

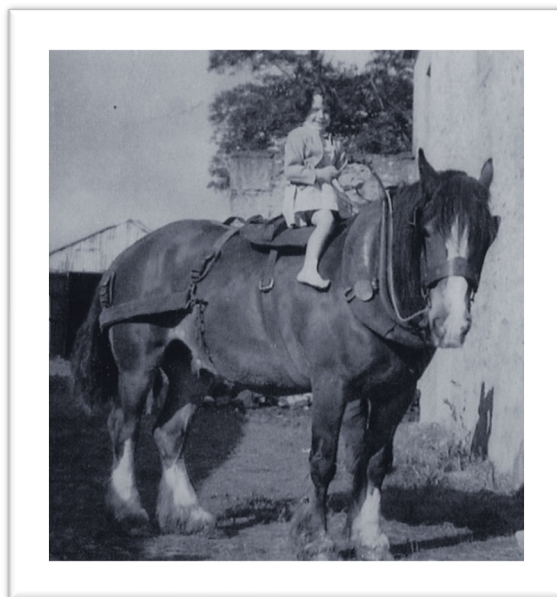


Project: Ploughing Up Our Past
 Respondent: Morag Gordon (Shankland)
 Year of Birth: 1947
 Connection to project: farmer
 Date of Interview: 17 Mar 2021
 Interviewer: Kay McMeekin
 Recording Agreement: Yes
 Information & Content: Yes
 Photographic Images: Yes (digital)
 Length of Interview: 19:05
 Location of Interview: ZOOM
 Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n Pro



Morag Gordon

Time (from: mins/sec s)	Summary Description	Transcribe d Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.00	Introduction. Brought up on a farm.	
00.37	Respondent grew up in Avisyard farm Grandfather there from 1938. 3 generations living in the farm. 4 children	
1.14	Other buildings: ruinous cottage, dairy byre, dairy farm tractor shed, cart shed, hay shed, young beasts byre, calf house.	
1:50	Dairy farm, crops, hay to feed the animals. 40 dairy cows, hens. The children fed the hens before going to school. 2 Clydesdale horses Bobby & Soldier. Shetland pony, collie dog slept in the kitchen.	



Ruth Shankland on Soldier the Clydesdale, Avisyard 1954

3:35

Harvesting, corn cut with binder, it made stooks, folk stooked up the corn, built a certain way onto a trailer, brought in and forked onto the stack in the stackyard Then at threshing time the big mill from Ramsay and Jackson. Corn forked off the stack onto the mill. Women were on the top feeding the sheaves in, chaff went onto a sheet. Chaff went to the calf house for bedding. Neighbours all came to help when the big mill came. Came in for dinner, social occasion.


5:41


“At hay time, the hay was cut with the reaper. Well you needed good weather. It need to be turned and dried and a’ the rest of it. We had a rucking machine. It was something the tractor pulled. It lifted the hay and it went up the elevator into this big, into a cage. There was always somebody in the cage to kinda tramp it down and then when the cage was full, it turned right over upside down and the doors of the cage were opened and you had a hay ruck. And then later on it was the baler. Nobody had hay rucks”.



1950s Morag on the elevator

5:41 – 6:26

	 <p>Shankland children in the cage.</p>	
6:30	Respondent doesn't recall any accidents	
7:03	Respondent describes driving the tractor.	
7:16	Extreme weather – severe winters, proper snow, the height of the stane dykes, walked along the top of the stane dykes. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile road end. Cleared by shovel, put ashes down.	
8:00	Getting to school. Post van to the road end, then a bus. On way home someone would pick up at road end if weather bad.	
8:30	Did any of family move away? No, stayed nearby. No tinkers or vagrants but, travelling salesmen, men of colour, did the rounds.	
9:48	Women did the milking. Children got their own breakfast while mother milking. Dairy maids changed frequently. Byreman – old Sanny started in 1938 and despite retiring several times kept coming back. Lived in a room at the back. Like a grandpa and died aged 86 at Avisyard.	
11:55	<p>Respondent got job as a milk recorder at 18. You had a circuit of farms. Describes the method of testing the butterfat in the milk using sulphuric acid and a pipette.</p> <p>“In the morning you had to sook up this. The first time you used sulphuric acid you get it on your lips and the skin peels off. That didn't happen again!”</p>	13:00 - 13:09

	Latterly the sample gets sent away. Weighed the milk. 2 weeks' training and went out with someone for a week. Visited the farms once a month. The farmer provided the transport.	
15:13	Stayed overnight. Recalls an unfortunate incident with a farmer which she didn't report. She asked for a transfer.	
15:40	Holidays were spent at an aunt's sheep farm. Young farmers' dances. You didn't meet anybody else.	
17:08	Shows. Ayr show was the highlight of the year. Dressed up, wore a hat. Takes place in May.	
17:47	Didn't get to go to the Brownies or to the Hop on Friday nights in Cumnock. Worst about living on a farm was you always having to get up early.	
	Thanks	-19:05
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