

Her Life at Point Amour

Collector: Ann O'Brien

Contributor: Herselia Moores

Ann O'Brien:

Today is February 16th, 2010, my name is Ann O'Brien and I'm going to ah... have a story shared with me by Mrs. Herselia Moores Barrett and ah....so Mrs. Barrett I'll ...

Herselia Moores:

Mrs. Moores it is.

Ann O'Brien:

Mrs. Moores, yes you was a Barrett, so you were born in ah....

Herselia Moores:

Bay Roberts.

Ann O'Brien:

And your date of birth is ?

Herselia Moores:

November 22, 1915

Ann O'Brien:

So you came to ah... Point Amour with your parents ...

Herselia Moores:

Yeah, in 1922.

Ann O'Brien:

so you was seven years old.

Herselia Moores:

I wasn't quite seven, I was about six and a half then because I would have been seven in November and we came there in the summer...July of 1922, just before the Raleigh went ashore, actually.

Ann O'Brien:

And ah...so how long did you live in Point Amour?

Herselia Moores:

We lived...my parents lived there from 1922 to 1946 but I was married and left there 1944 and between that...before that I worked for a couple of years in St. Anthony, as a nurses aid.

Ann O'Brien:

Did you go in for nursing?

Herselia Moores:

No, I didn't because I had problems....health problems and then I went to work at St. Anthony for a time.

Ann O'Brien:

Did you go to school then in Point Amour?

Herselia Moores:

Well we went to Point Amour, there was no children at all, there was only the light keeper at the lighthouse and it was our family that was always living in Point Amour. My parents of course wanted us to have an education; there was four of us, two brothers and a sister and me. And my father got in touch, we were United Church kind of people, and they got in touch with the United Church board that time. There was three boards, I think, like Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist at that time.

My father got in touch with the Methodist Board of Education and they got us a teacher and this teacher came down and lived with us. For ah..... free board and moved in as one of the family and with free board and plus my father paid her salary and the Methodist board paid the teachers salary and we all got our education that way. From the time I was six, the others were all older then me and that's the way we got our education.

Ann O'Brien:

Was there small school house there?

Herselia Moores:

No. We had we had a room in, the station itself which is our school room where we sat around a regular table with chairs and that's how we did...there was just the four of us.

Ann O'Brien:

So what grades did you get...did you finish up here?

Herselia Moores:

Up to grade eleven, that was how far as we could go, unless we went to College at that time.

Ann O'Brien:

So you got right up to grade eleven here in Point Amour?

Herselia Moores:

Yeah. With these...with teachers like that. Teachers coming to live with us.

Ann O'Brien:

And did you go to school then for full year, like you do now? You know like the students.....

Herselia Moores:

Like a regular school year, the same as if you were in a regular school, we wrote our examination. Actually the first examination I wrote, we all had to go down through Red Bay, that was the only place that had a supervisor to supervise the CHE Exams because we had to do exams from grade six up. It was with the Council Higher Education it was called.

Ann O'Brien:

And how... why did you come to Point Amour?

Herselia Moores:

Because my father was sent down there in charge of the wireless station, the wireless station at Point Amour. And he was there from 1922 to 1946 he had to leave because of ill health.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh. Okay. And so when you left Point Amour, did you go on to University or just....

Herselia Moores:

No, because there was....no there was only College. One of my brothers did go to University and graduated. I didn't go forI was married in 1944 and my husband was a teacher and so we sort of went ..not an awful lot of places, but we moved around on the Island where he was teaching. He was principle of the school.

Ann O'Brien:

Ah...so did you meet your husband on the coast here or after you went away.

Herselia Moores:

I met him on the coast, he was teaching at Forteau, when I met him. And then six or seven years, I guess, and after that we were married.

Ann O'Brien:

So what what was your life like here in Point Amour now, did you really enjoy it.

Herselia Moores:

Well actually, I suppose we grew up there and we didn't know any different in a sense and we grew use to it. It was part of our life. You know, I still think in a sense

...sometimes I always refer to things like when I was home, like you know, when I was home. I mean from six on.

