



**Dave Bateman**

*Interview*

May 17, 2003

Length: 2 hours, 30 minutes and 8 seconds

*[The interviewer is not introduced, but it can be assumed that George Jackson is speaking. A woman can be heard speaking with Dave, but neither her name nor relationship to Dave is given. It is assumed her name is Maude since it can be heard briefly in the interview.]*

There is the story of the sleigh ride at #3 School. Dave was not there but knows the story. There was a girl caught between the Duels\* and Wilfred Faris' truck and was pinned in there but they got her out. Dave started school in 1950 and that was before him. Maude talks about a hill there and how it used to be steeper and they would go down the hill to Jack's house. There were no stop signs and you could not see down it and Robert Faris was coming down it on his sleigh and went right underneath the truck and under the wheels. The girl caught in it was a Boudreau\* and was only a little bit hurt and nobody was killed. The hill was lowered in 1957. They built up a side road as well when the hill was lowered. Sleigh riding was then done inside the school and that was safer. Jenny and Mrs. Brent were Dave's teachers. Jenny retired in 1957 and she was around 70 years of age. Jenny taught in Bond Head for a while before coming to number 3. Jenny was definitely teaching there in 1946. Dave does not think that she taught Dawn but she did teach Wilson who started at number 3 in 1946. Wilson was living with Brent's daughter in Bradford before that. Maude was supposed to be in Bond Head district but with the neighbours going and Wilson going and Maude that would have made 18 students so went to number 3 instead.

The flood in 1954 brought up the Dryfhouts who lived on George Brown's place to go to a different school. They discuss the spelling of Dryfhouts but cannot come to a conclusion on proper spelling and say that it was Dutch and they were nice people. George did not own the





property but they do not know the specifics of the situation. George and his wife Shirley just celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Maude says they've been married about 42 years now. Dave says they left in 1947 and Maude says it's referred to as the Joe Brown place but Joe was not related to George. Joe Brown married a Watson girl believed to be Susan. Dave says he knows a Watson-Brown man. There are at least four Brown families in the area that are trying to be sorted out. Isabelle Watson was helping to sort them out and Susan Watson was a sister of the late John Watson. Susan's parents moved to the Lawson's\* and Dave bought that land from them. Susan's sister Carol died around age 50. Johnny Watson was Charlie's father. Charlie was an interesting character and he married Hope\* and she taught piano lessons. She and Charlie had a child who died and she had a nervous breakdown and was never the same again. She taught music in schools and was the first person to teach music at number 3 and Maude believes she taught at number 4 as well and she was the organist at Scotch Settlement. Maude in grade 3 or 4 was taught by Paul [*last name is inaudible*]. Paul taught music there until he retired. Johnny's dad lived way back in a barn on their farm [*12:00 to 16:00 mostly inaudible*]. They are talking about a fire and whether or not to put it out or go home so they put the fire out. The fire was at the old Watson place.

There were six settlers that came in 1819 Robert [*last name is inaudible*], Dave Sutherland who Dave Bateman doesn't think he was related to, Jack Sutherland who was Bill Sutherland's father, Alex Sutherland who was a farmer and his family went to Tecumseh, Muriel Reynolds and she was married to Cecil and Dave Bateman was related to her and her daughter was Carolyn\* Reynolds and Dave explains that he is related to her because her maiden name is Ritchie and she was Billy Ritchie's daughter and Billy's wife was a Sutherland (Dave can't remember her name) and they lived where Clarence Watson lived on the Beeton Road near the hill and her brother was Edgar Richie and he deliver fuel in the Beeton area and Dave thinks that Muriel Ritchie's father and Dave's grandfather were first cousins although he does not know Muriel Ritchie's mother who Dave thinks was also a first cousin of his grandfather Herb. Dave is asked about a Sutherland family historian and Dave replies that there was but it was not an accurate family tree but he has a copy and the woman that compiled it was buried in the Auld





Kirk. [*inaudible*) Marita\* Single lived in the Scotch Settlement and teaches at a university and has been working with a woman from BC for three years whose husband is the grandson of William Sutherland-Fraser. Jack Grey was a Fraser. The Watson farm was bought from a Grey. Dave thinks that one or the one next east in Deer head was farmed by Donald Grey who was Jack Grey's father. It was 1888 when the Watsons got there. Dave thinks they are the same Grey's because that's where the boys were born on Jim's farm and then they moved to the one on lot 5 concession 6. Elsie is still alive and so is Jack's brother Earl. Jack's widow is also alive and lives in Alliston nursing home. She was a Morrison.

