

## **Betty Morley (nee Driver)**

The following is the transcript of a discussion between Betty by Michael Adrian Fitter (Mick) at her house on 9 June 2006. Mick is a near neighbour and is an Oldland Mill restoration team volunteer.

### **Transcript Section 001**

Mick: Hi Betty, thank you for agreeing to talk to me about Oldland Mill. I understand that your Grand Father and possibly your Father were milers at Oldland Mill. As these were the last people to work the mill, I am extremely interested to hear about your memories of this period.

Mick: For the record could you state your full name.

Betty: Yes my name is Betty Morley, that's all.

Mick: And the names of your father?

Betty: My father was Albert William Driver.

Mick: And your mother?

Betty: Was Elsi May Driver

Mick: And your grandfather?

Betty: Was David Dennis Driver.

Mick: And your grandmother?

Betty: Was Hepizabar Driver.

Mick: What was her maiden Name?

Betty: White.

Mick: Now I think that is significant. Now tell me about your grandfather and who he worked for at the mill.

Betty: Yes my grandfather went to work for John White who then rented the mill and subsequently married one of the daughters and they produced one son who was Albert William Driver, and Albert William Driver and Elsie May Driver had me only. So that's the sort of history of the people. I think my father subsequently he was a lot stronger than my Grandfather and I think he did a lot of the hard work at the mill, running up and down the stairs.

Mick: I understand that your grandfather took over the mill when John White, did he die?

Betty: Yes, well, presumably they both died and they went to live at the mill and you know, they ran the mill from there. They had a, I think you can see in the photograph, when the wind didn't blow they had a steam engine.

Mick: I understand that was the case and I maybe we can explore that in a moment.

Betty: Yes.

Mick: Where was John White living when your father was working for him? Was John White at the mill cottage?

Betty: Yes, Yes he was at the mill house.

Mick: Ok so when they died your grandfather moved into the cottage.

Betty: Yes they moved in there.

Mick: I understand and when your father was bourn clearly he would have been living at Mill Cottage?

Betty: Presumably Yes.

Mick: Right and when your grandparents died your mother and father lived in Mill Cottage.

Betty: No. They moved up from the mill cottage to Keymer before the first world war so they were living in Keymer then when my father went into – to join up.

Mick: So what prompted them to move?

Betty: I think everything was coming in by train so they moved into a building in the goods yard at Hassocks.

Mick: Aha I was going to talk to you about that as well.

Betty: And they stopped milling at the mill and everything came in then by railway trucks and of course the building they has was right by the side of the railway line so -

Mick: Ok. Just go back to where your parents move from the mill house up to Keymer.

Betty: Not my parents, my grandparents.

Mick: Your grandparents Oh Ok.

Betty: Yes.

Mick: Would that have been the time when the mill stopped?

Betty: The mill stopped working whenever they moved up to Keymer.

Mick: Right. Have you any idea when that would have been? Can we peg that in time? So that is well before the first world war.

Betty: It was before the first war so I don't know, I really don't know weather how long before it was, really don't know.

Mick: Do you think it was long time before?

Betty: No, well I mean was well after 1900.

Mick: So it was somewhere between 1900 and 1914.

Betty: I would have said 1900 and 1910 something like that perhaps. But I really, you know -

Mick: You are doing well Betty.

Betty: Well it was never talked about so I, you know it, you only have to – I know a few dates and add and take away from there, ha.

Mick: Now you mentioned the goods yard up at Hassocks station. Tell me a bit more about that.

Betty: Well everything came in by rail you know, anything they wanted to buy in cake, basics slag, corn and that sort of thing it was all used, the railways were used a lot in those days.

Mick: When you say slag, as in coal?

Betty: No, basics slag was I think something farmers put on the land.

Mick: Ok agricultural and grain.

Betty: Yes, grain that sort of thing

Mick: Right. Where was this building up at -

Betty: It was as you go under the railway arch there is a long building right at the top of the bank on the left and it's got those sort of classical half D shaped windows in it.

Mick: I know the building you mean.

Betty: You know the one I mean. I think it became a wine store, then a gym or something.

Mick: But it was owned by Bodel Bros

Betty: Bodel

Mick: Is that how you pronounce it.

