

Transcription of a series of interviews of Wilma Morrison
by the Ontario Heritage Trust

Josefina Novoa Reategui
Supervisor Courtney Kovacich
Ontario Heritage Trust

C0003

00:10 Courtney: So today is April 11th, 2019, we are here in Niagara Falls, Ontario, I am Courtney Kovacich representing the Ontario Heritage Trust, we also have Dawson Bridger representing the Ontario Heritage Trust. We are here interviewing Wilma Morrison. We will be discussing the Duvall family albums, and Wilma is going to be taking us through the albums, describing its contents and sharing some of her stories and memories. So, I guess, to begin with some general questions about the album, Wilma, can you tell us who put this album together? It looks like you have assembled a lot of this.

00: 59 Wilma: A good deal of it. My husband took the pictures. I thought, well, we better get it all organized because who knows when we will be leaving. And unfortunately, he did in 2011.

01:14 Courtney: It looks also like the pictures are from a lot of different periods so you have assembled them all together but most of them come from your husband's family. And what was his name?

01:27 Wilma: His name was Lorne Robert Morrison, and he was the grandson of Charles Douvalt, Charles and Justina Douvalt. For the most part he grew up in their home, cuz his parents separated when they were quite young, so they lived there with their grandparents and their mom for a while.

02:00 Courtney: Where were the Duvalt family based on?

02:05 Wilma: Collingwood, Ontario.

02:07 Courtney: And how did they wind up in Collingwood?

02:11 Wilma: Well, the grandad, great grandad, was a slave in Louisiana, and somehow, I really don't remember much about the story of his escape, but he managed to get somewhere out of, that brought him up on Mississippi, and they finally reached Chicago and then he was able to get a lake Frager, and there were a number of people, lake frager captains, who were bringing people into Canada from Chicago. That is the story as much as I know. And so he established himself, he worked for people first. I really don't know the story of how he and Justina met, I don't know- oh, I do know where she came from, a place called Artemisia, which is South of Collingwood on the area there, they met, her name was Green, Justina Green, and it was quite a settlement there in Artemisia. And, so, anyways I think they got together, they married, and she had – I've forgotten. I will have to go back to that. I've forgotten how many children they had. Anyway, it will come.

04: 18 Courtney: Yeah! Would you like to start going through the album and see what you can remember. I thought we could go through one page at the time, if you see a page that you don't have much to say about, we can just go forward. I will just take a note about which number of page we are talking about, as you are going through.

04:47 Wilma: Justina and David plus her brother, and Emma... And Lorraine, those were the ones that I knew, they were, you know, quite elderly by the time I met them. And, so...

05: 17 Courtney: So, they would have been your husband's aunts?

05: 20 Wilma: His great-aunt. They were a really close-knit family. The one lady, Emma Green, I lived in Hamilton for a short period, well, for 20 years, and I got to know this couple, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, and they were along in years, and Mr. Lewis wasn't able to get out of bed, and I would go and drop in and visit from time to time. It was nice listening to their stories and stuff like that, and it wasn't until I met my husband that I found out that his grandmother and Mrs. Lewis were sisters. So, that was interesting. When we go to Hamilton, because Mr. Lewis' family are from Woodstock, it has been interesting, also, tracing where the people settled, chose to settle, and how they got to some of the places that had business and industry. That's really... The rest of them, for the most part, settled in Collingwood, coming up from the farms of Artemisia. That is pretty much all I can tell you about that part of the family.

07: 28 Courtney: So did they start off as farmers and then went into other business?

07: 37 Wilma: Mr. Douvalt set up a barbershop in Collingwood, that's Pleasant Duval, this was my husband's great-grandfather. And one time it was the only barbershop in the town, so it was quite successful, and then of course when Lorne's grandad was young he wanted to be a barber because he saw his father being so successful, so he took over to run the barbershop, and it was successful. People were a little different, a little more accepting there, I think.

08: 36 Courtney: Tell us a little about the Black community at Collingwood at that time.

08: 44 Wilma: Our entire population of the Black community was less than 1% at the time, it was a very small town then. But, from what I can gather, it was a very friendly and accepting community, I remember my husband saying he had not experienced racism until he got old and left Collingwood.

09: 17 Courtney: So they were accepted as leaders of the community, then?

09: 22 Wilma: Yes, when I look at the house- the house was chosen to be an example of... living in the general community, as opposed to being in the Black community. So, yeah...

09: 47 Courtney: You want to move forward to the next page? Set your own pace.

09:58 Wilma: Yeah, well, this Mr. ... the Monroes, and Mary Allen, was apparently a Morrison, the one thing about it is that there is precious little information about the Morrison family, because not long after, my husband Lorne's parents married and the family moved to the U.S. and his mother was so upset that I guess she must have called her mother in Collingwood and cried so often that finally granny packed up and went to... I'll get back to that, where they settled in the U.S., and brought Lorne and his two brothers and his mother back to Collingwood.

11: 14 Courtney: When would that have been?

11:17 Wilma: Let me think... let me remember... Lorne was born in 1916, and Aubrey in 1918, it would have been maybe 1921, approximately, when they came back to Collingwood.

11: 50 Courtney: Where do you think this photo is from?

11:54 Wilma: Probably would have been around that time. It's interesting... when you see the pictures, it being such a small community it's surprising how successful they have been. This is the obituary of one of them.

12: 28 Courtney: Looks like Mrs. McWilliam Monroe and also, George Morrison... That would have been... (incomprehensible)

12: 46 Wilma: Mary Allen...

12: 46 Courtney: So, the Morrison, would that be a relation to you, or are they still your husband's family?

12: 52 Wilma: It's all my husband's family. I don't have any famous people.

13: 02 Courtney: Looks like a brick house, a very nice house...

13:06 Wilma: And it's still standing! And also, the obituaries... And this lady, Ida Morrison, she is a sister of one of Lorne's uncles, so it must be his aunt. She married Billy

Wilson, and Billy Wilson was white, so they had a family there. My memory isn't as good as it used to be.

14:16 Courtney: That's okay. Did you get a chance to meet her?

14:18 Wilma: No, they had all passed away by the time I became involved with the family. But there's members of our family that still live in Collingwood, so if you wanted more information, you could be able to get it from there.

14:41 Courtney: That looks like that is a copy of a photo, so you got a scan of that from somewhere?

14:47 Wilma: Who knows (laughs).

14:50 Courtney: When did you put all of this together?

14:58 Wilma: Maybe a little over 10 years ago. No, it would have been longer than that... I wanted to make sure I put it together well, there were family members still alive, and my husband died in 2001, so it would have been before that.

15:19 Courtney: It's great that you have recorded a lot of information, it's very useful.

15:30 Wilma: This is the Wilson family. Could have been Ida Wilson... Ida Morrison and that's Billy Wilson. I always think of him as being kind of a crotchety guy but they

have family members still in Collingwood, not any of these of course, but the young people, the young members of the family.

