This is Lynne Bowen interviewing Mrs. Vera Riddell at her home at 260 Stewart Avenue on December 07, 1984 for the Coal Tyee History Project.

LB: Mrs. Riddell's family have been in this area, specifically the Wellington area for at least three generations. We will start with your great grandfather, James Sharp. Now, it would appear, from what you have been able to find out, that he was born in Lancaster.

VR: That's right.

LB: ...and immigrated to Pennsylvania?

VR: Yes, that's right.

LB: I guess you don't know if he came as a married man or a single man?

VR: It is on one of these papers that I am giving you, where he was married.

LB: Before he came?

VR: Yes.

LB: And he married Sarah Barlow. Their first child, Mary Alice was born in Pennsylvania. Then they came to Wellington.

VR: He was married to Rebecca Sharp.

LB: No.

VR: You are talking about the generation before that?

LB: Yes, James Sharp. His daughter was Rebecca

VR: Yes, that's right, you have the right generation.

LB: Yes. She married John Sanders.

VR: Yes, right.

LB: But we are getting a bit ahead of ourselves here. Presumably James Sharp was a coal miner or was he already a boss.

VR: When he came to the Island?

LB: When he came to Wellington.

VR: I don't know. I know he became a boss or was one when he came.

LB: Yes.

VR: But he was a boss.

LB: Chances are he succeeded his son-in-law - he probably wasn't when he first came.

VR: No, not to start off.

LB: James and Sarah have three daughters, probably?

VR: Yes.

LB: One on them was Rebecca Sharp?

VR: Yes.

LB: She married John Sanders, now, you were telling me something about how they met... oh no, that was the next generation.

VR: Yes.

LB: John Sanders was also born in the U.S.

VR: Yes, he came from Pennsylvania as far as I remember.

LB: He was remarkable wasn't he?

VR: He was indeed.

LB: We talked a bit about how he learned to read and write and so on...

VR: From what I know, he had no education at all, he just finished grade two or three. After he was married he hired a teacher to taught him to read and write. He took exams and he became, I think, a fire boss.

LB: Yes, that would have been the first step up the ladder.

VR: Now whether he proceeded beyond that, I don't know. I know that he did write the exam for fire boss.

LB: That's quite an accomplishment even that, I mean to read and write.

