

SERVANT GIRL

COLLECTOR: Ann O'Brien

CONTRIBUTOR: Margaret Goudie

Ann O'Brien:

This is Wednesday, November 20th, I'm out to ah... I came out to see Mrs. Margaret Beals – Goudie and she's going to tell me a story about when she was a young girl and walked to Blanc Sablon to... she was going as a Serving Girl. Alright Mag....

Margaret Goudie:

Yes, ah.... I was only about fourteen years old, that was 1946, my dad use to go to Blanc Sablon ah... in the ... bringing up furs to the Hudson Bay Company and he got to be good friends with Joey Lavallee. He was married to my first cousin, Mag. And ah.... so she was going to have a baby at the time, so dad ah... he was looking for a serving girl, so dad asked him would I be alright. And they said yes.

So I remember, I got ready and I had an Uncle, Uncle Mike Glynn but we use to call him Uncle Mickel or Uncle Mike and I walked with him. Dad left me... left him in charge of me and we walked to Blanc Sablon. I remember the first night, we walked to Forteau and we stayed to Mr. Johnny Buckle's, that's where we stayed at and the next day, we got up and we went on to L'Anse au Clair and we stayed there for another night. But I think we stayed there for two nights because I had.... I got sick or something with a pain in the stomach. But maybe to look back, I was home sick. Anyway, the next evening about three o'clock we got to Blanc Sablon we walked to Blanc Sablon.

I think we were four days walking and ah... we got to Blanc Sablon and ah... that's where I met my first as a serving girl and here was three little kids and that same evening I remember scrubbing, they had a porch, I scrubbed the porch. Anyway, everything turned out I was okay for a little while, 'cause my Aunt Cari use to live up there, mom's sister so I use to go to visit her and she use to take care of me a lot. I remember the first bit of money I had, I think it was six dollars. And Joey Lavallee and his wife took me on the.... it was The Hudson Bay Company then and bought me flannette and things like that and those wister stockings and I thought I was rich and a bandanna. I'll always remember the bandanna I use to wear it tied down around my head.

So anyway, as the winter grew on everything there was no way to get in touch, 'twas no phones or anything only a telegraph office, we knew nothing about that or I didn't. And

ah I started to get lonesome and I didn't have any way to let dad know. But all I do know is that he found out that I was lonesome and he came up after me by dog team in the month of March and my dear God wasn't I glad to see him.

Anyway, how I was paid then was like potatoes. I remember dad having sacks of potatoes to bring home and flour.

Ann O'Brien:

Oh... no, there was no such a thing as money then.

Margaret Goudie:

No..no..no. Nope I never got money, it was just....

Ann O'Brien:

So Joey Lavallee gave you.....

Margaret Goudie:

Yeah, he took me over to The Hudson Bay Company...

Ann O'Brien:

...flour and potatoes.

Margaret Goudie:

Yeah, and when dad came and picked me up that's what he gave him in payment was flannette that we had left over and ah.... potatoes and flour. We hauled it home by dog team.

Ann O'Brien:

So you couldn't get those things in L'Anse au Loup at the time?

Margaret Goudie:

No. No. Everyone had to go to The Hudson Bay Company, they use to go up in the Fall of the year by boat or something like that but I didn't , I didn't see anyone see because I was just a girl and I didn't get anywhere so I got lonesome.

Ann O'Brien:

Was it Customs then ah.... 1946?

Margaret Goudie:

Yes, it was, yeah.

Ann O'Brien:

Yes.

Margaret Goudie:

It was yeah.

Yeah. So ah... that's how we got paid see. And maybe other things too ah... you knows that. Perhaps it was milk or something like that but that's how I worked to help dad out, that was the only way. And I remember dad cuttin' the potatoes and keeping them for seed potatoes see. So that's how it worked out.

Ann O'Brien:

Yeah thank...

Margaret Goudie:

And I wasn't very old

Ann O'Brien:

Thank you very much for sharing that, and I hope you have a good day.

Margaret Goudie:

Thank you.