16:10 Courtney: Do you know how they would have met? It is kind of an unusual pair for the time, I guess, to have an interracial couple?

16:17 Wilma: No, it wasn't unusual, we were thinking in terms of – they were many, mind you, this situation in reverse, but there were many Black men coming to the various communities, they may have left families in the US, but they would have established families once they arrived here, and so, some families were able to get together but not all of them, so mixed race couples have been quite natural in Canada, I know in the US it's most unusual, so... people, I know my friends from the US they were amazed, they used to say, 'when you got to Lorne and Wilma you are sure allowed to meet anybody' but that's how our, my, our friends were, we didn't worry about race in Canada, oh, but they are other stories I can tell you.

17:37 Courtney: Don't hold back!

17:41 Wilma: This is an obituary of one of the Morrisons, a guy, died from typhoid fever, which was prevalent back in the day. What's that?

17: 57 Courtney: 1909.

17: 58 Wilma: That is the year my brother was born. It was quite prevalent, and this was before the days when they had immunization, which is interesting because they now

have immunization and young mommies are afraid to use it, and boy, measles was all gone, and seeing young mothers do not remember how sick their children were. I remember when I had the measles, the kids were coming home from school, they used to put, the health department would put a sign on your door that there was measles, and the kids would come down the street from school and they would walk across the street so they wouldn't get the measles.

19: 01 Courtney: Well, that's life threatening, right?

19:06 Wilma: And like I said, these young women are not aware of the sickness and how it affects their children.

19: 27 Courtney: There is another obituary here...

19: 32 Wilma: George Morrison. He was born... or his wife was born in Collingwood, and she died in Boston.

20: 10 Courtney: So how were the Morrison family and the Duval family, was it just a marriage relation? What about the paternal side of your husband's family?

20: 25 Wilma: Maybe what happened is, because, in the small settlements there were Black churches so they might... the Church in Collingwood, which was a British Methodist episcopal church, there was one in Owen Sound as well, but yeah, there might have been one in Artemisia but I'm not sure, cause none of the churches in the small communities are still... oh, I am telling you the history of the district.

21: 11 Courtney: You probably wrote all of that down! It's great to have that. We will make sure to scan it so we can copy it.

21: 29 Wilma: I was surprised to find that their homes were still in Collingwood, so you can see them, tracing back the family, the greenhouse, and the Duval family home at the time. This is in the early days, the settlement, they have fixed up, but at least they are there.

22: 00 Courtney: Will they have built those houses themselves, the families?

22: 03 Wilma: That I don't know. It would have been nice to been able to meet these people and know them longer... that's the only house I know, that's the one where granny and grandad lived. They even have school pictures and everything, that is really something. This is granny and this is her sister Mrs. Lewis.

22: 54 Courtney: And what was granny's name?

22: 55 Wilma: Justina.

23: 04 Courtney: And her sister Lewis...

23: 05 Wilma: yeah, Emma.

23: 25 Courtney: What do you think going to school back then would have been like in Collingwood?

23: 33 Wilma: From what I can gather, Collingwood was... kids don't have a problem in school, but the big thing is, they are taught by their parents and grandparents... the amazing thing to me was, that not all that long ago in Buffalo they were establishing a school to try to combat racism in the schools, and there I am shouting at the TV, kids don't need an education, they like each other as kids, but where they pick up on their business of racism is from their parents and grandparents, so the school should be for the adults. When you went to school, where there any Black kids?

24: 31 Courtney: A few, I grew up in Niagara actually in Port Colborne.

24: 36 Wilma: Did I test your eyes and ears?

24: 40 Courtney: Where you in my high school at some point?

24: 42 Wilma: Well I worked for the health unit, and I had Port Colborne and Welland schools.

24: 54 Courtney: This would have been the 90s.

25: 01 Wilma: Yeah, probably...

25: 03 Courtney: Interesting!

25: 04 Wilma: I forget the dates... but I probably did. They don't have the program anymore.

So, kids don't have a problem.

25:30 Courtney: And do you know what Justina and Emma, what did went on to do?

25:38 Wilma: Emma married... I forget his name... oh, she married Ned Lewis and they moved to Hamilton. One of their sons was a runner in the Olympics, 1936, I guess.

Anyway, and then, Ray, when he came back, he worked on the railroad as a railway quarter.

26: 17 Courtney: Ray was in the Olympics?

26: 30 Wilma: Yes. I don't remember how many children they had. I know Ray because, we went to Hamilton in 1939, as I said I knew his parents long before I ever met Emma's sister in Collingwood. That'll tell you, the Green family history. This is Justina and Emma and this is Mrs. um...

28: 03 Courtney: Justina on the right, and Emma on the middle?

28: 10 Wilma: No... Justina is in the center and Emma is on the right, and Mrs. [Sheffield?] on the left, and then these are the two brothers of the Green family.

28: 40 Courtney: What were the names of the Green brothers?

28: 44 Wilma: I don't know... they are there, somewhere. There is information there...

29: 12 Courtney: Okay.

29: 39 Wilma: Doesn't say how many children Emma and... I know they had...

C0004

00:00 Wilma: So they came in in the 1840s, they were fairly successful, actually yeah, they had 39 churches at one time, in Canada, and most of them are gone now. And then in 1856, I think, because the African American conference... The African Methodist Conference was American based, then they thought, the people, that they would be safer and be able to use more ways of keeping sort of runaways and people are still being dragged back across the border... they decided to establish a [British Methodist Conference?]. Like I said, they have 39 churches at one time, they are down to six now... well people don't go to Church, Canadians no longer think they need God, that's my consensus, my personal consensus, but anyway, yeah, the church was strong then, many of the ministers came from the US, I was brought up in the church and that's where I learned- we had a terrific minister in Hamilton, he was a community leader, and I mean from the general community, so the membership was strong, we had organizations, the masonic lodge was strong in many of the communities, none in mind, but anyway... that is where we learnt our leadership skills, they had a choir, and we sang in just about all the churches in Hamilton, certainly all the United churches, of course we couldn't enter the Catholic church at that time. But it was good, we had a strong affiliation with many of the churches.

03: 02 Courtney: Was it a good community to grow up in?

03: 05 Wilma: Yeah. We had a girls' basketball team, and don't you make any remarks, I was the jumping center, I was a lot younger and taller then, so yeah, we stayed together, we had yearly reunions, I think our last one was 67 years. We just lost one of the last ones at Christmas time, so there are just two of us left.

03: 49 Courtney: And that would have been at Hamilton, where you had that team?

03: 50 Wilma: Yes.

03: 53 Courtney: What was the name of your team?

03: 58 Wilma: Sepia Queens. We wanted a name for our team, and we didn't want to use color, because we had gone through the whole business of colored and African, and anyway, one of the moms was there, and she said, 'Why don't you call yourself Sepia?' And we go, where did she come up with that? She said it was shades of brown, and we were, so we were the Sepia Queens. We used to Toronto, climb on the bus, and go to Toronto and play basketball. It was 2 dollars to return. But anyway, we stayed close even after they married and some of them moved away, well, most of them moved away, I was the last one to find a guy, and we would get together every year. Like I said, it was a strong community. Not all communities were that strong, but many were. There were organizations, always. London was another group of strong people, they had a newspaper back in the 30s. And, yeah, there were organizations to belong to. That's how we grew.