VR: Oh yes, he was a wonderful man.
LB: Now, would you have known him?
VR: Oh yes, because I was, I guess over twenty when he died. I remember him very well.
LB: So he was born in 1855, according to what I have got down here, and again, these will have to be checked, and died in 1935.
VR: Yes.
LB: Did he live in Wellington all the time?
VR: All that time, that I knew him.
LB: Yes. When he first came to Wellington, he worked for his future father-in-law.
VR: Yes, that's right, his future father-in-law.
LB: I think you have a picture of him here don't you?
VR: Yes. He was in an accident at one time and had part of one hand blown off.
LB: In the mine?
VR: Setting caps I think.
LB: Yes.
VR: He had part of one hand blown off. I can remember when I was a little girl going to visit him in this old hospital which was around the corner from Machleary Street, to visit him with his injured hand.
LB: Just when it had been injured?
VR: Well he was in the hospital, I don't remember what for.
LB: So this was a gentleman, it looks like he has a corn-cob pipe
VR: Yes he does.
LB: And he has a rather jaunty, almost like a yachting cap
VR: He used to entertain us by doing tap dances.
LB: Did he? Oh he sounds like a marvelous fellow.
VR: Well, you see he had so many grandchildren, and we were all within a few years, and we would visit him and he would like it so much.
LB: Did they have a big house?
VR: The house, I think, is still there.
LB: Oh.
VR: I think it is still there,... yes it is still there.
LB: Where is it?
VR: It is on, not the main highway, but the Wellington highway. Do you know where there are walks down to the lake ... it is just on the other side of the road from that.
LB: Yes.
VR: That's where they lived when I visited them.
LB: Of course the highway wasn't there then.
VR: Well that was the highway.
LB: Yes, Wellington Road was the highway.
VR: Yes, that was the highway.
LB: There wasn't the big strip through there.
VR: Oh no.
LB: Was he on the lake side of the road or the other?
VR: No, he was across the road from the lake.
LB: Okay, so up in the area of Nanaimo Chrysler, or... would it be up in the area where Nanaimo Chrysler is now?
VR: Oh no, way up beyond the.... let me see, do you know where Dorman's live by the lake?
LB: Yes.... on Norwell Drive then?
VR: Yes.
LB: Oh, okay.
VR: I'm sure that house is still there.
LB: Where is that picture taken
VR: I have no idea.
LB: It looks as in some wood and some trees.
VR: He did work at one time in Port Alberni. Now I don't remember, but I can remember them telling me that he worked in Port Alberni and would ride a bicycle on each weekend to home, on this gravel road.
LB: Is this him as well?
VR: Yes, this is the house.
LB: This is the house on the lake?
VR: Not on the lake, across the road.
LB: Okay. We'll have to look for that.
VR: And this is him.
LB: He's sitting there... does he have his pipe in his mouth?
VR: No he hasn't. This was his wife.
LB: Rebecca.
VR: That was Martha, not the oldest daughter. This was a brother, I don't know how he got in here, he was the son-in-law. This is her son. This is his youngest son. His youngest son and my brother were not that far apart in age so they were very good friends.
LB: Even though he was his uncle.
VR: Yes.
LB: Now, this house... you see a number of houses in Nanaimo like this. It has the four sided roof, and it is actually a nice house for the time.
VR: Well, we thought it was wonderful, we loved it.
LB: Would this have been his original home?
VR: Their original home?
LB: Yes.
VR: I don't know whether they built it, because I would be going there when I was maybe ten, eleven, from then on. He died in there.
LB: Oh. By the age of this uncle, in here, he looks to be maybe ten?
VR: My brother was born in 1907.
LB: So that would
VR: So he would be two years older, born a few years before 1907.
LB: So this maybe is 1910, around in there.
VR: I was born in 1914, and I remember going there when I was, I think I was sixteen or seventeen when my grandmother died and she was still living there.
LB: Yes. Okay, this Rebecca, John Sanders' wife. Now I have down here that she was born in Lanchester, but that can't be correct. She must have been born in Wellington.
VR: My grandmother?
LB: Yes.
VR: No, she wasn't born there.
LB: Because her sister was born in Pennsylvania.
VR: She was born in Bolton, England.
LB: Oh, in England. We obviously have some sorting out to do here.
VR: Unless that was another generation you are talking about.
LB: Yes.
VR: I can remember my grandmother talking about how she was born in Bolton, England.
LB: Yes, well you certainly know for sure about your grandmother.
VR: Yes.
LB: Going back further, it gets hazier.
VR: Yes.
LB: She ran a boarding house, did she?
VR: Yes, after she was married.
LB: Yes. Was it this house?
VR: I don't know. I would think it would be around Diver Lake.
LB: So she lived in this house, on Norwell Drive, which is now Norwell Drive.
VR: Yes, but this was after she was married. Quite a while after, you see, because my mother didn't live there. My mother was married in 1900.
LB: Okay, married in 1900.
VR: That was Sarah.
LB: Yes.
VR: She never lived in this house as far as I know.
LB: And yet you remember this house?
VR: Oh yes.
LB: You remember your grandfather in it?
VR: Oh yes.
LB: So they must have been living in it... oh I see, after your mother was married.
VR: Yes.
LB: Oh okay, so before that, they lived in this boarding house?
VR: Yes, and where it was, I really couldn't say.
LB: The boarding houses were really quite common in this area because there were a lot of single men.
VR: That is where my father boarded and that is where he met my mother.
LB: Yes. So, do you know anything else about this boarding house?
VR: Oh, I really don't.
LB: It was really quite a prodigious accomplishment, that of raising a family and running a boarding house.
VR: My grandmother had eleven children. I don't think she would have run the boarding house later on, I think this was in the early years of her marriage.
LB: A lot of the people around boarding houses were widows.
VR: Yes, but this wasn't the case here.
LB: It was one way for them to earn money.
VR: But I guess my grandfather was just working and didn't have the education he wanted to better himself, and she would try to help.
LB: They must have been quite a pair.
VR: Yes.
LB: So he, you know for sure he became a fire boss, but you don't know what happened after that.
VR: Yes.
LB: Then he must have quit coal mining after the Wellington mines closed and gone into other things.
VR: No, he never did.
LB: He mined right up till he retired.
VR: Yes, that is the only thing he did as far as I know.
LB: He must have come into Nanaimo then.
VR: No, they lived there till they died.
LB: Yes, but they must have come here to work, because the Wellington mines closed in 1898. After that he must have had to come a little farther afield.
VR: Well, perhaps that was when he went to Port Alberni.
LB: Well I notice you have a picture here of Port Alberni coal mine.
VR: Yes, but I don't think that was...
LB: It never was much of a coal mine.
VR: No.
LB: Oh this is from your Papa... is working... where the cross is, it is Papa. This is written to Sarah.