Ann O'Brien:

Yeah, that's true.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah.

Ann O'Brien:

And you're older brothers and sister, they were happy there too.

Herselia Moores:

Yes, we were all contented, I guess we made our own entertainment but we had to play games and all this kind of thing and we go sliding in the winter and the usual thing, actually.

Ann O'Brien:

So your mom and dad being they came from, you know, Bay Roberts and had access to ah..well St. John's and things like that.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah.

Ann O'Brien:

But ah...so she enjoyed it here too?

Herselia Moores:

Everybody seemed to have settled in, I guess. It was a part of our life, like. My father was there and that was his job so, you know ...

Ann O'Brien:

Yeah.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah, you just settle in and did alright. We all were contented as far as I...I know I was ... we all were. We were all very contented.

Ann O'Brien:

Do you remember some of the friends, your friends, now that do you remember some of their names, that you became friends with here..

Herselia Moores:

In Labrador?

Ann O'Brien:

Yes, on the Labrador.

Herselia Moores:

Oh, yes. Oh, yes. I knew ...actually I was speaking to one of them only yesterday, she was a Buckle from , from Buckle's Point and she's married and was married and living in Bay Roberts. It was only yesterday I was talking with her and the Barney girl. Like Dot Barney, her two daughters are in St. John's, they visit me and we are in contact with each other from time to time.

Ann O'Brien:

I spoke with a lady last night, who worked with your mom, Irene ah...

Herselia Moores:

Belbin

Ann O'Brien:

Belbin.

Herselia Moores:

Yes, that's right, yeah.

Ann O'Brien:

She remembers you, she remembers working with your mom.

Herselia Moores:

Hmmm...Hmmm..

Ann O'Brien:

And ah....

Herselia Moores:

I remember Ryland, Mirah Ryland. She use to come up my mother's place, when I was young, she use to help my mother do work at the time. All those family, I knew all of these. Well I knew everybody actually, 'cause in places like that you knew everybody.

Ann O'Brien:

That's right.

Herselia Moores:

And everybody knew you.

Ann O'Brien:

Hmmm..

Herselia Moores:

Yeah.

Ann O'Brien:

And so you would come down to L'Anse au Loup, go up to Forteau, as a young lady.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah. (laughs) Walk there.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh, you would have to walk.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah. There is no other choice, I ...we...I've been down...back to Labrador actually a number of time since, not often. But I was amazed the last time I went down there, years ago, we use to have to walk around Crow Head and drive around the battery. And now you can go there like ah...it's beautiful up on the Crow Head and over the battery. Reminds me almost of the Cabot Trail, yeah, it really good, a big improvement.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh, for sure.

Herselia Moores:

Hmmm....hmmm.

Ann O'Brien:

Now do you remember any nice, story that took place probably while you was here?

Herselia Moores:

Not really, 'cause it was just our general lifestyle. But like you say, we went back and forth to Forteau and L'Anse au Loup and L'Anse auL'Anse Amour and those places. From time to time if there was any entertainment or anything, we went up to L'Anse au Clair and like all these places: L'Anse au Clair, L'Anse au Loup and Forteau, and all those places, other then that, just our general lifestyle.

Ann O'Brien:

So you got to do the square dances too?

Herselia Moores:

Yes. And play cards.

Ann O'Brien:

Okay. Did you wear the skin boots?

Herselia Moores:

Yes. I use to like...I really liked...we use to get them from across the Straits. They were nicely made, very nicely made.

Ann O'Brien:

Yeah. I think Newfoundlanders, were always praised for their beautiful work in making skin boots.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah, they did a nice job.

Ann O'Brien:

So your mom didn't get to learn how to make them?

Herselia Moores:

Well she could...she could mend them, if we wore holes in them. She use to do that, mother use to do that. Mother many ... I don't... you wouldn't recall probably, but if you wear holes in them, my mother use to get them to soften up and mend them.

Ann O'Brien:

Yes, my mom use to make them and we wore skin boots with the beautiful ribbons in the legs.

