinburgh and we used tae go through there, now and again; maybe shoppin as well; occasionally it was, occasionally: but we ourselves didnae have transport.

DH: No; so where did you do your shopping as a family in those days?

MW: In the village, it would be in the village, uh-huh, aye...

DH: In the village; and you could get everything you wanted?

MW: Well the Co-operative wis there, and the vans came round at that time.

RW: [Slummages] shop, doon the road.

MW: [Slummages] shop, there wis another shop there as well; ah mean, you had quite a few shops at that time.

RW: The butchers van, the grocers van used tae come, fish van...

MW: Did Crosbie's van come round at that time as well?

RW: Aye, aye.

MW: Another van came round; and then again you had John Reeve's with the accumulators for your radio.

DH: Right, explain about this, cos there'll be lots of people who don't understand that; you had a radio... [6]

MW: Uh-huh.

DH: And there was no electricity.

MW: No, it worked off these batteries.

RW: Accumulators.

DH: And you had to have those... what?

RW: Charged every week.

MW: They got charged, they came round, well they'd bring one and take one away.

DH: Oh right; what other entertainment did you have other than the radio?

MW: That wis it.

DH: That was it? There was nothing else on in the village at all?

MW: No there wis nothing until we had yr electricity and you got yr television an that was it, eventually, as well, the TV... which wis black an white then as well; tae start off...

RW: You had the television until the late fifties though.

MW: No, that's what I'm sayin, we didnae have... no that's right, but ah mean we did get them once there wis electricity.

DH: Can I stop you just for a minute.