VR: Who is my mother.

LB: To your mother.

VR: And she was married in 1900.

LB: So.

VR: That was probably when she was first married.

LB: I am trying to see where the cross is and I can't.

VR: No, I couldn't either.

LB: Well, there is the line there. Now, so Rebecca Sharp is running a boarding house and she has to be running it at least until your parents got married, because that is where they met.

VR: Yes, that's right. They were married in 1900.

LB: 1900. So they met at Rebecca Sharp's boarding house. You said your parents were 18-20 when they got married.

VR: That must be right, if I said it. Yes, my mother was 18 and my dad was two years older.

LB: I wonder if they knew each other very long before they got married.

VR: I don't know, but they were married seven years before my brother was born.

LB: My goodness.

VR: And another seven years before I was born.

LB: Did your mother ever discuss that with you... was it a matter of waiting till they could afford a child, or..

VR: No, no, it just didn't happen.

LB: It didn't happen, which is the way, I assume, most people planned their families in those days.

VR: But they did have fun.

LB: Did they?

VR: Oh, they had wonderful times. They were great dancers.

LB: So this was your mother, whose name is Sarah and your father whose name is Chelsey Cornish.

VR: Yes.

LB: Now what was his background.- where was he born?

VR: He was born of English parents, but born in the United States. I guess they moved over following work, as most people did, and they lived, when my father was a little boy, he lived in Harewood, they called it five acres.

LB: Yes. So he came here as a young boy.

VR: Yes, and his mother died at child birth. My father's youngest sister is still living in Spokane and she is now 97.

LB: And the mother died giving birth to her?

VR: I don't know whether her or one after. I think perhaps the baby and the mother died, because this aunt that I have in Spokane, it seems to me that she was about 2 or 3 when her mother died.

LB: Oh, and she is now 97.

VR: Yes. I just got a Christmas card from her.

LB: She still is functioning well then.

VR: We went to see her this summer and she is the most remarkable woman.

LB: I bet she would be an interesting person to talk to.

VR: Oh yes. I have written to her asking her some things about my father's family and it is in one of these papers that I have given to you.

LB: Oh good.

VR: Where all her brothers and sisters were born. I can remember my mother saying that she was going to call me Gloria Grace after my father's sister.
VR: Gloria Grace had died as a child, and was buried in the cemetery on Wallace Street. I have looked and her name is not on any of those stones, but that was what my mother has always said. But then she changed her mind and didn't want to call me after someone who was dead, so she called me after Vera Maffeo.

LB: Oh for goodness sakes.

VR: She was Vera Aikenhead.

LB: She was quite an admirable lady, or...

VR: My mother and Mrs. Aikenhead were friends.

