



Project: Ploughing Up Our Past
 Respondent: Hugh & Anne McLanachan
 Year of Birth: 1948 & 1946
 Age: 73 & 75
 Connection to project: Born in Skerrington Farm
 Date of Interview: 22nd June 2021
 Interviewer: Roberta McGee
 Recording Agreement: Yes
 Information & Content: Yes
 Photographic Images: Yes/
 No (Number of:) 40
 Length of Interview: 29mins 03 secs
 Location of Interview: Mauchline
 Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n Pro




Time (from - to: mins/secs)	SUMMARY Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.00 - 00.19	Introduction	
00.20 - 00.53	Details of Respondents Hugh & Anne McLanachan and connection to farming	
00.53 - 01.60	The Respondents talk about farms their family was connected with - Loganhill, Barshare, Skerrington, Borland, Craigens, Dickston, and Rottenyard, the size of the farms and the types of farms	
	'They were all arable farms. We could grow our own corn, turnips, ..anything.., hay, so they all sustained themselves'.	01.48 - 01.57

01.61 - 02.73	The Respondents go on to tell us how their grandfather bought Loganhill Farm in 1938 and their father's move into Skerrington Farm. They explain that the tenants prior to the McLanachans were the Dicksons who supplied milk to the houses in Cumnock.	
02.74 - 03.60	The Respondents describe what outbuildings there were at Skerrington Farm. They also discuss the water supply to both Skerrington Farm and Loganhill stating that the Loganhill supply was initially from a spring.	
03.61 - 04.28	The Respondents remember that the bothy at Skerrington Farm was used to house their father's budgies but that the bothy at Loganhill was used to store their grandmother's home-made cheese and butter. Hugh says he still has two old butter churns.	
04.29 - 06.00	The Respondents talk about their father's early rises to milk the cows and the chores they had to do before going to school. Hugh tells how sometimes at Glaisnock Rural School the headmaster would come into the class and order him to go home because his father needed help in the field. He talks about how he would drive the tractor from the young age of 10yrs and how he had to stand up to drive it because he was so small. Anne talks about her dislike of the hens because of the rats and about working in the field when she was 8 or 9yrs old with Jean, the horse.	
	<p>(Hugh) 'I looked after the sheep. I was at Glaisnock School, the farmers' school, and I would bring lambs into the world in the fields before I went to school'.</p> <p>(Anne) 'I used to feed some of the young stock out in the calf house, feed calves and things like that, collect hens, feed the hens, hated the hens because quite often in the winter there were rats below the hens and when you got one of them it wasn't funny'.</p> <p>(Anne) 'Her name was Jean and we were loading up hay and Jean decides that she wanted to go home. I always remember I couldn't, I was too ...I wasn't strong enough to hold her. At 5 o'clock at night she decided to go down the main road,</p>	<p>04.58-04.73</p> <p>04.74-04.93</p> <p>05.50-05.80</p>

	raking all the way, to get back home to get fed because she was always fed at that time of night. Needless to say I never needed to go back out again because Dad didn't trust me'.	
06.01- 06.37	The Respondents talk about the uses of the horse on the farm. It was used for everything, horse-drawn reaper, cutting the hay, dung spreading.	
06.38 - 07.71	The Respondents talk about how their mother was a Land Army Girl. She was billeted at Auchingibbert Farm which was next to Loganhill which is where she met her husband. They explain the work of the Land Army Girls and how they were only allowed to eat cracked eggs.	
07.72 - 08.64	The Respondents reminisce about their grandparents in Loganhill.	
08.65 - 10.91	The Respondents continue their interview by talking about their mother's jobs around the farm. As well as cleaning the dairy dishes and feeding the calves and hens she had a full-time cooking job feeding all the workers. They talk about the types of ovens she used.	
	'I remember my mother gutting hares, cleaning rabbits to make rabbit stews, hare soup....my dad would shoot pigeons. I remember having peeweeps eggs....you don't get peeweeps eggs around the fields anymore. Dad would collect mushrooms...you got what you could really'.	09.91-10.37
10.92 - 11.66	Respondents talk about seasonal workers and Italian prisoners-of-war who worked at Loganhill and the neighbouring farms to Skerrington Farm. Hugh relates that when he worked in the south side of Glasgow in later years he walked into a cafe and met one of them who had remained in Scotland after the war.	
11.67 - 13.62	Respondents remember vagrants sleeping in the hay shed and their mother giving them 'pieces' to eat. They were also visited by Onion Johnnies who would arrive on their bikes with strings of onions around their neck, a knife sharpener, and Sikhs who would be selling cloth.	
13.63 - 14.42	The Respondents talk about going to school, farm accidents and the dangers of driving a tractor	