05: 50 Courtney: Do you think the church was the root of it?

05: 56 Wilma: For the most part. There were organizations, as I say, a couple more organizations in London, but you know, my mom was the one who that had to work

all the years of her life bringing up my brother and I, so she didn't have time for these organizations. But anyway, we managed. So that's the story of [?] (min 6:31).

06: 31 Courtney: That is a great story!

06: 38 Wilma: This was an unusual situation... John Green, I can never remember which house this is... oh, there it is. John and his wife were married 6, 4 years. I think that's John... (Noises in the background interrupt the interview).

07: 33 Courtney: John Green was married to Aunt Alice?

07: 35 Wilma: Yes.

07: 46 Courtney: They are all dressed up in their suits. I wonder if they would have been going to an event, or something like that.

07: 53 Wilma: Yeah, must be, because they were all together and Emma would have come from Hamilton, so... Can't say for sure. And this was their house, they lived in the same street as Lorne's grandmother, Mrs. Duval. He lived down the street from there.

08: 40 Courtney: Sorry, whose house is this?

08: 41 Wilma: John Green. John and Alice Green.

08: 50 Courtney: Down the street from the big Duval family house?

08: 52 Wilma: Mhm.

09: 23 Courtney: And who would that be there, holding the flower?

09: 31 Wilma: Granny Green.

09: 39 Courtney: Do you remember her first name? [Rubidia?], would that be her? David
Green, it looks like, with [Rubidia?] and then John and Alice.

09: 57 Wilma: Okay.

10: 11 Courtney: Oh, yeah. You have it all labelled! This looks like the 1920s or 30s.

10: 25 Wilma: Yeah, I would say far away, that's why.

11: 24 Courtney: Is Justina all dressed up in her furs?

11:26 Wilma: Mhmm.

11:40 Courtney: Where do you think they would have shopped, back then?

11:43 Wilma: Probably down by the bay, George and Bay.

11:53 Courtney: I imagine back then it was harder to get fine things than it is today.

12:18 Wilma: There's the barbershop.

12:24 Courtney: Can you tell us the story that you kind of described, like you did before, for us?

12:31 Wilma: (laughs) silly story. Grandad was the second generation of the barbershop, was going successful in Collingwood. Someone came to take a picture of the shop and grandad hired this white barber to do, you know, anybody from the town could come in and get a haircut. Anyway, when this guy came in to take pictures, the white barber turned his back so no one would recognize him. But the one guy, where was he from? From Guelph...

13:23 Courtney: Which person?

13:25 Wilma: The guy in the middle.

13:27 Courtney: The white barber?

13:28 Wilma: No, no... the one in the middle.

13:30 Courtney: Oh, so he is also a barber? The one in the middle?

13:32 Wilma: Yeah, mhm. I thought I had his name there, but I guess not.

13:41 Courtney: How many people do you think they would have been employing?

13:44 Wilma: Oh, it would only be those two. It was a small town. But we had those chairs and everything when we emptied the house.

13:58 Courtney: The barbershop chairs, wow.

14:00 Wilma: And the mirrors, actually, the mirrors, we only disposed of them when we moved out, when Lorne's mom died. My brother-in-law had a house built, like their property, next door to the big house, so, this was all an empty lot, and this was a train track.

14:45 Courtney: Do you know who this man is? [Joe Pluett?]?

14:47 Wilma: Yeah, oh yeah, that's the guy that... he was from Guelph.

15:00 Courtney: Oh, okay I see.

15:02 Wilma: I don't think they are the same one... is it?

15:04 Courtney: No, it looks like they are different. But he was his employee?

15:11 Wilma: Yes.

15:14 Courtney: Sorry, what was grandad's first name again?

15:18 Wilma: Charlie.

15:19 Courtney: He was Charlie's employee. Hard to keep track of all the names (laughs).
This picture looks a bit older, this one over in page 24.

15:37 Wilma: Yeah, that was... it would have been about 4 or 2, or about 2 or 3, might have been 6, Charlie.

15:55 Courtney: You have done a lot of the work so you don't need to remember all the names.

16:03 Wilma: I don't know about that. Charlie never married so we can't tell any stories about him. He ran on the railroad until he retired. They were a really close-knit family.

16:40 Courtney: Wow, those are the original prints! What do you think about when you see them all pose in that formal portrait?

16:57 Wilma: I think in terms of, back in those days, they were taking pictures, my family couldn't afford a film, let alone [?] (min 17:10). But they were a different family, my grandmother died really young. I think that's... I really like that picture.

17:26 Courtney: Oh, that's beautiful. They look very glamorous.

17:42 Wilma: That's too bad that Madeleine died so young, never had any children.

17:51 Courtney: Madeleine was Charles's daughter?

17:54 Wilma: Daughter, yes.

17:55 Courtney: And which one is she in the picture?

17:57 Wilma: There.

18:01 Courtney: Oh, Madeleine is a, that's a man, a man's name? Am I saying it wrong? Oh, right there, that's Madeleine, and that's Charles.

18:14 Wilma: And that's Charles Junior, and Justina. She was a dressmaker, she made all of her clothes. Until granny died... we had to go to the store to buy clothes, she made all of our clothes as well.

18:41 Courtney: So this is Justina right here?

18:47 Wilma: Yes. Quite tall.

18:51 Courtney: Her clothes are beautiful, the beads... And how did Madeleine die?

19:02 Wilma: I think she had TB. She also moved to the States with her husband.

19:24 Courtney: How old do you think the children would have been in this picture?

19:29 Wilma: I have no idea.

19:31 Courtney: It looks like they are pretty much grown. So they would have stayed in Collingwood for a little while, and once they married, maybe, they would have moved?

19:44 Wilma: Well, Ma stayed in Collingwood, her husband moved to the states, like I mentioned, granny had to go home and pick her up. They lived in... Oh dear. You will have to come back and ask me about that. Remember when did Madeleine died... She died in 1921, she was born in 1898. But I didn't write down where she died. That's granny and grandad's obituary.

21:06 Courtney: Says they were highly esteemed.

21:08 Wilma: Mhm.

21:11 Courtney: So, in addition to their businesses, how else were they involved in the community?

21:16 Wilma: Yes, in the community and in various activities. And the guys, Lorne and... well, the guys all played hockey. They were into sports in the community, so... That's Charlie Senior and Charlie Junior.

22:04 Courtney: Wow, it's such a good picture. Beautiful portraits!

22:07 Wilma: Mhm. And the clothes.

22:18 Courtney: Yeah, you can see her sleeves, that took a lot of fabric, it's expensive for sure, big sleeves. Do you know how they met, Charles and Justina?

