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Oral History Transcription with Lillian Lanfors Anderson

Lillian Lanfors Anderson
Mary Amos

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LILLIAN LANFORS ANDERSON
INTERVIEWED BY
MARY AMOS
APRIL 11, 1980
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This is April 11, 1980, I'm talking to Mrs. Lillian (Fritz) Anderson at the Caribou Nursing Home in Caribou, Maine.

Q. When and where were you born?
A. April 30, 1900, on Madawaska Road, New Sweden at the Gustaf Anderson farm.

Q. How long have you lived in this area?
A. Seventeen or eighteen years in New Sweden. Lived in Stockholm and worked in the store and post office there.

Q. Can you give me the birthdates and birthplaces of your parents?
A. My mother was Anna Lund, she lived to be eighty six. My father Alex Lanfors died young, around sixty. They came from Sweden. Mother was eleven.

Q. How about your grandparents?
A. I remember my grandfather Elias Lund. He lived where Clifford Landeen lives.

Q. How many children were in your family?
A. I had two sisters. Freda Lanfors, she never married and lived to be ninety one. My other sister Louise Erickson lives in Bangor.

Q. Whom did you marry?
A. Fritz Abraham Anderson.

Q. What year and where?
A. In 1923 on October 17.

Q. Do you have children?
A. Yes, one daughter, Marjorie Strainge. She lives in Stockholm on the Raymond Palm farm.

Q. What was your husband's occupation?
A. He was a jack of trades. He was a butcher and a farmer and even did income tax.

Q. Did you work outside the home after you were married?
A. Yes, some. I worked in the post office and store.
Q. Can you tell me something about your church when you were young?
A. We only went when we could, we lived ten miles away.

Q. How about activities or socials?
A. Once in a while there was a meeting at the school, and we went.

Q. Where did you attend school?
A. The Madawaska Road school.

Q. Do you remember your teachers?
A. Only one. She was a substitute. Her name was Murial Eales. We minded her. She was a big woman.

Q. Do you remember any of your classmates?
A. Yes, my two good friends were Ellen Johnson and Mabel Hemberg.

Q. Can you remember anything about the celebrations in New Sweden?
A. No, not really.

Q. How about winter carnivals?
A. No, I can't remember.

Q. How did you travel when you were young?
A. By horse mostly. I remember our next door neighbor, Anders Nilson. He had a nice buggy and a big horse.

Q. Were there businesses in the area that you particularly remember?
A. Yes, there was John Benson's store, John Olander's store and Aaron Anderson's and Peter Youngren's.

Q. What kind of entertainment did you have when you were young?
A. Oh, we went to birthday parties. Hanging May baskets was fun, we used to do that.

Q. Were people interested in music?
A. Yes, my husband played the coronet. He organized a band in Stockholm. They used to play in the bandstand by the Lutheran Church for ice cream socials, and so on.

Q. What was the best or most exciting thing that you have experienced?
A. Oh, I don't know.

Q. How about when your daughter was born?
A. Oh, no, that was tough, didn't dare try that again.

Q. Do you remember any stories your grandparents or parents told of their early experiences?

A. Well, no. My father left Sweden on an adventure. When he left, he left for good. He was American all the way.

Q. What cemeteries are your ancestors buried in?

A. The New Sweden Cemetery.

Q. Would you like to add anything?

A. No, I think I've talked enough.

Q. Well, thank you Mrs. Anderson, very much.

A. Anytime, come back and visit.

End