LB: Aikenhead?

VR: And they were friends and she liked it, so that's why.

LB: That was quite a popular name at that time wasn't it?

VR: I suppose so.

LB: So your father arrived then in this area as a young boy.

VR: Yes.

LB: Do you know if they came directly to five acres?

VR: From what I know they did, and he had a brother who was drowned in Nanaimo River when he was about twelve. So they were living in that area then.

LB: Yes.

VR: And his father worked, I don't know where, where he worked I don't know, but these children - there was my father, and his brother and the two sisters, they pretty well raised themselves I think.

LB: And the father was the top tong as a coal miner?

VR: No. I don't know what he did.

LB: But your father was?

VR: In the early years. I think they went to Extension; they must have been in Extension in 1907 because that was when my brother was born and he was born in Extension. Then the mine moved to Ladysmith, but my parents didn't. My father decided it was time to quit mining. He went into logging afterwards.

LB: Did your mother and dad ever talk about living in Extension, because I gather in the very early years, it wasn't a very prepossessing place to live. It had a terrible water supply....

VR: Yes, mother hated it.

LB: So after that where did they go?

VR: That was in 1907, I know they were there then because my brother was born there, I was born in 1914 and I was born on Jinglepot Road.

LB: Your father was still mining then?

VR: He must have been then. By the time I was five, he wasn't mining because he was, we moved into Machleary Street. I went to Grade one when we lived on Machleary Street. He hadn't been mining for quite some time then.

LB: Did he ever talk about being in the mine.

VR: Oh yes, he hated it.

LB: Did he?

VR: Oh yes.

LB: Did he ever say anything about the Wellington mines?

VR: The Wellington mines?

LB: Yes.

VR: No, ... I remember my mother talking about Number one and Number two mines, but it didn't really mean anything to me. I know that my grandfather must have been in the Wellington mines when he was injured.

