

Adventures of a Servant Girl

Collector: Marie Marshall

Contributor: Nellie Yetman

Marie Marshall:

Okay Aunt Nell is gonna tell me the time she was a serving girl with Aunt Martha MacDonald.

Nellie Yetman:

Yeah. I stayed there with Aunt Martha, as a serving girl, ‘cause I had to leave home see maid, ‘cause I never had nothing to eat....

Marie Marshall:

No

Nellie Yetman:

..... and I never had nothing to wear or nothing. Never had no clothes, I never had a coat to wear, ‘til I come to Red Bay. When I come to Red Bay we worked with Cecil Pike, he was the one the woman who was there, the lady Old Mrs... I forgets her name, my dear, now.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

‘Cause she gave me a ... wanted me to get a coat and that was first when I arrived. Yeah. And I tell ya now, I wore it... I went down to ... I went and left one time, I was up to L’Anse Diable and Bill Pike came up and picked me up. His mother wanted me, Aunt Mag, wasn’t it? Uncle Jim Gus see was me Uncle, because he was me mothers brother.

Marie Marshall:

Oh. Okay.

Nellie Yetman:

So I had to go in the river... up in the river cause they lived up in the river then, see, them times.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

And, so he come.... come there about eleven o'clock in the day. It wasn't a very nice day, 'twas snowing a bit and thick, you know.

Marie Marshall:

Hmm..

Nellie Yetman:

So we come down to West St. Modeste and we went in to Uncle Mick MacDonald, that was Aunt Nellie MacDonald, that was ah..... John's aunt, I believe.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

Aunt Martha's Aunt.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

And we went in there, they had a flu there, a cold. So Bill said to me, he said, "maid" he said, "it's gettin' dirty, we'll go on". I said "Yes bye, we'll go on" I said. And went down the Pinware and when we got in Pinware now, the people is all shift up in the River. So when Bill got alongside of he's door in Pinware, he's dogs lied down and I was dressed up my dear, with a khaki skirt on....

Marie Marshall:

Oh, my.

Nellie Yetman:

.... and khaki Cossack, and a big pair of mitts, and all thatand skin boots and I was ... had all that on me and I said got on the komatik box behind Bill and we got to Pinware the dogs lied down alongside the door.

So Bill opened the door, but we had to crawl in on our hands and knees 'fer to get in the kitchen, 'ner stove there, so we got in me and Bill and we walked around that was about two o'clock in the marning, we was there. So one of the houses over there, over around ah..... I forgets where some of some of Arthur Hutchings people.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Nellie Yetman:

See. He said "we'll go over," he said "and if it gets any worst, we'll make in a fire". Looked up through the stove pipe hole and we could see the sky, like the sky was

clearing away a bit. So I said to Bill.... Bill said to me, he said “Maid” he said, he said “we’ll have to try it, go on”.

Marie Marshall:

Hmm.

Nellie Yetman:

....up to... thinking we’d get up to the River. I said “it’s all right, Bill”. He said “yes”. So I got on the komatik box alongside of Bill and ah.... and we had a one of them sheep skins on the komatik box ‘fer to sit on and we left, and he use to have to get down on his hands and knees to catch hold of the pedal where she wouldn’t blow out in the River. And we went on up the River and I when I got there, I was just like a snowman, all iced up and everything, I was some bad. I was sick after that.

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Nellie Yetman:

When the time of the month come around.

Marie Marshall:

’fer sure.

Nellie Yetman:

I wasn’t very good after that.

Marie Marshall:

Nope.

Nellie Yetman:

I wasn’t well. And ah.....I tell ya we had (laughs) we had a hard night.

Marie Marshall:

So did you get there?

Nellie Yetman:

Ya?

Marie Marshall:

Did you get where you were goin’?

Nellie Yetman:

In the River, up to

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

Up to Uncle Jim Gus'

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

That was his father see?

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Nellie Yetman:

'cause they was all shift up there then.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

I went up to work with Aunt Mag see cause Lucy... you knows Lucy I 'spose? Ah... ah... she was married to Vince Cabot...

Marie Marshall:

Oh yes...yes.

Nellie Yetman:

Lucy?

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

She had eczema in her hands and she couldn't do nothing.

Marie Marshall:

No

Nellie Yetman:

So I went to work with Aunt Mag and Uncle Jim Gus.

Marie Marshall:

Doreen..... (laughs)

Nellie Yetman:

And ah....so my dear

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

Thank God I'm....

Marie Marshall:

Well you lived through it all.

Nellie Yetman:

I lived through it all.

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Nellie Yetman:

Yes my dear and didn't bother me one bit.

Marie Marshall:

Nope

Nellie Yetman:

Nope.

Marie Marshall:

(laughs)

Nellie Yetman:

Some things now did.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Nellie Yetman:

God fits the back for the burden.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Well that's another good story Aunt Nell, thank you very much.