Betty: Well Bodel bought the business when my father died and then the railway people decided they wanted to put the rent up sort of more than double and Bodel said what "you know can do with that" and they have moved up to on the road to Cuckfield, they're huge now, doubled or rebelled in size they have got hay and straw and it's all under one spot because my grandparents my grand father rented the roof over the garage at Keymer and it was an enormous great loft and that was where the hay and straw was kept.

Mick: Interesting. Is that where Caffyn's garage used to be?

Betty: On the corner at Keymer, way back in there, there were buildings and this great roof was sort of over top of them and it was all boarded with plywood you know, separately so you could slide bales of straw about in it, one thing or another.

Mick: Fascinating

Betty: And there used to be a black smith there in the garage yard, and when I was a child I used to love going and watching the horses being shod and I loved the "sniff, sniff" smell of the

horses being shod, you know when they put the hot iron on the hoof. And I used to be late home from school and my mother used to grumble at me and say “you been in that blacksmiths again” ha, ha, ha.

Mick: Wonderful. The business up at the station goods yard, was that to your knowledge operational before the mill stopped milling or was that as a result of the mill stopping?

Betty: No, I think they must have taken it over when they stopped, probably got it organised so when the mill stopped, and they went up there subsequently, but I have nothing in the way of papers or anything that would say when it was.

## Transcript Section 002

Mick: Hi Betty I see you have a lovely black and white photograph of the mill tell me more about it.

Betty: Well the mill has got flags all round the sweeps and we think it's the must have been Victoria's golden jubilee and there's my great grandfather John White and his wife and three daughters in a pony and trap. I think my grandfather is standing with his hands in his pockets by the round house and there's horses and carts that they used to deliver stuff and that sort of thing and to collect stuff I suppose from farms.

Mick: Now tell me about the building that is to the right hand side with what looks like a chimney coming out of the top of it.

Betty: Oh yes that's the steam engine that they used when there was no wind blowing and it had a belt drive so they could turn the mill when it was windless.

Mick: Where do you think the photograph is taken from? Can you orientate where we standing, where is the photographer standing, any idea?

Betty: It's very difficult to say isn't it, it's almost looks as though coming up a road to the mill, whereas in fact nowadays you come up past the mill.

Mick: Would we be in the lane that goes down to Ditchling?

Betty: No I don't think so because that goes off to the right, I would think this was the bit that goes to the little paddock that is opposite the mill.

Mick: Ok we will think more about it and see if we find out.

Betty: I really don't know. All I know is that apparently I think my grandfather was glad to get rid of the mill because they used to buy the paint by the ton to keep it painted outside. Ha, ha.

Mick: Would you know how often he had to do that?

Betty: I don't know, probably not that often. Paint was very good stuff in those days wasn't it, probably stayed on a lot longer. Lead paint I expect.

Mick: I think you are right it probably would have been lead paint.

Betty: Stayed on a long time yes, but I don't know, I know my father once said he had to buy the paint by the ton and so I suppose all the men had to get up on ladders to do it. He never said, ha, ha, they never did in those days.

Mick: No. Now let's move on to this photograph of that you have here of Mill House. There a number of people standing in front of the front wall.

Betty: Yes well the old chappie with the beard is John White, and sitting is his wife, and these are two of his daughters. I really don't know which two, and that's the son and he was killed in the first war.

Mick: And the other two gentlemen on the extreme left and right?

Betty: I've no idea. No I have no idea who they are. These I think along here are the stables and I think I know they had a cow or weather they had more than one I don't know but a house

cow, so I suppose they made their own butter and things like that, and the monkey lived in there.

Mick: Ah

Betty: Lived in the winter in the cow's stall.

Mick: I understand that you have a photograph of the monkey maybe we could look at that a bit later on when you are ready to talk about that.

Betty: Yes when you are ready.

Mick: You have a picture of a gentleman on a horse.

Betty: Yes that's was the son that was killed in the first war.

Mick: How old do you think he is in this photo?

Betty: What would he be? About 14, 15, something like that I should think.

Mick: Right, and do you think this is taken at Mill House?

Betty: Yes, this is the stable block at Mill House, or part of it

Mick: So they not only had cart horses they had riding horses.

Betty: Well he had a horse, I expect that pulled the trap as well, probably one that you could ride but that's not the one that is in the trap in the other photographs.

Mick: Can you remember the name of this gentlemen that died in the war?

Betty: I can't remember.

Mick: Not to worry.