Herselia Moores:

Exactly, yeah.

Ann O'Brien:

And I suppose you would get new ribbons for Christmas?

Herselia Moores:

Not really. What do you mean, for the skin boots or for the hair do?

Ann O'Brien:

For the boots?

Herselia Moores:

No they use to come with the boots, I think.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh. Okay.

Herselia Moores:

But ah... other than that, everything was pretty normal.

Ann O'Brien:

We said, I don't know if you'd recall, you mightn't recall but years ago, we use to have

we use to have Christmas, Grenfell Association use to have Christmas trees in Forteau and L'Anse au Loup and I guess, I don't know.

One time we were down to L'Anse au Loup and we had a....they had a Christmas tree and we were down there. And ah...my sister-in-law each had a beautiful ribbon, and she...she was just evidently tagging hers along, holding it in her hand with by the string or whatever and she lost it. And of course, very upset and the nurse who was in charge there, she wrote to this gentleman who was with the Methodist school out in Massachusetts in New Bedford and she wrote and told them about this little girl losing her ribbon. And in the spring, in the mail there were two ribbons came to my sister, and she gave me one of them. And actually I still have the ribbon that she gave me.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh.

Herselia Moores:

And we...from that time on, my sister and I wrote to him and he was named....his name was Ed and he classified himself as Uncle Ed. And we always called him Uncle Ed and Aunt Edith, his wife was Aunt Edith and we wrote to them until they died.

Ann O'Brien:

What was your sisters name?

Herselia Moores:

Tina.

Ann O'Brien:

Boy that is a beautiful story.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah. That was up And every Christmas, when they sent out the Christmas packages for the people on Labrador at the station...at the nursing station in Forteau. There was always a special package there for us and he use to send writing paper and stationery with our names on it and big tins of marshmallows and things like that.

Ann O'Brien:

So the other kids didn't get any of this?

Herselia Moores:

No that was special for us because we...we were...where we were communicating with them all the time and he sent usevery Christmas there was a special package in the packages he sent to Labrador for us.

Ann O'Brien:

So this is where the Grenfell... got their parcels like, from people like him?

Herselia Moores:

Evidently it must have been because at ...after my sister lost her ribbon, she must have written and told him about this little girl loosing her ribbons and was very unhappy about it and ...so when the mail opened up she got these two ribbons. Like I say, I still have mine.

Ann O'Brien:

So you'll pass yours on?

Herselia Moores:

I hope so.

Ann O'Brien:

So do you have children?

Herselia Moores:

Yes, I have two sons.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh, nice.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah. Two sons. One is fif....one is sixty three and the other one is fifty nine.

Ann O'Brien:

Are they living around

Herselia Moores:

No, one of my sons the eldest son lives in Brigus, actually I see him every couple of days or so, or Ena his wife. And my other fellow lives on the West Coast of the island , he taught...both my children were teachers. My eldest...my eldest son taught here down in Placentia Collegiate in Bay Roberts ...

Ann O'Brien:

Yes.

Herselia Moores:

And my youngest son, taught at the College of the North Atlantic in Stephenville.

Ann O'Brien:

That's beautiful. Especially now that you've got them near and they can visit whenever.....

Herselia Moores:

And I have four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh, nice.

Herselia Moores:

Hmmm.

Ann O'Brien:

Boy you got an extended family for sure.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah, she'll be four years old in April.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh. No doubt you enjoy her.

Herselia Moores:

Well they're living in Dieppe, which is near Moncton so I don't see her very often. I seen her last winter, they brought her down last winter for a visit.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh.

Herselia Moores:

Yeah.

Ann O'Brien:

Well, Mrs Moores thank you very much for sharing that beautiful story with me.

Herselia Moores:

Yes, Okay.

Ann O'Brien:

You continue on, now to have good health.

Herselia Moores:

I hope so. So far I'm quite well, I have my replacement, my hip replacement and that's very, very good now so I'm just feeling pretty good now.

Ann O'Brien:

Alright, good day to you.

Herselia Moores:

And thank you.