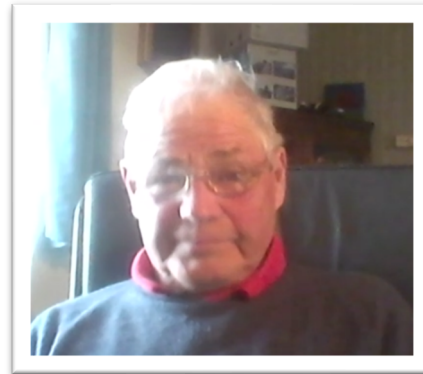





Project: Ploughing Up Our Past
 Respondent: (John Robert) Ian Howat
 Year of Birth: 1943
 Connection to project: lifelong on New Cumnock farms
 Date of Interview: 13 Apr 2021
 Interviewer: Kay McMeekin
 Recording Agreement: Yes
 Information & Content: Yes
 Photographic Images: Yes digital
 Length of Interview: 45 minutes 39 sec
 Location of Interview: from New Cumnock
 Recording Equipment: via Zoom video



Time (from: mins/secs)	SUMMARY Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.00	Introduction	
00.33	Respondent was brought up at Farden, New Cumnock, talks about family	
1.18	Bought Laglaff, New Cumnock in 1976 farmed beef and sheep, did alterations to the buildings, did farm, holidays, pony-trekking. When respondent was away on contracting business, his wife looked after the farm. 40 cows and five score and a half sheep . Cut cattle back and increased the sheep. Gave up sheep in 2010 after he was ill in 2008 but he still did lambing elsewhere to give the dogs something to do. Talks about dogs.	
5.24	Crops. They grew barley originally, went all grass, but it eventually was cheaper to buy in food than to grow it.	
5.56	Recalls driving tractor age 7	
6.19	Technology. Describes how scanning the ewes made a huge difference. Ewes carrying twins got more food. And they would be on a field closer to farm. Saved a lot of work.	

	Previously twins had to be walked in if too far. No staff now. Describes how many would have worked on a farm before. Respondent had extra help at lambing time.	
8.41	Describes how bikes and then a quad bike and a trailer saved time and labour.	
9.45	Describes the New Cumnock Herds fair, dating back to 18 th century. Last year (2020) was the first year not held because of Covid.	
10.21	The annual Afton Ball was held at Liglaff up till 1931. You either brought a partner or a bottle of whisky! Walked in from as far as Straiton and home next day.	
11.20	Food. Recalls sugar rationing and The Coronation (1953).	
12.46	Farmer's wife cooked, cleaned. Lots of people to feed. Dairyman casual workers, miners helped after their shift. Recalls collecting peasia (lapwing) eggs. Black grouse lecking ground nearby. (courtship display)	
14.52	Weather: c1976 snow 3 ft deep, snow plough stuck for 3 days.	
16.37	Political influences. During war you were told to produce food, brought in government tractors. Recalls Intervention payments. Milk Marketing Board set prices and Potato Marketing Board, dairy farmers could only produce enough food for family and to feed the stock. Blue dye on the tatties for stock feed.	
20.00	Lorry went over bridge for cars and it collapsed	
21.48	Contracting business restoring open cast sites. Son became an engineer .	
23.00	Son Gordon has a good career outside farming and won't come back to it.	
23.44	Children did tractor work, stoked corn, carted bales, fed calves, made porridge, chopped sticks and kindled the fire, cawed the kirn (turned the churn) to make butter. Recalls that the Co-op sold butter from New Zealand in the 1950s.	
25.15	Recalls that bull calves went to market in a sack in the boot of the car.	
26.27	Went to Dalleagles School a mile 1/4 away. Sometimes came home on the tractor. Talks of being bullied and the consequences of retaliation.	

28.30	Recalls his grandfather walking from Netherton to the chapel at Glaisnock and his father taking the pony and trap to Cumnock. Pony would go home.	
29.23	Workers - a dairyman who lived in the farm for 10-12 years. Casual workers.	
30.17	Talks about “neeboring”. Big mill day. Ramsay & Jackson. Recalls minimal lighting on the big mill. Could be 9pm when it finished. An obligation. New people got a day or two’s help. More neighbourliness then than now.	
33.08	Accidents - No electricity when he was young. Father got burnt by Tilly lamps. They used 20 12 volt batteries rigged up to the generator for the milking machine. So batteries got charged when milking being done. Desmond Uff was the engineer from Parker’s in Cumnock who saw to the engine.	
34.44	Seed corn was treated in fungicide containing mercury and poisoned respondent. Use of sowing sheet. Organophosphate dressing was used for warble flies on cattle. Used bare hands to rub this on cattle.	
36.49	Holidays, days out – Catrine Show, Sunday School Trip to Ayr beach, Gaiety Theatre in Ayr, ladies from neighbouring farm to Farden walked over fields to come to the Christmas party at Farden to play their accordions. Birthday parties.	
39.06	Respondent recalls how he met his wife who was from Wales.	
39.55	Best thing about living on a farm was the freedom, learn about nature and good for mental health. Yet there is a high suicide rate amongst farmers. Worst thing is work gets too much. You’re a one person outfit. And the weather.	
42.05	Additional information: He previously wrote about the landscape. changing seasons. 7 year rotation isn’t done now. No college training. Since 2014 he has been involved in restoring the landscape.	
45.36	Conclusion and thanks	
 <p>Supported by The National Lottery® through the Heritage Lottery Fund Le faic bhon Chrannchur Nàiseanta tro Mhaoin-Dualchais a' Chrannchuir</p>		