Betty: No I am not sure. David Gray might know that.

Mick: And you have a photograph here of a -

Betty: This is another one of John White and his wife in the trap and the son looking on, that the horse, yes that's the horse that he was riding isn't it, yup.

Mick: We are now looking at two photographs comparing two pictures of -

Betty: Yes it looks like it's possible that one has still got his winter coat and that one where he is, you know lost it.

Mick: To me they look subtly different.

Betty: Well horses look quite different if they live out, they have a good thick coat in the winter and then in the spring it moults and then you brush it out and they look all sleek and you know, ha, ha, a little bit better than they do in the winter, which I should imagine what that is.

Mick: So looking at the photograph and the foliage on the bushes.

Betty: Yes

Mick: Do we think there are leaves on the trees?

Betty: I would think so.

Mick: They are not all evergreen are they so it could well be in the summer they are well dressed up aren't they.

Betty: Oh yes, yes. Is this where we ought to tell and say he used to go to market every week and drink like a fish and the pony used to bring him home, ha, ha, ha.

Mick: That sounds like a wonderful story, ha, ha.

Betty: Well they he used to go to Tuesday market to Haywards Heath you know, when they had a market up there and then drink himself silly and the horse bought him home, ha, ha, ha..

Mick: Who needs a taxi?

Betty: Much more fun with a horse though than a taxi isn't, ha, ha, ha.

Mick: And this last photograph.

Betty: Yes that's my father when he was in his first world war uniform must have been very early on because he did end up I think a corporal, ha, ha, ha..

Mick: There are no stripes are there.

Betty: No stripes there now that was probably taken when he first joined up.

Mick: And what regiment did he join into to?

Betty: The Royal Sussex.

Mick: And do you know where he served in the war?

Betty: Well he was in France, I don't know where.

Mick: Must have been very traumatic for him.

Betty: Well I think it was and when he was injured, he wasn't shot, it was a bunker fell in on him, they were being shelled this thing came in on him and he had an impacted hip. I had better explain that the wind blowing leaves on my roof if the noise comes up on there, ha, ha, ha. Yes he was in hospital in Brighton or Hove somewhere for 18 months and he said the nurses were absolutely wonderful, as they had to take turns in moving his leg and keeping this leg going so that the hip joint didn't fuse and strangely he never had any trouble with that leg afterwards apart from getting into bed on a cold sheet in the winter. It would go numb so they had flannelette sheets in the winter but that was the only problem he had with it. You know they were wonderful the medical people.

Mick: And what you said earlier it was your father that had done these two magnificent embroidery pictures.

Betty: Yes while he was in hospital I suppose it was a sort of occupational therapy really in those days and he did his regimental badge, the Royal Sussex badge and the one with the butterflies and blossom or some sort, he was very good with his hands.

Mick: Clearly because I have seen the embroidery, very high class work.

Betty: Yes. I think he used to dress his, their own mill stones because there were people that went around that would dress mill stones but some of the millers would do their own and he did his own stones.

Mick: Now you have mentioned that you thought your father actually worked the mill.

Betty: He did a lot of the work in the mill yes. Well I think he was young and agile and grandfather was not. I think he was the better business man of the two. I think they worked him quite hard. Very strict with him they were very, very strict.

Mick: And do you think it was just your grandfather and your father that worked the mill or weather other people that helped?

Betty: Well I don't know. I presume judging by the photograph if they had got men working for them with two horses and carts if they had a spare minute they would perhaps come in to help one would be up the top loading hoppers and one would be down below taking off the sacks of flower.

### **Transcript Section 003**

Mick: So Betty have you any personal memories of your father working the mill?

Betty: Not actually working the mill. He did take me up to the mill we went for a walk one afternoon one Sunday I suppose. He showed me around, showed me where the flower came down and where you hung the sack and then took me up to the top of the mill and showed me the hoppers and the stones where they used to tip the bag of corn in and then he would have to run down stairs and take the sack off, a lot of up and down stairs in the work. I mean if there were two of course you it wouldn't been so bad. He also said that it was beautifully balanced that you could lift the mill with one finger to turn it because it was so perfectly balanced It runs on one big post doesn't it, post mill right up through the middle, yes. But I mean as a child, you know what children are, I don't know if I was terribly interested when he took me round, ha, ha, ha

Mick: So how old were you do you think?

