
Interview With Judy Badgely**Interviewed by: Cheryl Troupe****Date: May 12, 2003****Interview Location: Kinistino, Saskatchewan****Also Present Terri Huntley, Betty Fitzsimmons**

Tape One: Side A

- 0.0 Cheryl:** Today is May 12 and I am in the home of Betty Fitzsimmons and I am interviewing Judy Bagly, Badgely sorry for the Gabriel Dumont Institute Archives. Okay Judy do you want to tell me where and when you were born?
- 0.3 Judy:** I was born in Coxby, Saskatchewan. The tenth month, fourth day of October, October 10, 4th in '31.
- 0.4 Cheryl:** And where a bout's is Coxby?
- 0.5 Judy:** It is up around by Rosehill, Weldon area around there.
- 0.6 Cheryl:** So north of Kinistino?
- 0.7 Judy:** No, lets see it would be north, north south of Weldon.
- 1.0 Cheryl:** What were the names of your mother and father?
- 1.1 Judy:** My father's name was Kyle Ballentyne, and my mother's name was Olive Brown.
- 1.2 Cheryl:** And where and when were they raised?
- 1.4 Judy:** Oh, dad was born and raised in Coxby and my mother was raised in Sanford, Saskatchewan.
- 1.5 Cheryl:** And where a bouts was that?
- 1.6 Judy:** Um, I am just not too sure but it is around North of the Weldon ferry.
- 1.8 Cheryl:** Okay. And did they both identify as Métis?

- 1.8 Judy:** I don't know, because I never heard of this till after but he would die when I was five years old and I never seen my grandparents, neither one of them on either side, so I just don't know. All I know is that my grandfather come from Cumberland House, Ballentyne but I don't know where my grandmother come from. The Brown's they come from Scotland and Ireland.
- 2.7 Cheryl:** What do you remember most about your parents?
- 2.7 Judy:** Not much.
- 2.8 Cheryl:** Did you have a lot of brother's and sisters?
- 2.8 Judy:** I have four sisters and three brothers.
- 3.0 Cheryl:** What about, you said your dad passed away when you were young, what about extended family, were there aunts and uncles around?
- 3.1 Judy:** NO, sort of scattered, not like now a days.
- 3.2 Cheryl:** Do you remember what the various roles were in the family, what types of things did you kids do?
- 3.4 Judy:** When we got of age, we all went out and worked for different people and stuff. Some, mostly housework, we all went to work for farmers and that.
- 3.7 Cheryl:** What about the boys, did they just help with the farm?
- 3.7 Judy:** Well one brother died when he was eighteen and then I had a handicapped brother and the other brother died when he was seventy five, just a year or two ago.
- 4.0 Cheryl:** What about your mother, if your dad passed away at such a young...
- 4.1 Judy:** Oh, she raised us five children.
- 4.1 Cheryl:** And how did she support the family?
- 4.2 Judy:** Well she would do housework and the only transportation would walk. Sometimes the neighbours would come over and get her to help with their housework and that. Sometimes if a women was going to have a baby and have children she would go and help them.

- 4.5 **Cheryl:** So was she a midwife then?
- 4.6 **Judy:** No, she would just go over and help them and after they were born, she would just help them.
- 4.7 **Cheryl:** What about did she do a lot of berry picking, or what about Seneca root or anything like that?
- 4.9 **Judy:** No, she didn't do any of that but she used to pick blueberries and cranberries and that.
- 5.0 **Cheryl:** What about beadwork and embroidery, and sewing did she do any of that work?
- 5.1 **Judy:** She did sewing.
- 5.2 **Cheryl:** What did she sew, clothing?
- 5.2 **Judy:** Well, sewing for us kids and _____ she sewed by hand.
- 5.3 **Cheryl:** What about quilts and beading and that?
- 5.4 **Judy:** No, she never did any of that just more like dresses and underwear, under things, she didn't do any quilting.
- 5.5 **Cheryl:** And where would she get her materials from?
- 5.5 **Judy:** Oh she would get from um a store here by the name of Norman, oh what was his name, I can't think of the guys name, Norman Pollock, he had the store and that is where she would get it.
- 6.1 **Cheryl:** What about when you were growing up what were some of your favorite hobbies and things?
- 6.2 **Judy:** Oh, going sliding with my brothers when we weren't supposed to and more or less just playing around and nothing too much.
- 6.4 **Cheryl:** What kind of chores did you have to do? Chores around the house?
- 6.5 **Judy:** Well we would have chores but the older ones looked after that. After my dad died we didn't have much, just a team of horses and she didn't have much to do with, to do on.
- 6.8 **Cheryl:** What about social functions or feasts, or playing cards or games?