LB: Yes. I can find that out actually, I have records of all people injured and I can just go back and find out when it was. Even the slightest injury was recorded, except in the very, very early days. The more bureaucratic the Ministry of Mines got, the more fussy they became with what they recorded. I'd like to go through some of these...
LB: pictures with you. We may not get them quite in order. Now this formidable looking lady is Sarah Barlow Sharp, I think.
VR: That would be my grandmother's mother.
LB: She is the one that smoked the pipe.
VR: Yes. Is that a german trait?
LB: I don't know, it is something I would have to check up on.
VR: Have I got any dates there?
LB: No, there will be on some of these things.
VR: There will be.
LB: It says, "born in 1837."
VR: No, that is her husband, he was born in 1837.
LB: Okay, her husband was born in 1837.
VR: Is it possible that my brother, who was born in 1907, would remember her? I can remember him telling me about this little old lady who sat in a corner smoking a corn cob pipe.
LB: Well sure, assuming that she was the same age or younger than her husband, which most people are, then in 1907 she would have been 70 years old. So that's not too far fetched is it?
VR: No.
LB: She is considerably younger in this picture. A person who is expert, wouldn't know what year that is. It looks like she has some sort of a braided hat on her head.
VR: Yes.
LB: That is a lovely picture. Now, this picture is a picture of a house...
VR: And we have that in Extension.
LB: Okay this is the Cornish house in Extension in 1907 - that must have been where your brother was born?
VR: Yes, that's right.
LB: And that is a rather nicer house than most people lived in in Extension at that time. Most people were in shacks. This has quite a respectable look to it. No front yard, but... Now who did you say was on the porch - there are four people on the porch.
VR: I'm sure that that would be my grandmother and my mother I would think, and this is her youngest son, because he was just a few years...
LB: Oh yes it must be, so that is your great uncle then?
VR: No, that would be my uncle.
LB: Oh yes, he was close to your brother.
VR: Yes.
LB: And then there is the gentleman sitting back...?
VR: I don't know who that is.
LB: It almost looks like he has a beard.
VR: Is it a man or a lady?
LB: I don't know, it is hard to tell, it is so faint.
VR: I really don't know.
LB: Now in this next picture of the Wellington Hotel, it is such a grand looking building.
VR: It is isn't it?
LB: It is a two storey and it has three dormer windows on the roof and quite a large impressive porch and a number of gentlemen, including a man in an apron sitting, standing in the front... oh and there are some women, some women were allowed to look out the window there.
VR: I wonder if my mother worked there, because she did work as a waitress in a hotel in Nanaimo before she was married.
LB: Oh did she.
VR: And I just wonder if she did work there. I don't remember her ever saying that she worked there.
LB: It has sort of an official look to it. It looks like almost all the employees were assembled.
VR: They would be the boarders, I would think.
LB: Yes.
VR: I would think that a lot of the Wellington miners boarded in this hotel.
LB: Oh probably. Most of them are in suits, but not all are in ties. A lot of them wore a suit jacket to work, however, there is only one man here who does not appear to have a shirt on. Some of them have dark shirts with light ties which is rather dandy. Some are wearing fedoras, some are wearing peak caps, and then there are three ladies in the window.
VR: Well my mother was born in 1882... so if she did work here, she would have gone to work when she was sixteen of seventeen.
LB: It is possible isn't it. That is a really interesting picture. Now, this looks like a school photo. Miss Dolly Saunders, with a "U",
VR: Yes, that was my mother's youngest sister.
LB: Oh, and she married someone named Saunders.
VR: My mother's maiden name was Saunders.
LB: Wasn't it Sanders?
VR: Yes, remember I told you during the First World War, they dropped the 'u':
LB: Oh yes, that's right. That is certainly a very subtle difference. I am sure that not many people would notice it. The date on this has a question mark behind it, but it says 1910, Wellington, British Columbia.
VR: Well, we know when she was born - it is on one of these papers - and we can tell just about how old she is there.
LB: Yes. Which one is she, do you know?
VR: She would be the pretty one - she was a beautiful woman.... that looks like my mother.
LB: Well you never know, you know...
VR: This is my mother's writing down here... isn't that strange that I had never even questioned that it was her.
LB: Well you never know, sometimes the later years, one member of the family takes it to school or something to show it and writes their name on the back so it doesn't get lost.
VR: I really don't know, but that doesn't look unlike my mother. Sorry Lynne.
LB: This is a really large class and they look to be...
VR: They look about twelve don't they?
LB: Yes, they look to be about the same age. It doesn't look like a country school.
VR: Well Dolly and my mother would have gone to school at Wellington, because that was the only place they lived.
LB: There are thirty students and it looks like two adults. There is a man over here and that could be a tall child.
VR: That would be not another teacher.
LB: It is a very childlike face, but anyway, approximately thirty students, which is a good sized class on one age group. The next thing is your father's certificate of competency which he got in 1905 in Extension, so that puts him in Extension then.
VR: Yes, well they must have been because my brother was born there in 1907.
LB: Although it is interesting in that it says, "Chelsey Cornish of Ladysmith."
VR: Yes. Well they did live in Ladysmith I think.
LB: Did they - And then moved to Extension after that, by 1907?
VR: I just can't remember!
LB: Heavens, you can't remember all these things.
VR: But I know that my mother, by doctor's orders.... did the mines move to Ladysmith after they were in Extension?
LB: There never were mines in Ladysmith.
VR: There weren't.

LB: The mines in Extension were about 1897/98 and then about 1901 the town, the people were told to move to Ladysmith, miners, but not everybody went.
VR: That was it. Well my mother, under doctor's orders, could not live in Ladysmith because she had some, I don't know whether it was lung trouble or what, but the doctor had said that she was not to live in Ladysmith.

LB: Isn't that interesting, it sounds like they hatched that one up. Several people who had lived in Wellington had to move their houses and the first mine in Extension was not where the present one is, so they all moved their houses.
VR: You brought that out in your book of course.

