

DERSINGHAM 2000 HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW 12

Date interview conducted: 23rd October 1998
Name: Ivy Elizabeth Lines

When did you first come to Dersingham?

I was born in Dersingham in a tiny house in Manor Road, Beech Drift it was called. There were not many houses there. I was born in 1930.

Where do you live now?

We came here (Dodds Hill) to live when I was five months old. This was a new house. My father worked on the Sandringham estate, on the old gas works up there. When they changed to the electric he went on the farms.

Do other members of your family live in Dersingham?

My brother was born here in this house; he died two years ago. My sister Rosemary was also born here, and her daughter was born here.

What are your earliest memories of the village?

I can remember this road, Dodds Hill, we used to push our way through the hemlock to go to school; it met right across the road. It was just a little lane. I went to the school at the bottom of the hill and I came home for lunch. They used to have milk. That was lovely milk from Sandringham. It used to come to the school in a horse and cart, a lovely pony. There were all these urns of milk. It was dished out with a ladle. In the winter time it had all ice on it. It was a Jersey herd. We used to pay tuppence halfpenny a week for one milk in the morning and five pence if you had one in the afternoon. It was rich milk. My mother was cook down here. She was exceptionally good. We had a cooked breakfast before we went to school.

I can remember the war because we had all the (?) here. I can remember this school being built (St. George's). Mr Willis was the first headmaster. We played up here. We had a lot of freedom up here. We knew all the trees all the woods. The army took the school over. I didn't go then neither did my sister or brother. I knew Mr. Willis. I remember all the soldiers being there. The wood was full of tanks preparing for D Day; all up that road Admiral's Drive the lorries and tanks were hid up, pushed right up the side. They had taps there where they used to clean them but they were hid from the air. My mother was worried about an invasion. The troops mixed with the people. Troops were billeted in houses up here. They made a lovely swing in the

woods with ropes for us. We called the lorries Scammells.

We didn't know all about the holocaust and the horror of it but we knew what was going on. We were very quiet when the news was on. We heard Churchill speak. We had to keep quiet. I remember hearing the news read by Alvar Didell (*sic*); we heard William Joyce. I remember him Lord Haw Haw. I remember him describing the Gaywood Clock. He was a traitor.

I remember the end of the war we really did celebrate. We put all the flags up right across the garden. We wrote on the road. We really celebrated. A big party in Dersingham; they all paraded dances and fancy dress. I can vividly remember D-Day; I was at my grandmother's, she lived at Ickburgh. My mother and my sister we walked from Ickburgh to Mundford; that was all the battle area. Terrific amount of troops there - convoys. But we didn't see one.

Then all of a sudden sky was black with planes. All flying out I was ever so frightened, they went over. My mother kept saying there is something happening today I don't know what. Nothing on the roads; the roads were still. We didn't know until we got home and it was on the news. It was all secret. It was so frightening the blackness of the sky. When we got home all the tanks had gone from the woods. They never came back. A lot didn't return.

Down the Old Hall that was all tents in there The Newfoundland Regiment in there living in tents, troops everywhere. Hunstanton was mined. I remember the black spikes; the whole beach was mined.

The prisoners of war were on the farms. I remember walking down Dodds Hill and see a load of Germans coming towards me. I was terrified. Asked me how far the Russians were from Berlin. They spoke in English. They wanted to know about the Russians. They were coming up to the farms. I remember seeing smoke over the Wash Terrific lot of smoke. Down at Snettisham was the American Air Force. They put the German prisoners there when the Americans went. All of a sudden it exploded. It was a plane. They had got the pilot out.

Have you belonged to any clubs or organisations in the village?

I belonged to the guides when I was 10. I went on to The Rangers. The Rangers did all sorts of interesting things. I went camping. We used to go camping up the common, dig the turf out and light a fire and cook our supper.

I used to belong to ToCH. We did all sorts of things. We went to meetings at Swaffham and Dereham. We used to have tea on the lawns. A house in

Belgium called Talbot House and they catered there for all the people in stress from the war. They had a chapel. Tubby Clayton, he was a vicar, he founded it. He came to a meeting at Dereham and he had a little dog like my little dog. We used to do some good work. I remember Jimmy Jackson who had the farm here, well his aunt. She got old and couldn't sleep where she was and she went to his mother's down Centre Vale. We used to take it in turns to go at 8 o'clock at night to walk her to Centre Vale. She was interesting to talk to. We used to adopt children in India. We used to go carol singing at Sandringham and all round the village.

What was the most important day you have ever spent in the village?

Nothing outstanding.

What are the biggest changes you have seen in the village?

All the housing they have put up. They 've brought a lot of city people into the village. They are not country people that have come to Dersingham. They bring something of the city with them. They see a nice quiet village then when they get here they say "Oh we'll change this" or, "We'll do that", "We'll alter that." The community they have altered. I met Micky Ewer but he wanted to get out of Dersingham. "We are hemmed in by all city people, people from Sussex, I don't like it. My wife and son want to stay." Why don't they leave it?

What would you like to see happen in the future?

I would like things to slow down. They have the technology, education and that is all fine. Hope Dersingham doesn't get any bigger. Greed and money has dominated. They have put the houses so close together, no room. They are little boxes, so midget. They are not giving people space. We had all the space. My brother says we have seen the best days. Hopefully -- who knows in the future.

What does the Millenium mean to you?

It won't mean much to me; just another year no different to any other. I hope the young enjoy their life here. For me it has got too fast and too greedy. The manners are not there. This new Hall idea is ridiculous.