- 6.9 **Judy:** No, sometimes she goes to bingo and sometimes you go dancing, there wasn't much activity in those days.
- 7.0 **Cheryl:** What kind of dances did they hold?
- 7.1 **Judy:** Just house dances.
- 7.1 **Cheryl:** Do you remember any anybody in the community that was a really good musician or anything?
- 7.2 **Judy:** No, not really.
- 7.4 **Cheryl:** No? What about weddings and funerals, do you remember how they were organized or anything?
- 7.5 **Judy:** Well, funerals in those days if there was any small children, they weren't allowed to go to a funeral. Weddings, just the usual. When my dad died we weren't allowed to go to the funeral. I don't know why they wouldn't let their kids go in those days, not like now.
- 8.0 **Cheryl:** What about at weddings were there certain traditions or ceremonies that went on that you don't see carried on today?
- 8.2 **Judy:** No, I can't after my dad died, my mother didn't go much.
- 8.4 **Cheryl:** And new years, how did you celebrate?
- 8.5 **Judy:** Just an average day. She would go and snare gophers, she would go and cut snares and then catch rabbits and then we would live off of rabbits and she would always grew a garden in the summer time and we lived off of rabbits and bannock and bacon butter biscuits and bread.
- 9.1 **Cheryl:** What about other holidays like Christmas and Easter, how did you celebrate those?
- 9.2 **Judy:** Oh we just stayed at home.
- 9.2 **Cheryl:** You didn't go to church or anything?
- 9.2 **Judy:** Oh, church at easter, go to church at Easter time then I used to walk from the section up to the little Glenmary church every Sunday.
- 9.4 **Cheryl:** Lets talk about, you just mentioned the section what do you know about what you were calling section 29?

9.5 **Judy:** Who was all on there?

9.6 **Cheryl:** Yeah.

9.7 **Judy:** Well, there was S____ Umpherville. He lived up north and then there was Henry Umpherville and then there Lucier's Atkins, his dad and mom, Alec Dechombeau, Alec Umpherville, Henry Umpherville, Douglas Bear, Bobby McKay and then there was another Ballentyne family and then there was another Umpherville family, what was his name, Dyck and his daughter Mary Bear.

10.6 **Cheryl:** So there was a lot of different families so they were all intermarried or a lot of them? Intermarried between each other. You said there was Umpherville's and a lot of Bear's, were the families intermarried at all do you know?

10.9 **Judy:** Not that I know of.

11.0 **Cheryl:** Did you guys get together and do things as a community?

11.0 **Judy:** Not really, we more or less stuck themselves within that _____. I worked out in Manitoba there and then around here in Saskatchewan and then I must have been about sixteen when I left so I wasn't really there that much.

11.5 **Cheryl:** What do you know about how the community why did you guys live there I guess that is what I am asking.

11.7 **Judy:** Well because our mother was poor hey, so I guess she never had Mr. ____ and he had this land for the ones that needed homes and that is how we got this land hey. We lived for quite a little while.

12.1 **Cheryl:** Approximately what year was that when he did that?

12.3 **Judy:** Oh boy, I am not sure what year it was. I'd have to think of what year it was. Okay if I was fifteen when I quit school and I am seventy-two what year would that be? It would be about '45 because I went working in '46, no '47. So '43 or '44 somewhere in there.

13.3 **Cheryl:** So the people that lived in section 29 then did they all identify as Métis?

- 13.4 **Judy:** And then different one's would go to different houses and have dances and some would play cards and mostly if we wanted to play bingo or anything we would go to ___ Anne School for that.
- 13.7 **Cheryl:** Is that were the children that were on that section is that where they went to school then?
- 13.8 **Judy:** Yeah, they all went to ____ Anne School.
- 13.8 **Cheryl:** And what about church?
- 13.9 **Judy:** Yeah, they went to church there to. Well like different, well it was pretty well all the same, all Anglicans.
- 14.1 **Cheryl:** Do you ever remember your mother ever telling stories about being Métis, stories or legends or anything like that?
- 14.2 **Judy:** No.
- 14.3 **Cheryl:** What about language, what languages did they speak?
- 14.3 **Judy:** We just spoke English.
- 14.4 **Cheryl:** What about the others that were on the section, do you remember?
- 14.4 **Judy:** Oh they talked Cree, they talked English, they talked whatever.
- 14.5 **Cheryl:** But you never picked it up you just spoke English.
- 14.5 **Judy:** I never picked it up, I guess I should have.
- 14.6 **Cheryl:** Were there any other settlements near by that you know of, any Métis settlements?
- 14.7 **Judy:** No, that was the only one.
- 14.8 **Cheryl:** What do you know about the settlement when everybody left there what do you about what happened, why did they leave?
- 14.9 **Judy:** Not too much.
- 15.0 **Cheryl:** So you didn't the people that lived there didn't actually own the land.