They bring up a map and are pointing at parts and discuss Donald and Gordon Grey but it is not specified where they point or what map they are looking at but that it is from 1858. The farm is on the 5<sup>th</sup> side road and can see Gordon Ross and then Gordon Grey has one near it. The McLelland's\* were on that farm for years and they are trying to get more history for it. Bill's great grandfather was a Thorpe and he tried to find out history about them and couldn't but he did find out that some were bank robbers. Thorpes did well in the 1930s because of that even though nobody else was. Thorpe had three daughters. Bill's father worked for a Thorpe. George talks about interviewing Isabelle and Marie Coutts and how they discussed the Davidson family. The first comment was that sometimes it's best not to have too much to say. Leeroy was one and he was quiet the character and he was a carpenter by trade. The family history of the Sutherlands discussed earlier was only for one branch of the Sutherlands and Dave says that he will give it to Joe Saint. Dave explains again that it is not very accurate but is still better than nothing. Dave gives the example of on the tree it has his birthday switched with the wedding date of his parents.

What type of farmland in West Gwillimbury when Dave's dad started farming there were not many people around and there was no 400 highway what was the lifestyle like? Well it shipped cream and skim milk was given to pigs and calves and there was some wheat to sell. Horse trading was Dave's dad's main income. Maude says Dave's dad was a heck of a fast driver. George asks what kind of cow they had and their purpose. Dave says it was a Holstein and then they bred it to a more edible cow. They would be killed and sold. Dave remembers





them milking the odd Holstein. George asks about a slaughter house. Dave says a lot of neighbours knew how to do it and ran a beef ring and in the summer it was a beef ring. You'd will the beef and have so much time to eat it. [*inaudible*] Dave remembers butchering a pig and Bill came up and did the butchering for his family. A lot of the farmers back then did butchering and the qualification was just watching someone do it enough times and trying it themselves there really was no licensing. Bill Whiteside did it and Dave remembers him coming to the farm and making nice tenderloin for his family. Who did the threshing? Bill McArthur, the McLellands\*, Bill Whiteside and Dave can't think of anyone else that did it. When he was a child some people started to get their own threshing machines. Before that there were only one and two threshing machines and those machines would do farm after farm. In early 1950s Dave's dad bought his own threshing machine. Maude remembers using a horse drawn thresher and it was her job to make sure the slings were on the horses. Dave talks about the portable saw mills that were setup and allowed people to work through the winter. Dave remembers going to school with Herb West who moved away in 1955. Herb's wife taught school at number 3.

Who lived across from the school? Maude answers it was Mel and Mary Stewart who had three kids and then moved to Bond Head. They had Don Harvey, Eddie, and Jim. The Wilsons lived there before the Stewarts and then went to the north side of Bond Head where the antique shop was. It was Adele Wilson. Adele Fisher's mother was a Wilson. Adele went to number 3 school for a year. Wilson transport was not the same Wilsons [*inaudible*] Until they drained the marsh there was no access across it. Before the 400 highway and Dave remembers it being built in 1946 and it being done and driving on it for the first time in 1948. It was originally graveled. There was a Bond Head Road that was redone in 1957 and before that was quiet the bumpy road. Dave remembers being able to get stuck on that road. It was the old plank road and was paved but had pot holes and sink holes which made it bad. The planks went lengthwise on the road. Spence lumber used to be on the main street and was used to poor the footings for the road. There's about 50 feet of asphalt on the road near the River View Inn [*inaudible*] When they were making the 400 highway they found odd layers of clay and soil near the Marsh. The water in the marsh has a bit of rust in it so it needs to be drilled deeper. Maude says their well is





about 200 feet deep but they never had the rust problem. Dave's grandfather noticed a pipe dropped and Dave's dad dynamited it in 1949.

Dave when he took over the farm was given a lot of grief and had a 6 or 7 foot vein and dug it deeper to get nicer water. Maude says there used to be a nice flowing spring up the hill. Dave agrees and says that he got his water from that from 40 feet down but that was where the vein came out. The water was used to cool the milk. Dave remembers going and taking milk in cans and dropping it off and then it was always cold. Maude remembers in 1946 when she started school the snow was so bad that her dad did not let her go to school most days. She remembers her brother or dad would take horse to school and then when they got there they would give the horse a pat on the bum and it would run home. The next few years Jay McCloud would walk through the fields and dad would hook up a sleigh and team of horses and pick everyone up and take them to school on the sleigh. One year the snow was so deep the horses fell going down the hill. Dave has a picture from 1946 where the snow was as high as the hydro lines. Dave was walking from number 3 up highway 88 and decided to have a race and Dave lost...George asks about community happenings. Every Monday night in Bond Head was Euchre and every Saturday night an orchestra played. Maude says there were 3 main stores in Bond Head the Hipoles\* store it was a general store and it was the post office as well, next to it was butcher shop called Rowleses\*, and on the South side was the Moore's shop and next to it was the barber. The blacksmith shop was in Bond Head as well. There was MacArthur's garage and the other garage where you could get gas next to the hotel with a two bay garage called Bagley's\* and it was torn down. Before Bagley\* had it Ron Grimshaw might have had something to do with it. Maude says there was another store where Jim Thompson used to live and it was another butcher shop Cecil Thompsons. It was called The Butcher Shop. The first person to have a television according to Maude was Jessop's brother Earl [*last name is inaudible*] and the first televising that Maude remembers seeing was one over at Troy Browns. They would go to Troy Browns to watch the hockey game and Maude's mom was alright with that because Maude didn't have a telephone so her mom could use it to call her sister.





