

Moore Street with Joe Saint

Length: 38 minutes and 22 seconds

Although they are not introduced, it can be assumed that George Jackson and Joe Saint are speaking.

George says that in Joe's *Notes on Homes* (in which he discusses the different people who lived in houses in Bradford) he overlooked Moore Street so they are on Moore Street today to add to their notes. Joe says that in this lot there used to be a garden belonging to A.E. Scanlon and had a wire fence around it. This is on the southeast corner of Moore and Queen Streets. When you turn to go down Moore Street there was a high board fence which was about six feet high. There was no entranceway until you got down to Frederick Street on the east side. (*They look at the southeast corner of Moore and Queen Streets on Colling's map*) That southwest corner shows up as a vacant lot on the map, but Joe says it was Scanlon's garden. Joe and his classmates would steal some things from this garden on their way to school. Mr. ... (*name is inaudible*) would catch them. Next to the lot was Dr. Stevenson's* and what is now a nursing home. There was a straight board fence and a board sidewalk straight down to Letitia. Joe says as kids they would ride wagons sleds down there. At Belfry's there was an old picket fence just across the road from Simpkin's and past Leticia Street. The picket fence was only three or four feet high and it ran down to Joseph Street. The houses were only on the west side of the street.

The lot on the southwest corner was occupied by the Catholic Church for a long time. There were sheds that went up the road to Dr. Stevenson's* house. Across from the Catholic Church was a school. Those two trees were still there until an addition was built. Joe says the sidewalk on the street was five or six feet wide and the students would have to line up to walk to school. The Catholic Church was smaller than the Anglican Church; it was not very big. Over in the other corner was the priest's house (which is still there). They are to the east of Moore and Rebecca Streets and are looking at a two-story substantial house with white aluminum siding; this is what used to be the Old Catholic Church property. Joe doesn't know when the house for the priest was built. The sheds along the street were all torn down when Joe was growing up. George finds a map from 1924 that shows the sheds on it but not the priest's house.

They are coming down Moore Street, just opposite Hurd Street. To the left there is the back of the senior's residence and it exits onto Moore Street. There used to be a board fence all

along there. Joe thinks there was a wire fence between Stevenson's* and Lukes'. All the property there used to belong to Lukes. The house on the right on Hurd Street used to belong to Charlie Wilson*. On the left (123 Moore Street) is a small building that is the food bank now. That building used to be a double garage for Lukes to keep his cars and buggies in. It is the rear of the lot with the convent on it; it is directly behind the convent. Henry Goble* (an electrician) used to live in the house. He subdivided the garage and turned it into living quarters. Joe thinks Mrs. John Depew* was the first one to live there. From there to the corner was nothing but grass and gardens back then.

They are now on McDonald Lane (halfway between Frederick and Hurd) which was named after Geordie* McDonald who built the Presbyterian Church. 108 Moore was Dodger Colling's house and before him Lorne West lived there. Lorne's father Paul traded a part of a farm on the 13th or 14th Line in West Gwillimbury with Harold. Harold didn't like it there so he traded it to Paul West. On the 20th Sideroad, just south of Highway 89, Joe believes there was part of the West farm. George comments that the house on 108 Moore Street is one of the older homes in Bradford and has been well maintained. Joe says the sheds used to go along McDonald Lane and were hooked along the back of the houses. People would store wood and buggies in them. The street that used to go from Frederick to Barrie Street used to be called Leticia Street. George says that it was changed to avoid problems with the emergency services and now it is all known as Frederick Street. On the southeast corner of Frederick and Moore is house number 95. Joe says that's where the picket fence went, down to the corner of Joseph Street. The first person that Joe remembers living in that house was George Ogilvie the tailor. His sister lived there for a long time after he died.

On the east side of Moore from Frederick (formally known as Letitia) and down to Joseph Street was the picket fence. There were houses there, and one was owned by Simpkin (his gardens). When Joe was a child, George Simpkin was a plumber who started ... electrical in Bradford; he lived at 94 Frederick in the 1930s. The house on the northeast corner of Joseph and Moore Street but is labelled as 91 Moore Street because of additions on the original. The Moores used to live there. Joe does not know what Mr. Moore did but he went to school with his son. George Simpkin lived in the house up until 1923 and then the Moores took over after that. At what is now 73 Moore Street, Fred C. Cook's father owned a livery that went down to where Bateman's shed was. Then Broomhead* came in afterwards and put up frame houses. Joe does not know what Broomhead* did. The Cooks owned two or three lots and only had the one house on it. Next to the Cook's house was a garden. There was nothing more on the right hand side.

The other little house was owned by an old man and then bought by Joe's brother. They were farmers that came in from where the township buildings on the 11th Line. The Foxes

Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library



Oral History Collection

owned this property (it is unclear which location they are referring to) which came right to the fence. Then Lee owned the property on John Street. On the west side was Frank Kilkenney's sheds where he and his father manufactured furniture and caskets. Next is where the library building used to be. May Fuller lived over on Church street. On the right hand side (where the Pharma Plus is) was Frank Kilkenney's house. The skating rink was on the left hand side of the road. At the back of Webb's there was an ice house. The ice house would have been about 25 feet, square. Frank Kilkenney's house had some nice Maple trees in front of it and he cut them down; everyone wanted the wood. Next to that (where the Beer Store is now) the Douglas family had a hardware store and a butcher shop; he had a nice house there as well. Further down the road, there was a horse stable. Next to Frank Kilkenney there was a shoemaking shop. Near that is a little building which is still standing and used to be Art's ... (last name is inaudible) two story garage (52 John Street West). When Art moved into town he made the building into two houses for his father and sister. Art and his dad built the liquor store for the James' brothers (Ernie and Wilson*) who owned it. They are on John Street West. E.P. Snow was a harness maker and he had a business there as well. When Joe was a child, John Harman* lived on the corner. Skinner owned all the vacant lots there (it is unclear which location they are referring to); that's where they built the liquor store. Across the road from that was May Fuller's house, on the west side of Church Street. On the corner was Magani* and that's where the Great Western Motel* was. - Tape cuts out -

... Indicates that the speaker is inaudible.

^{*} Indicates that the word or name is written as it sounded, and therefore may be incorrect.