

KINGSLAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer: Jackie Markham & Tricia Carter

Interviewee: Mona Burleigh

Date of Interview: 14.02.2023

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Mona was an only child, born in 1936 and has lived in the Kingsland area all her life. Spending her childhood growing up on a farm, she developed a love of animals, but horses were the biggest interest in her life. She competed regularly, including at the Badminton Trials. In this interview, Mona shares memories of her life over the years.

TIME CODED SUMMARY

TIME CODE	CONTENT
00:00	Introduction to the interview.
00:13	Summary of where and when Mona was born, where she lived with her Parents and where her Grandparents lived.
01:15	Went to school in Leominster and was taken home on a pony. Further information on her school life. Worked in London as a Secretary after finishing school.
01:56	Lived on a dairy farm of circa 500 acres. Helped round up the cattle with her chestnut pony. Also had a dog called Shadow. Remembers driving the cattle through Leominster.
03:29	House used to be a Monastery and the lower floor had a path running through it, effectively splitting it in two. Remembers hosting 2 boys from Birmingham during the War. Also had relatives from Newcastle-upon-Tyne who brought their farm cattle down on trains and in cars. Bomber giving 'spare' bombs to be taken down too.
05:14	Horses were a huge part of her life. Memories of riding horses to the Wegnalls, Kingsland where they rented grazing and stopping on the return journey to have a drink in Leominster before returning to Eaton Hall for lunch at the age of 7/8. Often registered at school then got collected to take part in showjumping events.

07:19	Lots of memories of life on the farm – dairy cattle, horses, dogs, cats, 100 swans. Grew peas and potatoes. German PoW lived and worked on the farm as well as girls from an Orphanage in Leominster, shepherd, cowman and tractor driver.
11:08	Joanna Crawshaw and her Granny staying. Shobdon airfield.
12:08	Primary school friends – Rosemary Major from Guernsey and Gerda from Austria, plus other friends and getting to school.
14:58	Description of house, which had been part of Leominster Priory. Secret passage. Air raid shelter.
17:44	Recollection of planes and bombs during the war.
19:20	More memories of life on the farm: shearing, sold wool, raised geese and turkeys, battery hens, pigs, cows. Additional memories of the house and relatives visiting from Newcastle.
27:25	Taking the train to her Grandparents in Newcastle. Travelling to Hereford via Leominster and onto school by bus on her own at age 6.
29:02	Father died when Mona was 17, so didn't go to University, instead going to London to train as a Secretary. Shared a house in Hampstead. Worked for Country Landowners Association, then Sun Valley.
31:39	Badminton Trials and meeting the Queen at 16 years of age.
33:08	Social life through Young Farmers Association in Kingsland and Dilwyn. Dances in Coronation Hall.
34:22	Met Husband in Shobdon. Married in St. Michael & All Angels, with Reception in Village Hall.
38:10	House belonging to her Mother and Step-Father in Lawton Cross with 4-5 acres, vegetable garden, poultry house – sold eggs. Describes how Sun Valley started in 1958/60 with Col. Corbett.
43:35	Lived in Eardisland after marrying. Went on to have a little boy and moved to Kingsland opposite Luctonians. Memories of having children in Hereford Hospital and their schooling thereafter.
49:19	END