Betty: I expect I was about 10, something like that. Fairly young I think, yes.

Mick: Can you remember what was inside the mill, can you describe any of the - ?

Betty: A lot of wood, not really I can remember going up the stairs up into the top and there were sort of beams and things all over the place and this big hopper and the mill stone is all I really remember about it. I subsequently played up there once as a kid when it was all falling down you know, it was all gone into disrepair because nobody used it after the Drivers left.

Mick: What do you think happened to the mill when you father and grandfather stopped milling and moved up to -

Betty: Hassocks.

Mick: Hassocks. What happened to the mill then?

Betty: Well nobody used it again.

Mick: Because it was owned by the Turner family, they owned the estate.

Betty: So nobody rented it after that, because they ceased to use mills for grinding because it was all done you know -

Mick: So this time when you went up with your father when you say you were the age of ten, what was the state of the mill, was it becoming derelict then?

Betty: Yes I think the round house was getting pretty tatty but the mill it's self was as far as I was concerned seemed alright. I mean the stairs and steps and everything were all right at the time but nothing happened to it for years after that until, until the, you know the mill people started to get it back into working order again.

#### **Transcript Section 004**

Mick: Now Betty tell me about this big photo in a frame with a chimp, is it a chimp, a monkey?

Betty: No I don't think it is a chimp, I don't know, although it can't be that big because that's a kitten so I don't know how big a kitten though, it is very difficult to tell I suppose it was sizable and I think it although they called it Jacko it was female.

Mick: There must be a story there.

Betty: Yes, I think my grandfather came home with it. He had been, I don't know where he had been but they said it was went to one of the big houses and the butler came out and said would he like a monkey because it had got loose the night before and got into the dining room and the dining room was laid up for a big dinner and sat on the floor at the end of the table and just pulled the cloth off the table with all the glass and china and everything and everything was smashed and the butler I think he wanted it any more, so typical of my grandfather, bought it home and they had it at the mill and I think it lived in with the cows. I don't think weather they had one or several cows or weather they had just one, but it lived in the cow stall in the winter and in the summer what did they chain it into a tree I don't know if it was a quince tree or a pear tree or what it was. My father used to say he could sort of go up into the tree you know and unwind himself and came down just as quickly and they he had a tin mug apparently in the cow stall and when they were milking he would come down onto the cow's back and he would hold his mug or her mug down underneath and they would fill it with warm milk and it would sit up there and drink it's milk straight from the cow.

Mick: Wonderful.

Betty: Yes and then my grandfather said one day, they got kittens I suppose, he said I wonder what she would do with one of these and they gave it this kitten and she wouldn't let go and they sort of lived together up there. This is the story I used to like hearing when I was a child. I was much more interested in the monkey than the corn grinding, ha, ha.

Mick: What became of the monkey do you know?

Betty: Yes, not a very sad end because it got loose again one day and my grandfather was growing melons, he had got some cold frames up there and he was growing melons and

she found a stick and she went bong, bong, bong through all the panes of glass in the cold frame and grandfather wapped her and I don't know how it hard he wapped her and they found her dead, hanging off her chain the next day.

Mick: A rather sad ending.

Betty: Not a very nice ending no. But she was a bit of a monkey, she was a bit of a devil. They had a range in the house apparently, an old fashioned one with a big tank on the side with a tap, so you had to fill it manually but the fire kept the water hot and they had one of these fenders with a leather seat each end, you know and it liked sitting by there and when nobody was looking it would turn the tap on and let the hot water out ha, ha, ha.

Mick: So he had quite a devilish character.

Betty: Oh very, yes, well I think they have haven't they.

Mick: Do you know who took this photograph?

Betty: No, no idea.

Mick: And you mentioned the monkey came from one of the big houses, do we know - ?

Betty: I have no idea where it was.

Mick: Did it come from the Turner family?

Betty: No, I wouldn't have thought so, no. I don't know how far a field they used to go. I mean my father, when he had a van used to go for orders all round Chailey and Hurstpierpoint you know, so it could have been anywhere, but I have no idea where it was but I think that was quite a moneyed house I think.

Mick: So how old do you think your father was at when the monkey came onto the scene?

Betty: I suppose about 15, 14, 15 I should think.

Mick: When he was a young lad.

Betty: Yes.

Mick: And how long do you think the monkey survived, was it just a few months or years?