22:39 Wilma: No, I don't. I don't remember anything. Maybe somebody told me a story.

But I... Once again, it was a very small community, and probably the church had a lot to do with it, because there was a church in Collingwood. As I say, I don't know...

This is interesting, granny, Mrs. Louis came, and I don't remember whether they were celebrating a birthday or what have you, but she stayed at granny's place, and she had a birthday party or something for her. Anyway, there was an autograph folk so I decided I would copy it. That was back in the day when I had a computer, and we were speaking to each other. The computer and I.

24:02 Courtney: So, these are all the autographs?

24:04 Wilma: The autographs, yeah.

24:07 Courtney: That is nuts. So now we know all the people with who they socialized with. That's great information.

24:27 Wilma: 'Reading is a pleasure, partying is a pain, may God protect you, until we meet again'. A cousin was there from Toronto. It's an interesting name, Zipporah.

25:06 Courtney: Zipporah?

25:07 Wilma: Zipporah. Z-I-P-P-O-R-A-H.

25:45 Courtney: They would have thrown a lot of parties, or did they have parties by the time you moved there, or?

25:54 Wilma: Not really, because they were both along in years. That's Charlie. Then we have Charlie in his uniform.

26:20 Courtney: What did you know about his service?

26:22 Wilma: He was a porter.

26:24 Courtney: Oh! That would have been when he was a porter, okay. Charlie junior, right?

26:37 Wilma: Yes.

26:42 Courtney: There is just a book that came out about Black porters in Canada.

26:46 Wilma: Yes. Actually, Ray Louis, Emma's son, he was a porter as well. That's what many men, many young men, because it was a steady job that you could get on... It was difficult for Black men to get jobs back in the day. He used to spend a lot of time at home with his parents.

27:51 Courtney: Do you know what rail, where he worked for?

27:55 Wilma: I should know, maybe it's there... oh, [SCR, a sleeping car porter?]. Away from home expenses (chuckles).

28:18 Courtney: 29 trips in 1964. I'm sure they were long trips back then. Going all the way up West.

28:29 Wilma: Yes, to the west coast and what have you. During the war, my brother, because he was too old to be in the army, he was 20 years older than I, and he was too old to be in the service, so he was a sleeping car porter on the troop trains. So, yeah, he spent a lot of time in the West on BC. Maybe he was trying to get away from me or something, I don't know (laughs).

CM0005

00:05 Courtney: The Sheffield's family?

00:06 Wilma: Mhm.

00:07 Courtney: And they were a Black family?

00:09 Wilma: Yeah, they were, uh, the three ladies, one was Mrs. Sheffield.

00:21 Courtney: Oh, yes, the one in the middle?

00:24 Wilma: No, I don't think the one in the middle... She was the one on the left.

00:48 Courtney: On the left? Oh yes, I have that. So, when you said they had a museum,
what do you mean?

01:01 Wilma: Well, I haven't been to it, but they did have a museum that they collect and
they put together. So, I don't know whether it was good –

01:13 Courtney: The sisters themselves?

01:14 Wilma: No, no. This would have been the young Sheffield's. Because, they had been
in Collingwood all the years of their lives, and so, they would have put some of the
stuff, you know – it would be interesting for you to talk with them and see what

information they have. They certainly wouldn't share it with me, because I'm certainly not a part of the family, and I don't know... I'm trying to think of who am I... do you know Jamie Cooper?

01:56 Courtney: Jamie Cooper?

01:57 Wilma: Yes.

01:58 Courtney: No, I haven't met her.

02:00 Wilma: Well, she is from Collingwood, and her family are, uh, an old family from Collingwood, so she might be able to give you some more information. I'll have to look up – next time she comes, I'll give you her address.

02:33 Courtney: So, we have Charlie Jr. as a porter, it looks from his work...

02:42 Wilma: I have a feeling that is part of his retirement. That is where he is, there.

02:52 Courtney: So that is where he would have worked most of his career, at CPR?

02:53 Wilma: Mhm.

03:23 Courtney: What do we have here?

03:25 Wilma: Some letter, they are fighting. It's a personal letter about the differences between the company and the brotherhood of locomotive firemen, which represents 2,850 firemen on the Canadian Pacific. I'll have to read that.

04:44 Courtney: (indistinguishable). Would that have been, you know, a good paying job back then?

04:56 Wilma: I had no idea. That is before my time. I know my first job was at [Sansenawa?] (5:10). And that was wonderful. Okay, are you ready for Madeleine?

05:28 Courtney: Sure. Tell me all you know about Madeleine, or what you know about Madeleine.

05:37 Wilma: Don't know anything, because she lived in the States. I just know that she died very young.

05:45 Courtney: That is such a beautiful picture.

05:47 Wilma: Yeah. You got a picture of that?

06:01 Man: Yes, it is such a beautiful photo.

06:18 Courtney: (reading) Victoria school.

06:19 Wilma: They all went to Victoria school. All faded, the school pictures, that's where Justina and Emma went, to that school. And then, [Britta?] (6:38). Oh, there is my mother-in-law. Britta Florence Douvalt. Oh! Britta Florence *May* Douvalt. She was born in 1896. They used to send me these things, you could apply for – they would tell you what happened on your birthday.

08:04 Courtney: Victoria school?

08:05 Wilma: Yes. Did you get the wedding picture?

08:19 Man: I did, yes.

08:20 Wilma: I don't have one of those.

08:25 Man: For yourself?

08:27 Wilma: huh?

08:27 Man: You don't have one for yourself?

08:28 Wilma: No, I don't have a wedding picture.

08:36 Courtney: Are those your in laws there in the picture?

08:38 Wilma: Mhm. There is a cute guy there.

08:58 Courtney: It looks like the candid shots are less common than the portraits back then.

09:12 Wilma: Mhm.

09:13 Courtney: [Oriko?] has his arm around her, so since [Rita?] and her...

09:18 Wilma: They didn't last long.

09:20 Courtney: So, who were they?

09:22 Wilma: Those were Lorne's mom and dad.

09:22 Courtney: Rita? Oh okay. I see.

09:52 Wilma: And then, she couldn't, she lived at home for a few years and she couldn't find work, so, uh, she decided she would go to Montreal, and she was able to find a job there. Lorne and Aubrey moved there with Florence, they got to be of age.

10:17 Courtney: They look really young here, almost teenagers.

10:21 Wilma: They probably were. Don't have that information...

10:31 Courtney: About when they met?

10:33 Wilma: Yeah. This was her second husband. He was from Barbados, he lived in Montreal.

11:04 Courtney: Do you know who these boys would be, on page 44?

11:09 Wilma: Yeah. That's Lorne and Aubrey, and [Herb?] (11:13). [Sansa?], Rita and her.

11:20 Courtney: Okay. These are the women of the family?

11:34 Wilma: Mhm. Granny and her mom, Lorne's mom, and Lorne. Oh, don't be here waiting for me. Just holler.