	(Hugh) 'I used to sit on the tractor going across a hill and I used to sit on the mudguard [at the] big wheel and drive it that way 'cause if it started to roll I was going off [that way]'. 	14.10-14.23
14.43 - 16.00	The Respondents continue the interview by talking about the day a weasel got into their Dad's pigeons in the bothy killing all of them. They talk about their outside toilet and how the bothy was renovated and turned into a bathroom. Hugh recalls how the other half of the bothy was made into a bedroom for him and was accessed by an outside stair. They talk about the accommodation in the farmhouse when they were young.	
	(Hugh) ' That's where the rats used to go...we could hear them in below and I used to throw a shoe at the wall to get them away so they would run away again'. 	15.45-16.00
16.01 - 17.92	The Respondents talk about being members of the Young Farmers and their activities and competitions. They also talk about their father's and Hugh's involvement with football.	
17.93 - 19.49	The Respondents recall how holidays were limited to milking times and how they enjoyed their short trips to Croy shore.	
	'You were milking seven days a week, you know, so you couldn't get away.....you had to be there seven days a week, Christmas morning, New Year's morning, you still had the cows to be milked.' 	18.06-18.24
19.50 - 20.73	The Respondents explain that none of their family has any connections to farming now and they talk about Anne's connection to Lochlea Farm where Robert Burns farmed.	
20.74 - 22.03	When asked what was the best thing about living on a farm Hugh stated freedom and fresh air and that they both had ponies. Hugh went on to relate the story about the day a small boy who was visiting the farm fell up to his armpits into the midden and had to be hosed down.	
	(Anne) ' I used to ride up the hill to check on the cattle every other day on the horse and that saved dad having to do that'. 	21.32-21.41

22.04 - 24.24	When asked what was the worst thing about living on a farm the Respondents both agreed it was being tied down to day trips rather than holidays. They also talked about the isolation and not being able to play with friends. They remember their first jobs and Hugh talks about his life at Glaisnock Rural School.	
24.25 - 24.32	The Respondents are thanked for sharing their memories and asked if there was anything else they would like to talk about	
24.33 - 24.72	Hugh talks about his interest in history and the Boer War and Anne talks about her interest in cooking and having a catering business.	
24.73 - 28.97	The Respondents recall Big Mill Day and how their mother would have up to 20 people for dinner and what they would eat throughout the day. They describe how the Big Mill worked and how the camaraderie was amazing.	
	<p>(Anne) ‘a big soup bowl plate and you ate your dinner off the soup (plate). You had to finish your soup so you had a clean plate because you got your dinner on a plate, the same plate....and it was always milk pudding. You had rice pudding, semolina, with stewed rhubarb or something like that because that was what was free on the farms’</p> <p>(Hugh) ‘It was a big threshing mill ...so there would be guys up on the top of the stacks at the back throwing the sheaves of corn to tractor trailers. They would wheel them round if the Big Mill couldn’t get into that part or the Mill would sit alongside ... and they would throw the sheaves on’.</p>	<p>25.00-25.29</p> <p>25.67-28.97</p>
28.98 - 29.03	The interview concludes with thanks once again to the Respondents for sharing their memories	
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