Betty: I haven't any idea. I know it got loose. Didn't like women. My father used to say if you showed it a broom it would cry like a baby and it got loose once in my grandmothers bedroom while she was still in bed, ha, ha. She wasn't very happy ha, ha, ha. I know when I was a kid I used to say "tell me another storey about the monkey dad". "oh I can't think of anything else to say" he'd say. Because I always wanted a monkey you know, my mother used to say to me "you bring in a monkey in here and I go out, I not stopping here if there's a monkey here", ha, ha, ha.

Mick: Thank you for sharing those memories with us.

## **Transcript Section 005**

Mick: Tell me about the mounting of this photograph, as it was Betty.

Betty: As I remember it it was in my grandmother's house. I think it was up in the attic and it had a beautiful Georgian frame round it which was very, very wide and it was scalloped so there was big sort of scallop on each corner another scallop you know, in the middle and we decided when we moved here that this was not quite the sort of house for a frame that size and so we took it off and we sent it to a sale and it fetched quite a lot of money, ha, ha.

Mick: Why do you think a picture of a monkey and a kitten it's a big picture it's quite a sizable -

Betty: Yes it is.

Mick: - Why was it put in such a grand frame and given so much sort of -

Betty: Well I don't know. I should imagine my Grandfather did it because my grandmother was a cripple, she couldn't go anywhere unless she was taken and I would imagine that the old man was very fond of it you know. That's the only thing I can say. He thought while they had got it lets get a photograph of her with the monkey but why it was such a big one I really don't know.

Mick: Must have been held in very high regard.

Betty: I think he probably was very fond of it.

Mick: It was a very expensive photograph and frame.

Betty: Certainly was. But he was quite prone to going to auction sales the old man so I think possibly you know that's where he found the frame and thought ah that might do. I don't know. My memory is that it was always in that frame.

Mick: Now changing the subject still to you father and grandfather. Did they tell you about any stories about the mill, where there any disasters or incidents you heard of?

Betty: My father used to say Worthing had a chain pier. I think and they had a spell of very quiet weather and there hadn't been a any wind and well they said they hadn't been able to grind any corn so perhaps that was before they got the engine I don't know and then apparently there was a most enormous storm that blew up and it was the same night that the Worthing pier blew down. My father was up all night and the mill. He got all the shutters of the mill wide open and everything that he could and he was grinding corn all night and he said the flower was coming down nearly too hot to handle you know, because it was going so fast but I really don't have any other memories .

Mick: So just to confirm, clarification you talk about the Worthing chain pier because Brighton had a chain pier?

Betty: Yes. But Worthing had a pier that blew down in this particular gale but again I don't know when that was.

Mick: Oh well that is something we can do some research on.

Betty: You will probably it out. You probably find it won't tie in with anything I've said, ha, ha, ha. So better forget that if not.

Mick: Were there any other reminiscences that you father or grandfather you remember as a child?

Betty: I can't think of anything really, no. They were great bowlers. Well my father was a cricketer, yes my father was always knocking bits off his fingers and I think once he poisoned his, I don't know which one it would have been, his middle finger or something and it went septic and our dear old Dr Egger came to dress it and sent the nurse along to come along to look at it and said "you can't loose this Bert it's your bowing finger". He was quite a good bowler I think. He nearly killed my mother once playing cricket. He hit a six and she was in a deck chair watching and she bent down to pick her hand bag up and the ball hit the deckchair right where her head had been, ha, ha, ha. That would have been the finish, I wouldn't have been here now. Anyway you may want to cut that out.

Mick: Now we mentioned earlier that the mill was owned by the Turner family that lived in the manor house down Mill Lane.

Betty: Yes.

Mick: Do you have any knowledge or memories of the Turner family?

Betty: Only, now whether that would have been a son or what but there was a very tall thin Mr Turner who used to come in every Saturday morning and pay his bills and I have no idea whether he had a farm or what he had but he always called my father Bert which I thought was really rather funny when I was a child. He wore a cap, a tweed cap and plus fours and these great long legs.

Mick: What bills do you think he was paying?

Betty: Well they had a farm didn't they, the Turners, I think, so whether he bought stuff for his chicken or I don't really know, I never asked, they probably wouldn't have told me, they would probably tell me to mind your own business if I had, ha, ha, ha, oh dear.