15.0 **Judy:** No they didn't, he just got for them to for a home like they didn't have to pay nothing to live there. Then they decided that they have to go to Green Lake, that Green Lake was a better place, the only one that lived there the longest was Pete Umpherville and that is the only house that is still standing.

15.4 **Cheryl:** Did they decide to go to Green Lake or...

15.5 **Judy:** No, they went to P.A. then they both died in P.A.

15.6 **Cheryl:** so who would have gone to Green Lake then do you know?

15.6 **Judy:** Well the ones that I named but us and Pete Umpherville.

15.7 **Cheryl:** Did they chose to go to Green Lake do you know or was it a forced relocation.

15.8 **Judy:** He had his home and everything there so he just stayed there.

16.0 **Cheryl:** Did you ever remember anyone ever talking about land or money scrip?

16.0 **Judy:** No.

16.1 **Cheryl:** Nothing hey. What about stories of Louis riel and Gabriel Dumont?

16.1 **Judy:** No, not really I didn't know there was a Louis Riel until later years and I went to Batoche and I seen his grave and that.

16.3 **Cheryl:** So nobody in the community ever talked about Métis history.

16.3 **Judy:** I guess maybe he was in the books and that in school, I don't know.

16.5 **Cheryl:** What about occupations, were there people who were hunting and trapping to make a living do you remember?

16.6 **Judy:** some of them used to go trapping, beaver's and muskrats and some of them used to go picking Seneca root and stuff like that, pick berries.

17.0 **Cheryl:** What about when you moved on to the section, do you remember who helped your family build your house, was it a community effort or was the house already there?

17.2 Judy: No, like after our dad died, we didn't, we just moved different places for closer to school and that. I don't know who helped her move on there.

17.4 Cheryl: Do you remember if the house was already there? And did you just move into the house?

17.5 Judy: Well all those houses were built there.

17.5 Cheryl: And what was the house like?

17.6 Judy: Well we got just one room, we didn't have no bedrooms or kitchen or anything it was just all one room. So for the bedrooms the boys and that there was just a curtain pulled around, we just had one big room, they built her a very poor house and they said that is the way I wanted it built and I didn't even know they were building her one because I was away working. So that is the kind of house she got and it was cold because all the heat went to the roof was high, silly hey, it wasn't sealed off or anything and all the heat went out. In the winter she would wash clothes and she would dry them and this side next to the stove they would dry and the other side they would be froze. It was really disgusting.

18.5 Cheryl: What type of furniture did she have in the house then? What type of furniture was in the house?

18.6 Judy: Just little chairs and a bed and a dresser and she had a buffet and a wood stove, that is about it, we never had no fancy furniture.

18.8 Cheryl: Was it homemade?

18.8 Judy: No, it was bought, she had some from before and then people gave her some.

19.0 Cheryl: What about outside did she have a

19.0 Judy: Outdoor toilet.

19.1 Cheryl: But did she have an outdoor stove that she could cook in the summertime o anything?

19.2 Judy: No.

19.2 Cheryl: What about water was there a well outside?

19.3 Judy: We had to carry it; it was about maybe half a mile to carry the water.

- 19.4 **Cheryl:** And where was it from then?
- 19.5 **Judy:** Right on the section.
- 19.6 **Cheryl:** But it was a well.
- 19.8 **Judy:** yeah, it was a good well.
- 20.3 **Cheryl:** Did you ever here when you were living on the section the term Road Allowance, was that term ever used to describe the section?
- 20.6 **Judy:** Road Allowance?
- 20.9 **Cheryl:** Yeah, is that what it was considered was a road allowance community?
- 21.0 **Judy:** Um, I can't think. It was called a road allowance and then unless what you call the road allowance is when you come off the main land and come back here like those roads, maybe that is what you call it, I don't know.
- 21.7 **Cheryl:** We used to call like in Labret and Lestock there was Métis communities that were basically set up on the road allowance and they were called road allowance communities and because of the section and how everyone seemed to gather there that is why I asked that.
- 21.8 **Judy:** Well there is um, one, two, three, four, five, six, oh there was another guy that lived there to his name was Francis, so that is seven that used to live around there road.
- 22.2 **Cheryl:** Were they relatives of people from James Smith?
- 22.3 **Judy:** No.
- 22.3 **Cheryl:** No?
- 22.4 **Judy:** The ones from James Smith?
- 22.4 **Cheryl:** The ones on the section, were they relatives of people from James Smith?
- 22.5 **Judy:** I don't know, the Umpherviles were, some yeah and the Bear's. Yeah because old Douglas Bear was a schoolteacher and he was from the reserve.

