

<b>Interviewee(s): Mrs. Brown (MB)</b>	<b>Interviewer(s): Unknown Female (UF)</b>
<b>Date of Interview: 1966-1968</b>	<b>Ref: EL2-4-1-3-T</b>
REGION	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Fisherrow, Musselburgh.

Running time: 00.00

[music plays]

[unclear]

MB: ... My father in law, very good, good, people they were. And they'd five sons and three daughters, and every one of the sons went to the fishing, the five of them.

UF: Yes.

MB: And, eh... The eldest daughter went with the creel but it was just too much for her, and then she got married, married a miner. And they wirnae just over pleased to begin with but, of course, he was a nice fella, good man. He turned out to be a good man. And he was the organist in the Scottish Coast Mission for years and years. And then, of course, Jean... her auntie was in a fishmongers shop and she went there, in the fishmongers shop. And Ella went into the fishmongers shop too. So you see there were just always connected to all the fish. That was the family. The five of them was all fisherman.

UF: And their name was Brown too?

MB: Aye.

UF: When I spoke to Mr. Montgomery, he said there was a crew, and I think they were all Browns. And someone asked one of the men the names of the people on the ship, on the boat, rather. And he said "there's father, and me, and uncle Sandy, and oor Sandy," and then some nicknames. Sandy Tandy, or something like that. Do you...

MB: [unclear] No. Although some of them, all had nicknames, you know?

UF: I think you... I suppose the nicknames would start because so many people had the same names.

MB: The same names.

UF: Yes.

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MB: That's what it was.

UF: Yes. That's just what it was. There was an awful lot of Browns, you know? In Fisherrow. Awffie more Browns than anything.

UF: Well, I phoned someone Brown, A. Brown, New Street.

MB: Mhmm.

UF: And, it wasn't you.

MB: [unclear] down there. I dinnae ken how many Browns is down there.

UF: And all in the fishing community?

MB: Aw in the fisher community. And it's a lovely wee meetin down there. Lovely wee hamely meetin.

UF: Yes.

MB: Ye've no idea, I love to go tae the Church of Christ down there, a grand wee meeting it is.

UF: Is that independent of...

[unclear]

MB: Yes. And no, it's like the Baptist, you know?

UF: Yes.

MB: Like the Baptist Church.

UF: Mr. Eleanor Brown lives there.

MB: Eleanor Brown? Yes, yes.

UF: Up above. Is he connected with the church?

MB: Yes, yes. Grand speaker too, Eleanor.

UF: Oh, does he... Do they have lay preachers?

MB: Yes. And they just all work among themselves, you know? Oh, its a grand wee hamely meetin. Lovely. Well, there's Bob Broon, then Eleanor Broon, Sandy Broon. And there's Robert Broon, and there's John Broon. And there's Auld Robert Broon, and there's Airchie Broon. Can I think of anyone else? And that's aw doon in their meeting [unclear]. And it's aw Broon is there name.

UF: Yes. Are they related to your husband?

MB: Eh, well, cousins. Eleanor Broon is my husband's cousin.

UF: Oh.

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MB: And Bob Broon.

UF: And his father was Eleanor? Unusual name.

MB: No, his father was Wardie Broon.

UF: Oh.

MB: And it was, when they... His father, and Airchie Broon's father and eh, what do you call him? David Fairnie, David Fairnie... When they were at the fishing, they went in at Smeaton, and they

thought it was a grand [unclear]. And they said "What about startin a meetin at oor own place in Fisherrow?" And they were the founders.

UF: Oh, right.

MB: Eleanor Broon's faither.

UF: Yes.

MB: Wardie Broon, that's my husband's uncle. And, eh, Wardie Broon... [unclear]. Aye, Auld Robert Broon, aye. And, eh, David Fairnie, was the three founders o the Church o Christ down there.

UF: Where do you think the name Eleanor comes from? It's unusual.

MB: I couldnae tell ye, ye ken? But there was two or three.

UF: It was in the family?

[unclear]

MB: It's no been in the family that I remember of, you know?

UF: Yes.

MB: Unless it's been [unclear] you see? Must have been, ye know?

UF: Yes.

MB: But I couldnae really [unclear] now.

[laughter]

MB: Cause I never thought about it, ye see?

UF: It's an unusual name.