Mick: It seems intriguing that the owner of the mill would be paying a bill to your father.

Betty: Yes. I thought he was quite old, I mean, he may not have been but whether they weren't farming or whether he kept a few chickens at home, he might have done and bought, you know, the corn and the meal for his chickens from us, I really don't know.

Mick: So where do you think your grand father and father got the corn from to grind? Was it from the Turner estate only or was it from all the farms in the locality?

Betty: I would think any farms around that had corn to sell. I mean, it would just depend if they had a good year for the corn they might well have wanted to sell plenty, on the other hand if it hadn't been a very good year they would keep it for their own use.

Mick: So is that how it worked do you think your grandparents bought the grain, milled it and then sold it on as flour?

Betty: Oh yes, that how it would have worked.

Mick: They wouldn't just do a service of just grinding corn for a farmer, a farmer coming up with a sack and saying can you convert this into flour.

Betty: I imagine that they would do that. Yes I would imagine so.

Mick: Do you know which was the biggest part of the business?

Betty: Not really. No. I mean my father would buy hay and straw from local farmers. I can only really say what I knew he did, when he went round the different farmers, you know, they might say to him "do you want any hay, I have got some spare hay or nice hay or something" and of course the fertilizers and basic slag they used to sell that sort of thing to farmers. Because in those days the farmers didn't have the vehicles to hump their stuff about you see, whereas we had, you know, two or three lorries. When I was a child there was one horse left, a horse and cart. I can remember walking around it's legs and being sat on it's back and my legs were out like that because she was so wide, so I would have been only about three or four then I expect but I can remember it and then I think subsequently we had the lorries up there in Keymer, that's where we kept them.

Mick: The lorries were kept in Keymer, not up at station goods yard?

Betty: No, the lorries were kept up in Keymer. We had a big garage up there which my grandfather had a big boiler at one end which went right through the garage and in the winter the lorries did not freeze up or anything and the pipes ended up in his green house on the end.

Mick: Can you position where this in Keymer today?

Betty: Yes if you go up the back road to the church, between the garage and the new shops.

Mick: Behind the church?

Betty: Yes, there's a road that goes up.

Mick: With bungalows in it?

Betty: The bungalow at the top, well the bungalow at the top was the garages.

Mick: Is this the lane that goes up from the Ditchling road?

Betty: No, right in Keymer, you know where the new shops are.

Mick: Yes.

Betty: A row of new shops. Well there's a there's a road between the new shops and what was Collins electrical shop.

Mick: Oh up there, yes.

Betty: Yes, you go up there and that's where the hay loft was and what is now a bungalow at the top there that was the old garages where they kept the lorries and we had a van as well and a little garage, a little asbestos garage where the van was kept.

Mick: So is that where you were living in Keymer or were you living somewhere else in Keymer?

Betty: Well my grandparents lived in Keymer when they moved up from the mill in, the manor house, the old house opposite the garage with the Horsham stone roof.

Mick: Yes.

Betty: And then when my grandparents died my grand mother finally died when Jack and I got married dad let us have that and we moved in there so –

Mick: Fascinating.

Betty: Yes, and the garden that ran - well my mother sold the land, part of the land where the road is because my grandfather had that as a vegetable garden from the road right the way up to where the bungalow is and he had a fantastic garden. His brother was a fantastic gardener. I think he had been a gardener in a big house, you know, where there was an estate and my father also was a fantastic gardener. He wouldn't have approved of my gardening ha, ha, ha.

Mick: One thought occurs to me, when your father first went to work with John White

Betty: My grandfather.

Mick: No – Yes, your grandfather, do you know what would have prompted him to gone to work to become a miller?

Betty: No I don't know. I mean, they lived in Ditchling. My grandfather had a sort of – the Drivers had a strange sort of history in that many families in those days, a wife would die and they marry again and there were two families and the Drivers, which one was it, would have been the mother, my grandfather's mother, yes. There was a family about four, four or five of them, grandpa Uncle Jake, Auntie Lucy, and Aunt Emma. Aunt Emma died with tuberculosis so there were four in my grand father's childhood and then the mother died and old man Driver married again and then there was another family. So it was very interesting because he had a cousin who lived in - This is a bit off the mill do you want to switch off –

## **Transcript Section 006**

Mick: You mentioned you got the business up at station goods yard and you mentioned you got lorries in Keymer

Betty: Keymer, yes.