- 22.5 Cheryl:** What types of clothing did your mom make for you, what types of clothing?
- 22.6 Judy:** Oh, she would get some denim and some cotton and then she would go home and make a pair of jeans for the boys and dresses for me and then any left over maybe she makes pillow cases and stuff like that.
- 22.6 Cheryl:** Do you ever remember anybody wearing beaded clothing or moccasins or anything like that?
- 22.7 Judy:** My dad used to wear moccasins but they weren't fancy moccasins, they were just. We had our place and there was a lot of bush around it and he used to go and cut wood and sell it to the neighbors and that was his living. He use to take rabbit fur and wrap his feet in it and put a pair of socks on and take the rabbit fur and wrap it around his feet and then put another two pair of socks on and then he would put on these moccasins and then he would put on these low rubbers what do you call them gum rubbers? That is how he kept his feet warm.
- 23.0 Cheryl:** what about others then on the section that lived there, do you ever remember them wearing anything traditional?
- 23.1 Judy:** No, they just wore plain clothes like you know.
- 23.2 Cheryl:** Was there anybody there, any men there that were involved in the collection of traditional foods or medicines?
- 23.4 Judy:** There was one women, she was a midwife and she used to go and have ___ and get them mixed medicine and that but she never used it for, she just used it for someone being sick.
- 23.7 Cheryl:** Do you remember her name?
- 23.8 Judy:** Her name was Nancy Umpherville. That is where they live, Nancy and Pete, was it Pete, yeah Pete.
- 24.0 Cheryl:** So how were children raised in the community? Who were they taught by, was it just their parents or their grandparents?
- 24.2 Judy:** Well mostly their parents and then they went to Glenmary School and after that they all went out working. They like the older ones they all went out working and they would have to look after the younger ones.
- 24.6 Cheryl:** on the section was there a community garden or was it.

- 24.6 **Judy:** No you just made your own garden.
- 24.7 **Cheryl:** And what types of things were grown.
- 24.7 **Judy:** Oh, like potatoes, carrots, beets and stuff they could use in the winter time, same as much as same now.
- 24.9 **Cheryl:** So it was all canned for the winter and did you have a cellar or anything where it was all kept.
- 25.0 **Judy:** Yeah each one had a cellar under the house and that is where it was kept, potatoes and that.
- 25.3 **Cheryl:** Did you ever hear anybody talk about; did you ever hear any Rogaroo stories?
- 25.4 **Judy:** No.
- 25.4 **Cheryl:** What about any legends or folktales or anything like that.
- 25.5 **Judy:** No, not really.
- 25.6 **Cheryl:** You mentioned that you called it section 29, did they have any other name for it, the community.
- 25.7 **Judy:** Well they had a name (laughter) but I don't think you would want to hear it. I wont tell you while this is going.
- 26.0 **Cheryl:** What about nicknames, were people in the community did they all go by nicknames?
- 26.2 **Judy:** One girl went lived there and her chin come out and one guy called her brier chin and moon face.
- 26.5 **Cheryl:** But a lot of people had nicknames?
- 26.6 **Judy:** Well there was one guy there they called him, but I don't think I ever got any names; I didn't stick around long enough.
- 26.9 **Cheryl:** What about religion, what role did religion play in the community?
- 27.0 **Judy:** I'm Anglican, it was mostly Anglican, but I guess somebody is still Anglican.