12:10 Courtney: No, I'm just – letting things come to you. You haven't seen these in a long time, so, it's like –

12:21 Wilma: True, yes. Memories. This was her second husband, the one from Barbados. (laughs) They misspelled her maiden name. Like he wasn't married to her.

12:47 Courtney: That would have also been in Collingwood, where they would have met?

12:50 Wilma: No, they met in Montreal. They were married in Montreal, as well. And there's Ma learning the typewriter, at age 91.

13:25 Courtney: What made her do that?

13:28 Wilma: Something to do with – (flips through and laughs).

13:40 Man: It's good to keep learning! Keep your mind active.

13:51 Wilma: So she bought a typewriter.

13:56 Courtney: What did she use it for? To write letters?

13:55 Wilma: Yes.

14:07 Courtney: The world, I guess, was changing a lot for them –

14:11 Wilma: Yes, and probably, today she would be at the computer. I was saying that, in some of the organization stuff, Masonic lodge, was quite prominent, for them, also for me, but... she held office a number of times.

14:46 Courtney: What kind of activities would she do?

14:52 Wilma: I really don't know. They would have regular monthly meetings and things like that, but I know very little about it. I never ... never got into it. This is her and her two sons. [Avery, I think Avery died?] (15:29). Lorne and her... I took that picture. My mother-in-law wrote a story about Collingwood and her father. Someone typed it up.

16:27 Courtney: She must have been pretty proud of the family history, then.

16:31 Wilma: Oh, yes.

16:33 Courtney: Did she talk about any traditions, or anything that her family had?

16:37 Wilma: Oh, everyone went home for the holidays. We did that until she died.

Actually, the last time, when we were in Collingwood for Christmas, there was a terrible storm, and we got on the road, and we couldn't get off the road because it was Holiday time and people hadn't cleaned their driveways and stuff so we couldn't get turned around. And so I thought, well, when we get to Barrie we will just check into a hotel. So we got to Barrie and the sun was shining, and it was shining all the way home to Niagara falls. So I called Ma to tell her we had reached home safely, and so, I said 'How do you feel about having Christmas at Thanksgiving?' she said, 'That's okay, we can have Christmas at any time' so that's what we decided. But, unfortunately, she left us before Christmas. That's a neat story that she's written up, about her life. She died in October.

18:35 Courtney: Would she had lived in the house in Collingwood up until then?

18:40 Wilma: Oh, they built a house next door to the big house. There was an empty lot there, so. The house was too big, to climb the stairs and everything, so I had to give up my favorite bedroom.

19:04 Courtney: So how long did you live there for?

19:05 Wilma: Oh, I didn't live there. We just went there to visit.

19:07 Courtney: Oh, sorry, just stayed there.

19:13 Wilma: Yeah.

19:40 Courtney: So, when you were putting all this information together, it looks like you have a lot of archival materials, and copies like this, did you just, visit different libraries and collected everything?

19:53 Wilma: This came from their house. They kept them.

19:55 Courtney: Oh, okay, so they put it all together.

20:00 Wilma: I guess, I mixed it up so it would last.

20:03 Courtney: Oh, okay.

20:20 Wilma: This is Lorne's youngest brother... and his mom. This is her, again, and his nephew and niece that lived in New York, Avery's two children.

20:55 Courtney: Do you know their names... oh, they're all there. So, it sounds like you had to do a lot of coddling around to this family, or would everyone usually go back to Collingwood?

21:11 Wilma: Mhm.

21:12 Courtney: Okay.

21:15 Wilma: There were lots of rooms there. It wasn't until she died that we knew that he was an athlete, he loved to ski, but we found this in his stuff, belongings, nobody ever knew about him writing music.

21:35 Courtney: Oh wow, he wrote it.

21:38 Wilma: (21:35) [Skiing o'boogie woogie?].

21:53 Courtney: So, you participated in the choir and everything, were they a very musical family? The Morrisons, were they very musical?

22:06 Wilma: Lorne I know was musical, because... he drummed. Actually, the reason he ended up in Niagara Falls is that he, uh, his mom, after a few years of being in Collingwood, then she, they decided to move to... his mom went to Montreal, so when they got to be grown, he decided there wasn't any work in Collingwood, so they got permission from their grandparents to move to Montreal. Lorne met this guy, his name was Mynie Sutton, and he was a Jazz musician. So, anyway, Mynie got word that his dad had died, and he was an only child, so he was going to go home to look after his mom, and he said Lorne, 'Why don't you come to Collingwood, to Niagara Falls with me, I can find you a job', and so Lorne thought about it, and he said 'yeah

okay', and so they came back from Montreal together, and he lived at their house for a while, and then he went to live at this other lady's house.

23:51 Courtney: In a boarding house?

23:52 Wilma: I guess Mynie's mom had died, I don't remember it all. No, she hadn't, cause she kept the house. But anyways, we were at a party... there used to be a lot of Jazz musicians coming. I met, you know, Duke Ellington and Count Basie, these guys, they would bring them into Hamilton to play, but they couldn't stay at the hotels, so they would stay at our houses, and so we got to be really good friends with Louis Armstrong ...

24:41 Courtney: Oh my goodness!

24:45 Wilma: It was fun.

24:48 Courtney: I have to get back to you on that.

24:52 Wilma: So anyways, that's what happened. And we met.

25:01 Courtney: When would that have been?

25:04 Wilma: 1950. We married in '55.

25:12 Courtney: That sounds fun. I didn't know Hamilton was such a popping place.

25:18 Wilma: It was, back then. Yeah. There was this guy who owned this place called 'The Brant Inn' at Burlington, and it was quite a fancy place. The guy would bring out all these musicians in, big time, back in the day, but they just couldn't stay there.

25:46 Man: Was it segregated?

25:49 Wilma: No, it wasn't segregated. They just didn't let you in if you were Black, that's all. But it was okay, because my mom cleaned the washrooms in the basement, so I could listen to their music. It was cheap. But yeah, we go to know...

26:14 Courtney: How would you get to know them, would it be afterwards?

26:19 Wilma: Yeah, when they finished playing. Louis Armstrong's trombone player used to stay at our place whenever they came to town, and Louis stayed at a friend's house just down the next block. Not only that, but back in the day when Black people would see each other, there would be a car going down the road, and they would see somebody Black walking along, they would be hollering away. It was safe then. Anyway, we had a house party and that's when I met Lorne, and we talked to each other. These are pictures of my brother-in-law in various hockey teams. He was a very good hockey player.

27:26 Courtney: Yeah, we saw he was the captain of a team! Which of your brothers in law was the hockey player?

27:55 Wilma: The youngest one, Herb. But this time, Aubrey had moved to New York.

28:24 Courtney: And Herb stayed in Collingwood?

28:25 Wilma: Yes. Well, there is one that is still [living?] (28:42) [... five months after she died?].

28:44 Courtney: Do you think it was hard for them to leave home, with their mom, move away from where they grew up?

