

KINGSLAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer: Sally Wall

Interviewee: Mary Sankey

Age: 86

DOB: 5.6.1932

Date of interview: 11.12.18 and 22.1.19

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH: Mary was born in Kingsland and live at The Poor House with her mother and six siblings. Her father worked away mining in South Wales. She later lived at Drybridge then No 2 Park Terrace followed by No 3 Park Terrace.

She describes her early memories including carnivals, the school, working as a maid to the Barnets at Highfield, then as a nanny for Mrs Harvey in Hereford Road, POWs working in the hop fields, airmen's families from Shobdon, the Post Office, pubs, Dr 'Bob' Williams at the Croase, the Fire Brigade, Kingsland station, Sunday School, sweet shops, the Baptist Chapel, Land Army girls, bakeries, undertakers, butcher, general stores, Golf House, cricket, football, the building of the Coronation Hall, busses, Goldings in Leominster and milking cows at Kaarlsons. She also describes her husband Arthur Sankey's job on the railway and his grandfather's work as a saddler.

TIME CODED SUMMARY

| TIME CODE | CONTENT |
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| 00.00 | Born in the Poor House in Kingsland opposite the Corners. Description of family, father a miner in South Wales and 6 siblings. Father came back during the year to see the family. Description of her mum hurting her hand in a fire when she was 7 getting a kettle off the fire. Mother born in Lugg Green and grandmother used to do washing at a farm to earn money. Mum's hand was like a fist and rather than clip you she'd punch you if naughty. |
| 03.37 | First memories as a little girl. Describing the carnivals in August starting at the Croase and ending in the church field. Horse drawn floats. |
| 04.44 | Going to Kingsland school when 5. Miss Morgan the teacher and running away home because she didn't like school. Miss Drinkwater and Mrs Gregg keeping her. Description of her friends at school. Description of the school, playground and hut built. Leaving school at 14 to either go to Lucton school or Leominster Grammar or work |
| 07.40 | Leaving at 14 to go to work as a maid for Mrs Barnett at Highfield. Description of her duties. Killing chickens and feeding the pig. Description of Major Barnett. |
| 09.16 | Going to a factory then as a nanny for Mrs Harvey 2 children at 25 Hereford Road. They had no phone or car. Washing going to the laundry down the road. |
| 10.58 | Living at Drybridge. Description of prisoners of war going to Pudges at Street Court hop fields. POWs coming by lorry from Presteigne. Remembering Shobdon airmen families. |
| 12.38 | Memories of old Kingsland Post Office. Memories of the Corners Inn. Description of Charlie Sankey running a saddlery shop and making harnesses and the bike shop and cobbler. |
| 15.46 | Description of Dr Robert 'Bob' Williams at Croase House and visiting patients in a horse and trap. The surgery in Croase House, entered by the door in Lugg Green Road. The bell in the Croase House garden used as a fire alert to summon the firemen. |
| 17.50 | The fire engine and who the firemen were. Description of the two undertakers in Kingsland and where they lived. |
| 19.37 | Description of her husband Arthur. Firing the trains to Kington and the train stopping at Kingsland. Mary getting up on the engine and going to Kington. Description of old branch lines to Presteigne. Description of Kingsland station and Mr Savory the station master. Description of Taffy Evans the guard and his parents selling sweets on a Sunday at their house. |

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| 22.07 | Going to Sunday school at the church then going with her dad to Mrs Lowe's house adjoining the Angel and buying bluebird toffees. Description of other places to buy sweets at the station and in Cobnash. |
| 23.17 | Description of Sunday afternoon walks in the fields then stopping at Mrs Evans's. |
| 24.02 | Description of going to the old Baptist Chapel Sunday school and the preacher John James who farmed at Shirlheath. Elsie Goodman at Stone House playing the organ. Description of Sunday services. |
| 25.25 | Description of the huts where the Industrial Estate is for the Land Army girls. Description of what the land army girls did. Description of other Kingsland families she remembers |
| 28.26 | Description of the pubs. Mrs Wall and the Monument pub. Description of the Corners and the Mitchells. Description of her grandfather in law being a godfather to lots of children. The Angel and Mr and Mrs Davies and their son George. Their two daughters Edie and Doris. The Lion and the Normans. |
| 31.35 | The bakehouse and Mr Reynolds the baker in a hut in the corner of the Millennium Green. The village shop [now Edgefield] had a bakehouse next door. Description of what they baked. |
| 33.27 | The butcher belonged to the Mitchells at the pub. Fred Durdle ran it and lived close by. The slaughterhouse was where the Corners Inn rooms are now, before it was a skittle alley. The Durdles lived at Park House and the Mitchells lived in Park Terrace. |
| | INTERVIEW CONTINUES IN JANUARY |
| 36.09 | Description of her husband's grandfather Charlie Sankey living at the Golf House. Golfers used to meet there while waiting for the train from Kington. Description of them playing cards. Description of Charlie Sankey's saddlers and other things he sold [now The Corners Inn restaurant] |
| 37.51 | Description of Cricket and Football and Charlie Sankey. Taking the team to matches in the back of Bengry's coal lorry. Her aunt Millie Sankey used to go with them. Description of the changing hut. |
| 40.18 | Description of building the village hall when she was 20/21 and who was involved. The village hall opening and who donated chairs for the hall. Description of events at the village hall – dances and fights! |
| 42.53 | Description of the visit of Leslie Crowther. |
| 43.53 | Description of living at 2 and then 3 Park Terrace and what they were like. Pigsties and toilets in the garden |
| 46.35 | Description of moving to 3 Park Terrace. Rented for 10 shillings a week from Captain Hamlyn Williams. |
| 47.48 | Getting milk from Kaarlsons opposite. John Kaarlson's mother being her mother's cousin. Memories of John's father and John. Story of a shipwreck. Memories of his wife Nellie Kaarlson and her parents the Chamberlains. |
| 50.02 | Memories of milking cows at Kaarlsons and Marys boxer dog and a story about her daughter Elaine and the dog. Story about John's mother. |
| 53.12 | Description of the village shop [Edgefield] and the Beales and their daughters. Description of Jack Price delivering bread on his tricycle. |
| 55.29 | Going to Leominster on the bus and the bus companies. |
| 57.01 | Description of Goldings from Leominster filling paraffin cans for people. Also selling soaps and Zebra black lead for cleaning fire grates. |
| END | |