LB: Yes. But some people have discovered just by reading the Royal Commissions since then, that some people have moved their house four times.
VR: I know mother didn't go and that was why, but I never remember her having lung trouble.

LB: Well, of course you meet all sorts of ninety year old people now who were always judged frail by their families and were not allowed to do things because they were not long for this world. Now the next picture is of what... a locomotive? It has your father's name on the back.
VR: Yes, he worked on the railway. Very vaguely I remember him talking about working on the trains.

LB: It has Number 14 of the front of the engine..
VR: Would there have been a train between Ladysmith and Extension?
LB: Yes, but it didn't have windows, this looks a little grander, the miners had one to transport them.
VR: Oh just to transport them, but what about the coal?
LB: Yes, there was also that, but this looks like a passenger car here.

VR: Not on a track.
LB: On ties.

VR: From what I remember, my father worked on the train between Extension and Ladysmith.

LB: Well I can certainly find out by the number on the engine. I think this is the treasure, this picture
VR: The Grand Templér's Lodge.
LB: And this is in Wellington?
VR: Yes. That is the only place my mother lived.
LB: What age would you put your mother there?
VR: I would say about sixteen.
LB: Just before she met your father. Everybody looks quite grand here. It is an interesting mixture, there are no really old people, but there are middleaged and quite a few, quite a lot of quite young people. This girl in front looks younger than your mother.
VR: Let me see her closer. She could have been Aunt Martha, the sister who was two years younger than mother. Oh there is Mary- Ellen. I have never looked at this closely before, isn't that dreadful.

LB: So there is maybe at least three members of your mother's family in there.
VR: This is the grandmother of that consul in Vancouver that you are getting...
LB: She married Waddington Hill...
VR: That's right.

LB: Now your mother has a calf length dress on, so she probably is definitely around sixteen, button boots, high boots, and everybody looks like they are in their best clothes, or certainly special clothes. The men all have.. it almost looks like a...
LB: shawl collar in their different shapes. That one is round like a yoke, and that one is more square; maybe...

VR: Maybe denoting different offices perhaps.

LB: Yes. Now the most notable person in this picture is a negro lady who is sitting down in the group in the front. Your mother was very fond of this woman?

VR: Yes, my grandmother befriended them. I can remember my mother talking about them and saying that they were such lovely people and had escaped from slavery. Now whether that was true or not, I don't know.

LB: Well it was that time.

VR: Yes, it could have been. She and her husband had a bicycle for the three girls who were about the same age within about three or four years of each other. They had children very quickly, my mother and her two sisters were not that far apart, so they shared this bicycle. It was quite a thing.

LB: This picture was taken, it looks like along the side of a large building - comparing it to the picture of the Wellington Hotel, the windows are not the same shape - there is a board sidewalk that the people in the back are standing on, and the people on chairs are sitting on dirt, there is no doubt about it. I notice that the youngest girl, who you think may be your Aunt Martha, is wearing more like a tight boot rather than a high button shoe, isn't it?

VR: Is there not buttons on it?

LB: It looks like it goes up really high. I suppose that was the most practical thing to wear when the streets were muddy, and...

VR: I guess so.

LB: That is a marvelous picture.

VR: Let me see this, maybe again. That definitely is Mary-Ellen.

LB: Definitely is?

VR: Yes. This looks like Martha, but that definitely is Mary-Ellen. She would be, I think, eighteen months older than my mother; not two years.

LB: She looks like a young lady there.

VR: She looks older, but she was always older, in her experience and her ways. She was always a lot older.

LB: That really is an outstanding picture. You were saying that you can't remember the Negro couple's name?

VR: I can't. My husband said that he remembers mother talking about them. He is trying to remember their name too. If it comes to us we will let you know. But they had no children.

LB: Now that is a logging picture and I don't want logging pictures.

VR: No.

LB: This gorgeous wedding picture looks like later than my time...