Mick: So it sound like the family, your grandfather was quite a well to do person. How do you think he was in the scheme of things?

Betty: I don't think well to do because it was keeping two families. There was keeping my parents as well as him and I don't think, everything was sort of in the business because the capital was needed to keep everything turning. So I don't think we were wealthy but we compared with many, we were comfortable. If that makes sense. I think, because when we moved in to Manor House my father said to me "Well I got to use your house for a loan at the bank" because, you know, - that went against the grain to start with but then everything started going up in price and the cost of buying in was a lot more and so we weren't wealthy but were probably quite comfortable. I mean they were, my grandmother held the purse strings and she was a very shroud lady and a very good cook although her hands were all crippled and one thing or another. Se was a fantastic cook and she did the books and she watched all the pennies like a hawk, ha, ha, ha.

Mick: I understand from reading other accounts of millers, in the past, they were very shroud business men.

Betty: Oh were they, oh.

Mick: Do you liken your grandfather or your father to that?

Betty: My grandfather was but my father was more the sales man He was in a way quite a showman he always wore britches and a sort of hacking jacket and leather gaiters and boots which he used to shine every morning before he went to work, you know, He was always he was a great singer he had a beautiful base voice and he used to sing in the village hall you know, concerts and when I was quite small when he was in the army in the

war he used to sing in troop concerts and that sort of thing he liked singing old country songs and he was very prone to borrowing a smock and a beard and dressing up and you know, singing all dressed up and he was quite um, he had a lot of presence if you know what I mean you know if he arrived on the scene you know he'd come even if he didn't say anything, ha, ha, ha, David Grey funnily enough, over at Plumpton, is rather the same and I gather that my grandmother always said she had a sister who went to Australia and she had a very good singing voice and, you know, I suppose made a living with it somewhere in Australia but I think my father could have made, if he'd been around today, he could have made a living with his voice, a lovely base voice, so he used to be in the church quire because we had a fantastic parson and his wife. The wife was very musical, very gifted amateur and she used to have the church quire and they used to go to Lewes festival and she always you know, had him for his base voice and he could get up on the stage and fool about when he was singing and that sort of thing, much to the embarrassment of my mother ha, ha, ha.

Mick: Wonderful, than you Betty.

### **Transcript Section 007**

Mick: Betty what would you like us to do with these photographs that you have passed over to me?

Betty: Well you are very welcome. If they are any interest to the mill you are very welcome to have them because I haven't anyone to leave them to. If they would like the embroideries which you can have when I snuff it if they want them. I will tell the solicitor I will hang on to them all the time I am still around.

Mick Ok, so we can perhaps copy these, archive them, use them in presentations

Betty: Yes, yes.

Mick: Lovely.

Betty: If you are going to copy them then that's fine I thought possibly David Grey might like the ones with his grandfather, although he says he is not his grand father but it is, he might like those but otherwise -

Mick: Ok. I think quite a lot of people will be quite interested, or very interested in the photographs.

Betty: Yes, especially of the house as it was because you know, in my view it has been spoilt ha, ha, ha.

Mick: We will certainly take some copies of them so we have more than one and they will be - I think we will put them on our web site. Do you know about web sites?

Betty: Well, I know what they are.

Mick: Right, we have a growing library of photographs.

Betty: Oh yes, yes.

Mick: Some of them are very modern, like taken last week and some of them go right back to, like the one with the mill with all the bunting round it.

Betty: Oh yes.

Mick: So there is a lot of, hundred years worth of photographs there.

Betty: Yes.

Mick: And these will be very nice to add to that.

Betty: Do they know who had the mill before the Whites?

Mick: Personally I don't know but no doubt we can find out.

Betty: Obviously, I mean, there must have been a miller there before the Whites had it, so I never ever heard anyone mention anybody having been there before so, presumably there was -

Mick: I am sure there was and the person that's doing most of our investigation is Philip Hicks and I will pass all this information onto him and this will help his investigations.

Betty: Right.

Mick: So on behalf of Oldland Mill Trust as it is called.

Betty: Ha, ha, ha.

Mick: Thank you very much Betty for opening up.

Betty: Your very welcome.

Mick: And letting us have an insight to your very interesting memories. So thank you.

Betty: Thank you very much.

**End of transcript.**

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