



Sam Neilly

Interview

November 2001

Length: 10 minutes and 5 seconds

[*The interviewer is not introduced, but it can be assumed that George Jackson is speaking.*] George says that he and Sam are looking at a map of Gilford and will be starting with the houses on the north side of Gilford Road. The first was owned by a family with the name Putanem and the second house was Tom Nesbitt's. Sam's father, Louis Neilly, built that house and Sam's sister Isabelle* and brother Lou were born inside the house. The next house was his grandfather Samuel Neilly's home. The rest of Sam's family: his brothers Scott, Carey* and Bill, as well as himself were born in that house. The Neilly house is number three on their map. Going west from the railway track is Frank Steele's house (Kay Russell's* father). His great grandson, Ed Russell, lives there now. Further up the road was the old Gilford School (S.S. #16).

There was nothing west of the school so they start on the south side. Sam tells him to draw in a house on the corner there; that was Jerry Pryke's house. There's another old house near there that was owned by Anne Doolittle and she was unmarried. Anne used to walk down the railroad tracks and pick wild strawberries. Then there was a large vacant area near Pryke. Opposite Frank Steele's house was the [*inaudible*] (Sam can't remember the owner's name). George Nesbitt's house was there but that was built in the late 1930s or early 1940s (they are only concerned with the older homes). On the corner there was the general store owned by Bill Blaine. Sam tells George to draw George Doolittle's house on the map. It was his aunt that lived there too. The original town hall was burned down because of a grass fire (Sam remembers seeing the fire). The railroad used to burn the grass on the roadside and that's what caused it. Going farther up was Monteo* [*the location is not specified*]. There were other houses up there





but they were all torn down. Just opposite Sam's family's house was Wilfred Neilly's house (a cousin of Sam's father) in which Mary Neilly lives now. [*Tape cuts out*]

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