28:55 Wilma: Well no, most people have to go to other places for employment, it was difficult for Black men to get work. Even though he was well known, but he worked at the shipyard.

29:28 Courtney: That was Herb that worked at the shipyard?

29:30 Wilma: Yes.

29:42 Courtney: It looks like he was involved in Hockey for a long time, because he was a young man in one photo...

29: 47 Wilma: Yes.

C0006

00:00 Wilma: He was a very good Hockey player, but not after he moved to Niagara Falls.
Niagara Falls was a different community.

00:14 Courtney: And what did you think of hockey, you liked basketball, so did you like
hockey?

00:18 Wilma: Oh yeah. I liked hockey very much until they started fighting, so I gave that
up.

00:29 Courtney: Were there any women's hockey teams?

00:35 Wilma: I don't think there was an organization when I was growing up. I can't think
of one. And when we took her to the cemetery, I was wondering whose funeral I was
going to because I looked up and there was a stone there and it had my name on it.
She had us all organized.

01:26 Courtney: Who was that?

01:27 Wilma: Ma. My husband is buried there. It's got our names on it, the stone. These are
our grandchildren. Cathy lives in England, and Young Lorne lives in San Francisco.

02:39 Courtney: These are the ...

02:42 Wilma: Grandchildren.

02:44 Courtney: ... family that live down in the States? Aubrey's family? Aubrey's children?

02:46 Wilma: Yes.

03:01 Courtney: Do you visit with them in the past?

03:05 Wilma: They did...

03:36 Courtney: They did the party for you!

03:09 Wilma: Lorne... Nothing!

03:11 Courtney: Okay, sorry.

03:15 Wilma: When my Lorne was sick, then young Lorne had just married, and also had a baby, they used to come to visit on a regular basis. Now he's 22, the baby, and I haven't seen young Lorne since his uncle died, so... but his wife, he was married 3 times, and first and third wives are my best friends, so. That's the end of that story, okay?

04:05 Courtney: Alright. Is there something else that you want to say about the album, what it means to you?

04:09 Wilma: Well, it was fun putting it together, and I knew I wanted to be able to pass the information to anyone in the family would like to have the collection, because I think it's an important story.

04:33 Courtney: Yeah, it's good to know it's going to someone who wants it, and it's going to take care of it, it's important for things to stay in the family. I think a lot of people would be interested in using this for research, too.

04:51 Wilma: Yeah, well, the thing is when I began putting it together, there wasn't this interest in the history of the various communities, but it's growing, and I'm so happy that I put it together. There is the ladies at Victoria School (points to picture). My interest began in trying to have a history of our community taught in the schools, I think it's important that all the people who helped build the country should be a part of the history that is taught in the schools. I haven't been successful in that, so far. But if we have been able to spark the interest of other people..., actually, things are changing. (looks at a pamphlet) somebody was at a hotel (laughs).

06:25 Courtney: (laughs) Not historical!

C0007

00:12 Courtney: So, this is another Duval family album. Your husband... what do you remember about his military service?

00:43 Wilma: I didn't know him then. I didn't meet him until 1950.

00:47 Courtney: Did he go abroad?

00:48 Wilma: Oh yeah. He was overseas for a good part of the war. I don't know anything about it. And he didn't talk, as most of them will tell ya, they didn't talk... (someone comes in) Hi!

01:18 Person: Hello! There we are... Sporting a new jacket because I was freezing.

01:30 Courtney: So, we are actually recording, but don't worry about it!

01:33 Person: I interrupted! Oh, I'm sorry.

01:36 Courtney: That's okay! How are you guys doing for time? We just started going through the second album, we just started...

01:47 Person: We can go away, if you want us to, or...

01:50 Courtney: No, it's fine, you can join us!

02:00 Person: Your boyfriend wants to take you out for dinner after, if you're up for this.

02:03 Courtney: We'll edit all this out!

02:06 Wilma: We'll have to book... I don't know if it's too late or not...

02:11 Courtney: Do you want to find out? We don't have to do this right now. You can have your evening planned out. And...

02:19 Person: I'll go down with them and speak to them if you want to. Do you feel like going out? I'll stop now (laughs).

02:33 Man: Just carry on! Talk about yourself.

02:48 Wilma: Did you have a good lunch?

02:52 Man: Oh, we just got a Tim Hortons sandwich. We went across the border.

03:05 Courtney: Oh, you did?

03:07 Man: She had to get her visa sort of.

03:14 Wilma: Did you find it okay?

03:15 Man: Yeah I did!

03:17 Wilma: (indistinguishable)

03:18 Man: Uh, I didn't see what side. I just went downstairs.

03:25 Courtney: So do you want to continue with this album?

03:40 Wilma: Most of this is military, so I'm not sure if...

03:47 Courtney: And this album, he would have put this album together?

03:49 Wilma: Yeah.

03:52 Courtney: And he didn't talk about his time?

03:55 Wilma: No. Not at all. I did go to one of their reunions, and it was great. It was interesting to meet the guys, and there was one woman, she, they met in the West Coast, she wouldn't come to the reunion, because she said, 'its just going to be a bunch of drunks there.' So, anyways, I went and sat and listened to a lot of stories, and realized how much they meant to each other, but they ended up that, the guy didn't make it to the next reunion, he died.

04:51 Courtney: When would that have been, the reunion?

04:57 Wilma: I'd say, 1960 ish. But it was interesting to meet these guys and, it was neat how much they liked Lorne. Yes... And then, um, two years down the road, he has

pictures of different people, of names I recognize, but this Ernie Clarkson used to come to visit and apparently he was one of the young guys in the unit, and let me move this for space...

05:57 Courtney: Make sure he can see the pictures!

06:00 Wilma: Oh yeah. Anyway, one day Ernie called and he was crying, 'What's the matter', and he said 'I have been trying to get in touch with Lorne and I haven't been able to, is he alright?' and I said, 'Oh, yeah, he's fine.' So, anyway, Ernie came to visit again. And actually, I think Ernie died before Lorne did. And then, a few years before he died, a guy who was close to him when he was in Belgium called and wanted to know if Lorne was still alive, he wanted to speak to him, and so, he did and was in touch for maybe 2 or 3 years.

07:01 Courtney: What did you think it was about him, that...

07:04 Wilma: He was quiet and unassuming. I don't know. He was just a kid then, too.

07:13 Courtney: How old was he, when he joined?

07:19 Wilma: You ask me all these hard questions! (laughs).

07:23 Courtney: If you had to guess...

07:26 Wilma: I'll say 20, 25 ish, probably.

07:30 Courtney: Guess we could probably match up the dates...

07:33 Wilma: Yeah, you got dates here, on the page so... He was a really nice guy. Of course, I am a little prejudiced, but...

07:53 Courtney: It looks like he was kind of similar to you! He kept a lot of meticulous notes.

07:58 Wilma: Yeah.

08:02 Courtney: And knew a lot of people so... that is very interesting.

08:28 Wilma: I thought it was really interesting for this young man to call from Belgium...