Dave remembers the first television he saw was owned by Mougley West\*. Dave would get the Globe and Mail as well. Dave was not interested in the business section but liked reading the comics. The 5<sup>th</sup> side road and 27 there was a McKay that lived in there south of the Harvey place. Dave thinks it was Elwood McKay and says those McKays were related to the MacArthur's specifically Frank McArthur. "Bulldozer" Bill McKay's mom was a McKay. And Bill McArthur could explain how they are all related [*inaudible*] Frank and Bill Whiteside were taught by a McArthur in school. Frank was born in 1898 and Duncan is the oldest of the family born in 1890 according to Dave. William McArthur died 1855 at 74 years of age. Frances McArthur was killed by being run over by horses because he was deaf and could not hear them coming. Bulldozer Bill's father and grandfather were both killed by a team of horses. Harry, his brother, was killed by having an artery on his leg cut; he bled to death. Donald McArthur lived from 1909 to 1975 and Douglas McArthur lived from 1924 to 1963. These are the actual dates because Maude checked them. John Stone was Dave's great, great grandfather. Frances McArthur lived from 1854 to 1923. Bulldozer's dad and his wife was Louisa McKay (she died in 1946) [*inaudible*] Grenbul\* and Rusty Hudson were brothers. All the Hudsons are dead now. There was a boy, George, who came over across the pen and helped Herb with the horse in a thunderstorm. He stopped under a tree and it killed him. He was Grenbul's\* older brother. George was born around 1912 and died in the late 1920s.

Dave thinks there were three barns and they were moved together but the grandfather rebuilt the main one. The three barns were put together on cement foundation. A big thing back then was moving around barns and putting them on cement foundations. That was done at the turn of the century. Maude was looking through files for George Hudson to confirm Dave's information and discovered that it was Herb Hudson that lived from 1912 to 1928 and George A. Hudson lived from 1870 to 1928. He was the husband of Amelia Waller and their son was G. Herbert Hudson. Dave replies that the G stands for George and that Herb was the son of George A. Hudson. Norman Allen Hudson was nicknamed Rusty and he was born in 1915. According to Dave, Rusty drank himself to death. Rusty died in 1966 and was living in Bradford at that point [*inaudible*] Marg's husband was an aviator and stayed in the air force after the war. He was





shot down twice in the war. Maude asks if Dave knows anything about the Gunn family and he replies that he does not. Dave asks about Stone. ... says he bought the farm on Lot 1 Concession 5; the south half of it. John Stone lived there but only for about 3 years. He also farmed where Bill Halbert did. That is where Dave thinks his grandmother was born; on Concession 5, in the north half of Lot 3. He bought it in 1846. William H. Stone bought some of Lot 3 and had a small house there. William Stone's son Wes ran Stockwell and then ran a store in Newtown. Annie Stone ran a great institute. William had another son who married Joe Woods's aunt. Russell Stone was the son's name and he farmed south of Beeton on the south side of the road. He was married to Bob Wood's sister (Joe Wood's father's sister) and her name was Fannie McGee\*. Ed Wood lived where the Lobes are. Dave remembers that there was an Ed Wood that went west. Maude remembers that there was an Ed Wood that was caretaker at the school for a while and his daughter worked at the bank.

Donald Gunn lived from 1869 to 1920 [*inaudible*] On the south side of the marsh the areas close to the sides had trees but in the middle where there was marsh hay there were no trees. In the shallow areas there were some trees as well but more shrubs; Tamarack\*, and Cedars. Dave clarifies that Tamaracks\* were good trees because they made good lumber. The barn raising was not done all at once and they would occasionally take pieces from other old barns. Dave gives an example of them taking parts from two different barns and combining them to make one barn. When they were building barns there was Billy Slack and Art Kneeshaw. They'd usually have boarders and tenants. There were no nails in the frames of the old barns. Dave explains the boards were just made to fit together. The house was about 40ft of timber and was 13 inches square with almost no knots. George asks them to take a walk down there and take pictures of it [*inaudible*] Gordon Jeffries had a farm. His sons Jeffry Jeffries and Leonard lived in Stayner. Dave believes Gordon is still alive. Leonard and Gordon came from a large family. Gordon Bateman was sitting down as a father at Number 3 School in 1932 is a photo that Dave has. Dave asks what time period George is interested in and George replies that he is interested in pretty much all of them [*inaudible*] The local cops would get into mischief as much as anyone else would. In many cases a civilian would bring someone in to the police station and





the cops would take them down sit them down and talk with them and that was it. George tells Dave that they have books now saying who lived on each farm and offers to give Dave copies of the pages. The earliest assessment is from 1889. Abstract papers are best because they give the person's name and the year that they bought it... There are challenges when doing family histories because some people are very into it and some are not. George says it is interesting because in-laws find it interesting and finding skeletons in the closet is always fun. They talk briefly about John F. Kennedy and the new biography about him that has become available.  
[Tape cuts out]

*Note: \* Indicates that the word or name is written as it sounded, and therefore may be incorrect.*