VR: I kept it out because I wanted to show it; do you know Lesa Skipser?

LB: Yes.

VR: Well this is his wife's mother and father. This is their wedding picture. I kept it out when I was going through all these pictures to show because he was a Cornish you see.

LB: Oh was he.

VR: Yes.

LB: How was he related to your father?

VR: My father's brother was his father. I kept it out to show you.

LB: It is beautiful, the dainty shoes, the lovely draped dresses. Was this something you wanted to show me?

VR: This was with these pictures and you can read it.

LB: I have read it, it is written to your father. It is about shares in Universal smokeless heat generators. .../11
LB: Now here is a picture of a couple and a child.
VR: This John Johns, and Emily. Like Rebecca Sharp's sister; she married Johnny Johns.
LB: This is their only child Edwin.
VR: And Johnny Johns was the boss of Number three mine.
LB: He was a boss of some kind. Many years later, he went to Alberta, to a coal mine.
VR: But there are different families.
LB: That aren't related?
VR: Yes, that aren't related.
LB: He is quite young looking but he sure is losing a lot of hair. Marvelous couple, with curls there in the centre.
VR: She was a very fine looking woman.
LB: And a huge handlebar moustache.
VR: She was beautiful, I remember her.
LB: Do you remember him?
VR: Yes. Well he was fat when I remember him.
LB: Now, this looks like a Sunday School picture. It was taken in front of a church.
VR: This is my mother who has written these names on the back. I remember her talking about Effie Harrison as being a friend of hers... Oh! my mother's name is here, so my mother must be here as well. If I could find her, it would give you some idea of the date of it, wouldn't it?
LB: Yes. I am interested also in the building.
VR: It would be at Wellington somewhere.
LB: Yes. The main door has a peaked top and.
VR: It's not the same...
LB: ..the windows on either side match at the peak.
VR: It's not the same building as the Good Templers Lodge pictures?
LB: Well that is just a big bare side, the siding is the same but... there is no way to tell. The windows are not the same shape. I notice that there is almost a stockade, a fence going into it; like you drive cattle down. There is a large range of ages in this group.
VR: Does the name Simon and Liiser mean anything to you?
LB: Oh yes, the store.
VR: You know where it was?
LB: Yes.
VR: Well there were lots of buildings down in that area, so it could have been down there.
LB: Do you have any sense of where the center of Wellington was? What would have been construed as the town center?
VR: If there was such a thing, well Simon and Liiser was the main store and there were lots of buildings in that area.
LB: What about this Wellington Hotel.
VR: I don't know if it was where the Wellington Hotel was or not.
LB: I still haven't got a sense of what Wellington was like, because right now it seems like it is stretched out all along Norwell and Jinglepot Road, it is hard to...
VR: Well, I think it would be where Simon and Liiser store was, and that was on the other side of the tracks. I know there were a lot of buildings around there. I have an aunt in Vancouver who is 95, my mother's sister, who might be in one of these pictures, I should ask her, she would remember.
LB: Yes. Any sort of a feeling of what it was like before, while the mines were still open.
VR: Yes.
LB: What is her name?
VR: Emily.
LB: That's Emily.
VR: Yes.
LB: We get that down here, ... I am gradually getting all your mother's sisters.
VR: She is the only one still living, & Rebecca and John.
LB: Was she one of the younger ones?
VR: No she wasn't, as a matter of fact.
LB: Well, I think we have gone through all the pictures here. I am going to go through all this material that you have given me. I am sure there is going to be a lot of clues. I will try to sort this large family out.
VR: When you get these and look at the dates, it is easier to figure out if you have a pencil and paper.
LB: That's right.
VR: I am sure any information that John Stotsman had would be correct and if it wasn't he would put a question mark after it.
LB: He was very thorough.
VR: Yes. And even, there are a couple of personal letters here, but he mentions a few things so you can take them with you.
LB: Okay, thank you very much.
VR: I will give you one of these folders and you can put them in it.

END OF TAPE