08:45 Courtney: Do you know what he did in the army?

08:48 Wilma: No. Like I said, he didn't talk very much about it.

08:56 Courtney: They had a hockey team there... looks like they were playing hockey!

08:59 Wilma: Yeah, well, there you go.

09:05 Courtney: And what did you do during the war?

09:08 Wilma: I went to school. I was just a kid. There was 13 years difference between us. I wonder what happened to those pictures, because when he came back, the company that he worked for got him out of the army really fast, and then they had a strike. Oh maybe... maybe they are in one of the other albums.

09:52 Courtney: We will see if we can match them...

09:57 Wilma: So, this is his sister-in-law Olive, and one of their really good friends Cecile. She lived in this place at Montreal for a while. This is [Olive?] Morrison (indistinguishable, 10:35). And this is Granny and her brother... oh wait, that's not right. That would be mother and son...

11:11 Courtney: So, would your husband have taken a lot of these photos?

11:17 Wilma: To tell you the truth I don't know, because I didn't know him then. I would imagine so. Mrs. Ivan Sheffield, their cousin. And Olive, and granny...

11:45 Courtney: Looks like they are having a picnic.

11:47 Wilma: [Reverend Dawson?] He was the head of the [conference?]. And this is Granny, its on there, so you know. And that's the three guys, and that's one guy... that was his current plane.

12:25 Courtney: It's interesting, you see a lot of people from this time in front of their cars...

12:31 Wilma: Yeah. But you wouldn't at my house, we didn't have a car.

12:39 Courtney: How did you get around?

12:40 Wilma: walk.

12:42 Courtney: Guess that's so obvious!

12:48 Wilma: Yeah... we walked everywhere.

13:00 Courtney: And that would be on the... Does that look like it is in the steps of the big house?

13:02 Wilma: On the big house, yeah. I don't know... they have the names on the pictures anyways.

13:24 Courtney: Right after the war, do you think those would have been good times? Do you remember them?

13:30 Wilma: For me, because I was just getting ready to come out of school, but I was able to find part time jobs, so I had a little bit of money...

13:51 Courtney: Do you remember what your husband did right after he came back, you said he had a job that helped him...

13:57 Wilma: Yeah, he was a welder and worked at this factory... which ended up, well, selling in 19- I don't know, I don't remember the date. But he came back, and he had a steady job, he worked there 26 years, and the company was sold...

14:23 Courtney: What company?

14:25 Wilma: Morris Crane and Hoist, and it was sold to... I don't know, I can't remember. But one day he came home from work, we had gone to Niagara Falls, and he came home from work, and he said, 'I don't have a job anymore', and I said, 'Oh, what happened?' The company was sold, and he lost all of his... like his pension, and seniority, and everything like that. So, we had just bought a stereo, so he said 'And that has to go back to the store!' What's the problem? You'll be able to stay here and enjoy good music in your retirement! He said it was going back. Anyway, it didn't go back, because a friend who lost his job, the same thing, he recommended Lorne for a job so the two of them had a job together, so we ended up here. They were here until two months ago, he and his wife, and then he had a heart attack and died. We maintained their friendship. And the company he was working for was great because they had a lot of benefits. Oh, that's another girlfriend.

16:24 Courtney: Did he live in Montreal for a time?

16:27 Wilma: Yeah, well he would go visit his mom. He had lived in Montreal before the war... Different things in Montreal, yeah he would have taken...

17:29 Courtney: So he liked to travel too, your husband? He liked to travel as well?

17:33 Wilma: Yeah, mhm.

17:48 Courtney: He was involved with the elks, is that what that is?

17:53 Wilma: Yeah... oh, Elks' picnic, that would have been an organization. I don't know where it was... Other than that it was in Montreal or Toronto, I don't know... His mother was there, so maybe it was Montreal.

18:53 Courtney: Lot's of fun.

19:05 Wilma: I guess that is Montreal. All those people, I don't know...

19:37 Courtney: Do you remember where Rita lived in Montreal? Do you know where she lived in Montreal?

19:46 Wilma: Yeah, I was there a few times, but I can't tell you now. If I had the address... probably written down, somewhere. This was their friend's house. [The Tuik?] family.

20:55 Courtney: So, you mentioned, in Hamilton, um, often Black people weren't allowed to stay, or weren't allowed in the hotels...

21:04 Wilma: The musicians. They stayed in different people's homes. His aunt Emma, she took in people that came to visit, sometimes tourists in the summer...

21:27 Courtney: So that was typical, travelling around, in the 40s and 50s and they staying with friends...

21:34 Wilma: There is a movie called the Green Book. Did you get the Green Book?

21:40 Woman: I haven't seen the film yet, but I know what you are talking about.

21:45 Wilma: Yeah, I don't know whether I gave it to the library or...

21:52 Woman: I don't think I have it.

21:55 Wilma: So maybe it's in the library in St. Catherine's. Yeah, there was a book that was published and that showed you where you could go and where you could stay, particularly in the US.

22:11 Courtney: But also for Canada?

22:12 Wilma: Mhm.

22:20 Courtney: That just made me think of that, you know, seeing all these photos from travelling, would make it a lot more difficult.

22:26 Wilma: We got to know people, and so, and not only that, but the community was closer then. We got to meet really good friends. Or you could go visit relatives.

22:50 Courtney: (indistinguishable). So, when you travelled around, what sort of attractions did you like to visit?

23:24 Wilma: That's why we had a trailer, so we could go to places and do things, so we had the trailer and the car. Just about anything that was... fancy.

23:41 Courtney: Something different from regular life?

23:42 Wilma: Yeah.

23:50 Courtney: Did you visit historic sites and things like that?

23:54 Wilma: We enjoyed that as well. But often, there were things that took place, sponsored by the churches and conferences, and of course every year there was the emancipation day picnic, that was the (indistinguishable) and there would be people... at one time, there used to be a bunch of folks coming to Toronto, one from Buffalo, and it was interesting and exciting because under ordinary circumstances you wouldn't see so many Black people together. So, anyway, that was our big deal.

24:41 Courtney: Would it have been a yearly thing? Go every year?

24:44 Wilma: Yeah.

24:47 Courtney: And what sort of activities would happen at the Emancipation Day celebration?

24:53 Wilma: Mostly people talking, because they hadn't seen each other in a year. So, yeah, they were talking and eating and drinking. So, it lasted until the 1970s. Then, sort of weird things took over...

25:19 Courtney: You mentioned before that a lot of people at the time, Black people, felt ashamed of the history of slavery.

25:27 Wilma: Well, some people did.

25:31 Courtney: But it sounds it was really important for, to come together to celebrate Emancipation.

25:37 Wilma: Yeah, exactly, exactly. And it was well put together. There was a guy, he was a lawyer in Toronto, and he was instrumental in putting that group together. I don't know who did it in Buffalo. But I know we would come a couple of times, I chartered a bus on Hamilton and we would come all together... it was great times.