MB: Yes. There were Eleanor Craig, that was a girl's name.

UF: Yes.

MB: You see?

UF: Yes.

MB: And Eleanor, of course fae... Eleanor Brown, ye ken?

UF: Yes.

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MB: I think he's the only... No, there are another Eleanor Brown, in Bush Street.

UF: I believe there's an Elmer Brown. Elmer, as well. Or do you think it's the same name?

MB: Eleanor's the same, aye. Eleanor Broon, he's in Bush Street..

UF: Yes, well I thought it was Eleanor, but Mr. Montgomery thought it was Elmer.

MB: Elmer...

UF: But I think he's mistaken.

MB: I think so.

UF: Because Mrs. Montgomery agreed with me that it was Eleanor.

MB: Mhmm. I would say Eleanor, I never heard of any other name, you know? But they, the two Eleanors in the town are Browns, ye know? And they've no connection.

UF: Oh!

MB: No, no connection whatever.

UF: Goodness.

MB: Yes.

UF: Perhaps the fishing tradition.

MB: Aye, [unclear], aw were very well friendly, ye know? My husband's cousin. And she's eighty four, aye, eighty four come August. And she comes and sees me and I'll go down and see her, no often.

UF: No.

MB: But just now and then, ye know? So, we're going tae a drive, the Church o Christ drive. And it's goin tae [unclear].

UF: Oh.

MB: So, she wisnae goin if I wisnae goin. But I was telling her, well I says "Is there much walking?" I says "I cannae go." So they said "Oh no, we make sure, there widnae be much walking." And Annie says, "If [unclear] goin, I'm goin." So, I dinnae ken whether we're gonna be goin or no but whoever... Her niece was up and she was sayin, oh she says "Auntie Ann's goin."

UF: Oh.

MB: So.

UF: She carried the creel too I expect?

MB: Yes, oh yes. carried the creel too, uh huh. Carried the creel.

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UF: How long ago did you retire?

MB: Eh, well... Twenty years? Oh no, it has to be more. After the second war. Would that be twenty five years?

UF: Well, it ended twenty one, twenty three years ago.

MB: Aye, cause Amy, that's my daughter, started the fishmongers shop.

UF: Yes.

MB: Well, it's not twenty five years yet.

UF: Oh.

MB: But it's twenty something, ye know?

UF: Yes.

MB: So [unclear] that's when it was. And I fell and fractured my ankle.

UF: Oh.

MB: You see?

UF: Yes.

MB: And, of course, I couldnae carry the creel for a long time.

UF: No.

MB: And then, of course, buying fish when they were, ye know, the day before. It was now our policy to sell fresh fish.

UF: Yes.

MB: And selling them and buying them, ye know, a day before, ye see?

UF: Yes, you told me that during the war you [unclear].

MB: Yes, yes. It'd be about twenty year anyway.

UF: Yes.

MB: Mhmm.

UF: What was the drave?

MB: The drave was, eh.. The bail. What you call [unclear]. there's squaring up.

UF: Oh, yes.

[unclear]

MB: But, when you were squaring up.

UF: Yes.

MB: When they come home fae the fishin...

UF: Yes.

MB: And what they got, their mother of course put it in the bank, ye see, for them. And then, of course, the they were getting married they had this [unclear]. Furniture, or whatever it was for you see? For their wedding.

UF: Yes.

MB: Mhmm.

Running time: 10.00

UF: And what's this shift? The mothers' shift? They would start off quite well, they would have a good beginning?

MB: Oh they wouldnae start off...

UF: Yes.

MB: That's one thing - the right fisher people always like to start well.

UF: Yes.

MB: But mind ee, it wisnae jist saving for sacrifices.

UF: Yes.

MB: Many men at a time, oor mothers sacrificed an awful lot to give their children a right start away.

UF: Yes.

MB: In life.

UF: Yes.

MB: That was one thing of the fisher people. But, of course, the other kind, of course, were just all for themselves ye see? Some of them.

UF: Yes.

MB: Of course they didnae understand the... The work of the fisher fellas, ye see?

UF: No.

MB: It was all a new beginning to them.

UF: Yes.

MB: A new beginning.

UF: Perhaps on the next reel you could tell me about some of the nicknames?

MB: Oh dear, I wouldnae like tae hear some o their nicknames.

UF: You don't [unclear] their real names.