- 27.2 **Cheryl:** Did you go to church on a regular basis?
- 27.2 **Judy:** Went to the little Glenmary church, and the Anglican church in Coxby and then I was confirmed in the Glenmary church. I was baptized and then I was confirmed.
- 27.8 **Cheryl:** What about your mother, was she quite a religious person?
- 27.9 **Judy:** yeah she told us to go, and if we didn't believe it then she would really, she was good like that never swore, never drank, never smoked.
- 28.3 **Cheryl:** What about your education, you attended school at Glenmary?
- 28.4 **Judy:** I, my education was grade seven. It was kind of, in the wintertime we never went to school because we didn't have the clothing the warm clothing to wear to school, so we just, January and February, that is the only two months we didn't go to school and sometimes December. It all depended on the weather and how deep the snow was. In those days nobody went around and plowed you out or picked you up you just went on your own.
- 29.0 **Cheryl:** What was a typical school day like?
- 29.1 **Judy:** For me, it wasn't a good day, kids picked on me all the time and of course the teacher wasn't far behind and of course I just got.
- 29.2 **Cheryl:** And why do you think they picked on you, was it because you were Métis?
- 29.2 **Judy:** I don't know, yes, you see my brother and I, my two brothers and I went to school and it was called the Queen Matt School and we especially me, we got picked on from the time I went to school to the time I went home. Oh we used to take and sit a lot and watch the kids and we could see the kids coming across the fields coming to school and we would sit and in the summer time we would sit in this little cup of bush and sit and eat our little whorl and then we would watch and then they would go and then we would get up and go. But one day we got up too early, we got a heck. Next time you will get a licken and we knew she meant it you know. We seen something down the road and we figured it was a ____ you know we were bad but we paid for it.
- 30.2 **Cheryl:** What about did you feel hostility towards yourself for being Métis in the larger community?
- 30.4 **Judy:** Not, really.

30.4 Cheryl: Or maybe you didn't notice it.

30.4 Judy: No.

30.4 Cheryl: What subjects did you learn in school? And what was your favorite.

30.6 Judy: I took math, reading, there was no big telling no textbooks now a days they have certain projects they want to do, we didn't do that.

30.6 Cheryl: So at the school approximately how many Métis or aboriginal kids were in your school?

30.7 Judy: The school that I went to?

31.0 Cheryl: Yeah.

31.1 Judy: Just three the rest were Norwegians and Sweeds, so you know what that meant? And then I went to Glenmary School and there was all mixtures but at Glenmary school they didn't pick on you because you were a little darker than the rest, you all joined in, there was no favoritism.

31.7 Cheryl: What about after you left section 29, what did you do? You went and worked.

31.8 Judy: Yeah I worked at La Pas and I worked at Cranberry Portage, Carboury, Manitoba. Then I came up to Saskatchewan and came up to Saskatoon, worked in town here and that was it. I worked at the Manual College in Saskatoon, as a housekeeper or whatever you call it. More or less just no big business or anything.

32.6 Cheryl: And what about your family, did you have a large family? Do you have a large family?

32.7 Judy: Yeah, I have five daughters, four son in laws, twelve grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

32.8 Cheryl: So do they all identify, self identify as Métis?

32.9 Judy: Um, repeat that again.

33.1 Cheryl: Does your family, do most of them self identify as Mets, do they consider themselves Métis?

33.3 Judy: Yes, they have their cards and stuff like that.

34.8 Cheryl: And you find that important then to pass that on to them?

34.9 Judy: Well they want and then my grandchildren in Saskatoon, they looked up, they went to the computers and looked up where my grandmother come from and I forgot where she come from but I can easily find that out just. And her name was Mary Jane Ballentyne and she married Thomas Ballentine. You see there was three families of Ballentynes and they all spell their name different ways. One of them was always tlny, and some of them were tin and then balla, no that is wrong. They are spelled four, three different ways Ballentyne, Ballentin, and I forget how you pronounce the other one. Well when Betty started this thing they wanted to go so they got all of their cards and then I'm not sure, two or three in Saskatoon have their cards or are getting their cards.

35.5 Cheryl: Just back to before we close here, what do you remember most about living on section 29?

35.6 Judy: What do I remember about living?

35.6 Cheryl: What is your fondest memory of living there?

35.6 Judy: Living anywhere?

35.7 Cheryl: Living on section 29.

35.7 Judy: OH, sometimes we would go out for sleigh rides in the wintertime and then we would walk to the store and different things like that. There is one girl me and Ivory we always chummed around together and she didn't live there very long either, she moved down to Saskatoon. Victoria Bear, her dad's name was Douglas Bear and her mother's name was Lucy. But I don't know what her mother's last name was.

35.9 Cheryl: Was there anything else you would like to add before we close?

35.9 Judy: No, I don't think so.

36.0 Cheryl: Okay, well thank you very much.

Tape One Side A Ends at 36.0