26:11 Courtney: Lots of families?

26:12 Wilma: Yeah. That was a family event. Did you get this picture?

26:23 Man: Yeah.

26:24 Wilma: Okay.

26:45 Courtney: So this album, as I understand it, is staying here, or is it also going to the states?

26:54 Woman: I thought it was only the two- Lorne's pictures, right?

27:00 Courtney: Oh yea, this one is Lorne's. Wonderful.

27:01 Woman: And the one with the lodge number, of Duval's stuff. That's the two right?

27:11 Courtney: Yeah, those are the two that we have done today.

C0008

00:00 Wilma: ... The beach at Burbank... I guess this where he would used to spend the summer, at his mom's house. That's Collingwood, I know that porch.

00:28 Courtney: That's the...

00:30 Wilma: The house, the big house.

00:43 Courtney: What do you remember most about the house?

00:46 Wilma: Well, I was just blown away by it, because in my family, we never... we rented all the time, and so, you weren't always in a... having all these things that this house had. And this is their cousins, their restaurant, that they had in Collingwood.

01:24 Courtney: What does it say there? Seater in. The Sheffield's had a Seater in?

01.:27 Wilma: Yes.

01:31 Courtney: In Collingwood... Did you ever stay there?

01:41 Wilma: No. It was cheaper to stay at granny's.

01:46 Courtney: Oh, of course!

01:56 Wilma: Oh, this the green elevator at Collingwood where... very famous. On the school they all went to.

02:39 Courtney: Montreal...

02:40 Wilma: Yeah, my friends lived [in Albert?]. His wife, Olive, and then their friend Cecile. He [named?], that was uh, a friend of Aubrey's daughter from Montreal, he used to bring her through the year. That's the whole gang.

03:47 Courtney: These are family parties. So your family was a bit smaller, I guess.

04:04 Wilma: Well, it was just my brother and I. And we weren't all that close, because there's 20 years difference in our age, so... That's a friend, Elaine, from New York. This is a friend of Lorne, who is now on the cusp of 70, and his mom, one of the neatest ladies you'd ever want to meet.

05:05 Courtney: How so?

05:06 Wilma: She was just nice. She was like my sister.

05:13 Courtney: That's Olive, right?

05:14 Wilma: Yeah, we were very close.

05:29 Courtney: And where did she grow up?

05:35 Wilma: Who?

05:36 Courtney: Olive.

05:37 Wilma: Oh. She was from someplace in the Caribbean. I forget. I'll have to look it up.

05:59 Courtney: So, did Black newcomers from Canada, did they often integrate into the existing Black communities?

06:07 Wilma: Mhm. We got to know them because they came to church and all that sort of stuff.

06:41 Courtney: I don't know if we've seen these names before. Do you recognize them?

06:44 Wilma: Yeah, I know the names, but I don't remember... I knew the Martins, but they were from Hamilton. Yeah, no, I don't know where they are from.

07:25 Courtney: That's okay.

07:26 Wilma: Sorry about that. Oh! [Those slays are from Toronto. And the strip on the front, well?], Andy Jamison was from... I think Welland.

08:05 Courtney: So this was all before he had put down roots in Niagara, I guess.

08:08 Wilma: No, he was working after he came back from overseas, he was working in Niagara Falls. This is his friend, the musician who brought him from Montreal.

08:40 Courtney: That's Mynie Sutton, who you had mentioned?

08:42 Wilma: Yes.

08:49 Courtney: And he was a jazz musician?

08:51 Wilma: Yeah. Mhm.

08:52 Courtney: Was he fairly well known?

08:53 Wilma: Mhm.

09:02 Courtney: He looks like a musician. He is dressed pretty cool.

09:07 Wilma: He was a character. One of the nicest guys you would ever want meet. And this... the guys from the community, Pascoes, and Smiths, they lived here.

09:27 Courtney: And Mynie Sutton was a drummer, you said? Is that right? And your husband...

09:30 Wilma: No, my husband was the drummer, Mynie played saxophone, he learned sax.

09:43 Courtney: Do you remember what kind of music they played? What the music was like?

09:45 Wilma: Oh, jazz. It was jazz. I don't know these folks. You should go down there now, there is still ice!

10:44 Courtney: What was it like moving to Niagara Falls in the late 40s, 50s.

10:50 Wilma: I didn't come here until, actually, the 60s.

10:54 Courtney: Oh! The 60s. So he was here for longer.

10:57 Wilma: Uh-huh. Pretty picture.

11:18 Man: A lot of snow.

11:21 Wilma: Used to snow a lot, more than we have had in the last few years. The ice, eh? Going to be a lot this year.

11:56 Courtney: Here's a little... Looks like a photobooth almost. Do you recognize those?

12:11 Wilma: No, I do not. I don't recognize the place.

13:06 Courtney: [Zaphra?] ... Beautiful pictures. Maybe we could track her down. Do you think your husband lost touch with a lot of these people?

13:44 Wilma: Well, a lot of them died, that's what's happened to most of them. Sorry, I don't know them. I don't recognize them. I may know them, but...

14:27 Courtney: Oh, they are amazing pictures. At least we have the names, right?

14:34 Wilma: Niagara Falls... They must have been fishing. There they are, hanging on the back door. It looks like a beach. Friends visiting, [Vera Pleydell?] from Niagara Falls here. Actually, she was originally from (indistinguishable).

15:32 Courtney: And what was her background?

15:35 Wilma: She was a housewife.

15:52 Courtney: Who was she married to; do you remember?

15:54 Wilma: Yeah, his name was Wilbur [Pleydell?], old family here in Niagara Falls. His great grandfather went to become part of the city council there.

16:39 Courtney: That looks like a house that's being built or has some dirt on the front.

17:04 Wilma: This is inside the B house, on the back porch of the big house, young Lorne and Cathie and all of them...

17:37 Courtney: And who was Cathie again?

17:39 Wilma: Cathie was young Lorne's sister.

17:45 Courtney: Okay.

17:46 Wilma: Olive's too, she had a boy and a girl. That's Vera Marshall, Ma's cousin. Oh, the caves up in the mountains of Collingwood.

18:50 Courtney: Oh yeah, I've been there, in the caves. Did you guys ever do spelunking in the caves?

18:57 Wilma: Oh yeah.

18:57 Courtney: Oh man. I found it pretty scary.

19:03 Wilma: Me too. That's all of them. I don't know who Richard is. And her, and the higher men here. (inaudible). The families... This is where I came into it. And this is, uh, the woman who lived at the same place that Lorne lived. When she got married, Lorne gave her away.

20:13 Courtney: And her name is... [Frida?] McClain?

20:15 Wilma: [Frida?] McClain, yes. This is the front of our house in Hamilton.

20:38 Courtney: That was your first house together?

20:40 Wilma: No, no, it wasn't that. We weren't married then. It took me 5 years to convince him.

20:50 Courtney: You had to convince them?

20:55 Man: Should we pause for a minute? I need to change the battery.