

Normore Family of L'Anse au Loup

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Marie Marshall:

Sylvia is going to tell me a story now about growing up in L'Anse au Loup and her mother had twelve children.

Sylvia Buckle:

Hmm...hmmm.

Marie Marshall:

So she's going to tell me a story about all of that.

Sylvia Buckle:

Now what I remember about growing up in L'Anse au Loup. I we lived ah... what they called down across the brook. It was three families. There was three families of us there and it was three brothers and ah.. each family had a big family. There was twelve of us in our family and seven boys, five girls.

It had to be hard, I think about it lots of times now, mom and dad must have had it really hard trying to find enough for us all, but I can't remember ever being....

Marie Marshall:

Hungry?

Sylvia Buckle:

You know being hungry or without clothes or anything, but I can remember we always had enough.

Marie Marshall:

But you had lots of vegetables too then and wild food, hey?

Sylvia Buckle:

We had lots of fresh vegetables, yeah. They use to live off the land and off of the water. We had lots of birds, partridges, caribou and ah... we use to go up on the battery in back of our house, we use to go up on the battery picking partridge berries, blueberries and blackberries and all that and bake apples and all that stored in the cellar.

I remember they use to, in the fall of the year, they use to buy ah... when the boat come in they always use to ...daddy always use to buy a barrel of apples, some people use to have a box of apples. We use to always have a barrel, down the cellar. And all our vegetables stored in the cellar.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

But daddy fished all his life and ah.... I never ever worked at the fish, or very scatter time, I went there but not very often. But mom, I can remember mom being there until three or four o'clock in the morning working at the fish.

And ah we use to go to school and we had to walk up the Harbor, what we called up the Harbor. I daresay, for sure it was about a mile from where we lived up to where our school was.

Marie Marshall:

But Sylvia in the Summer time, would you have a bridge across the brook, where you had to go around.

Sylvia Buckle:

No we had no bridge across the brook, no.

Marie Marshall:

No?

Sylvia Buckle:

Nope. We use to use a little boat.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Sylvia Buckle:

Only a little boat there and when we were smaller, we'd always get somebody that would take us across the brook and we'd go on and walk up the harbor and we'd come back then and we might be over on the other side then perhaps for fifteen or twenty minutes we'd have to sing out to somebody. Yell out for someone to come and get us...come and get us... by'n by somebody would come.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

Mom use to make an awful lot of trips across the brook, my dear. An awful lot of trips, as soon as you'd call out she'd be there.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah. And they use to go up the harbor to like to get their... to get their groceries. I mean they use to walk up the harbor and go to the store and pick up what they want and come on back home again. I can remember she use to bring... mom use to bring home an apple. Like in the summer time all our apples be gone what we had in the winter time, and she'd go up to the store and she'd come home and she'd bring home, probably she'd bring home three or four and cut them up in little cubes, make sure we all got a piece each.

And ah... I knows when I was in grade...I left school when I was in grade... I only finished grade 8 when I left school. At that time, we had a big family and mom worked at the fish so she said one of us had to stay home from school and look after the youngsters, so it was between me and Lucy, me sister Lucy. And I... because Lucy already finished her grade 9...

Marie Marshall:

That was a lot then.

Sylvia Buckle:

She figured that was a lot so she couldn't stay home, so I had to stay home. When I finished grade 8 I had to stay home from school and look after the youngsters for her to work at the fish.

Marie Marshall:

So the three families that lived there, that was your fathers brothers?

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah. Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

Three of them?

Sylvia Buckle:

Dad and Uncle Tom and Uncle Stafford.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Sylvia Buckle:

They all had big families. But we use to walk up the harbor going to school, go up together. Go up the morning, and it .. it took us a long while to go to the school....

Marie Marshall:

Yes, for sure.

Sylvia Buckle:

Because it was in the middle of L'Anse au Loup, our school was. We walk up in the morning and we walk back to our dinner and we get our dinner and we walk back up again and we walk back again in the evening.

Marie Marshall:

Did you go to school to Ruby O'Brien?

Sylvia Buckle:

No. Nope. I believe Lucy...Lucy went to school to Ruby O'Brien, one year the last year she went to school or something.

Marie Marshall:

Last year?

Sylvia Buckle:

Last year or something. Yeah. But we didn't, no.

We went to a two room school with Ms. Sophie Ryland. That's where we were at.

Marie Marshall:

Was it?

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah, that was my teacher. That's who taught me.

Marie Marshall:

So what did all your brothers do? They would helped at the wood....cutting wood in the fall of the year and ah....

Sylvia Buckle:

Oh yes, they use to go in the woods in the fall of the year maid and ah... Herb, Daddy and Herb and ah... all the boys until they got big enough.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

Everybody was at the wood, they were at.... they all went fishing and ah...

Marie Marshall:

But ye all came along at a good time cause you weren't hungry.

Sylvia Buckle:

Nope, we weren't hungry my dear, don't know what it is... nope don't know what it is to be hungry.

Marie Marshall:

Nope.

Sylvia Buckle:

Use to have plenty of we had plenty of food for you. All the good food.

Marie Marshall:

Oh, yeah. The rough food, hey?

Sylvia Buckle:

The rough food, yeah.

Marie Marshall:

The rough food is what you call it.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah, it was the good grub. Yeah

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

I can remember mommy and daddy in the winter time would get up in the morning early and go. Be gone, we wouldn't know where he was gone, he'd be gone somewhere hunting and when he come back he'd come back with a caribou. They use to call it deer back then.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

And he would come back perhaps with two or three deer.

Marie Marshall:

He wouldn't get 'nar one now, would you?

Sylvia Buckle:

No.

Marie Marshall:

You wouldn't get either one now, you have to go further then that now.

Sylvia Buckle:

No maid, you wouldn't get nothing up here now, nope

Marie Marshall:

One time they said you could go in to... just in to ...just in there past ah Stag Pond and you'd get your caribou. You won't get none now.

Sylvia Buckle:

Well they usen't go so far as Stag Pond.

Marie Marshall:

No maid.

Sylvia Buckle:

Just go in across the top of the battery, that's where they use to get them. That's where they use to get it at.

Marie Marshall:

Just imagine.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

So how use you clean your deer then, hang it up in the summer time or ... you never had no fridges?

Sylvia Buckle:

No well you wouldn't get them 'til the fall of the year and then in the winter time you use to hang them up in the shed in the winter time and ah...bottle them. Bottle it up. Bottle everything see. Everything was bottled up, we use to have big gallon jars.

Marie Marshall:

Yes maid.

Sylvia Buckle:

With all kinds of stuff.

Marie Marshall:

You'd need gallon jars to hey?

Sylvia Buckle:

We'd need gallon jars for our crowd. (laughs)

Marie Marshall:

That's what I said you'd need gallon jars.

Sylvia Buckle:

Well maid, funny thing how everybody was so happy back then. I mean nobody...

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Sylvia Buckle:

Everybody was happy and everything was fine.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

You'd grow your own vegetable and everybody was involved with... everybody helped out and ah... everybody was just ah...

Marie Marshall:

I use to hear them saying too, what interviews I use to do, I'd done. That when somebody go in the country and get a caribou everybody in the community would have a piece of caribou.

Sylvia Buckle:

Everybody that was there. Everybody was there, my dear, I knows down home.....

Marie Marshall:

Share it all out.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yes, share it all up, cut it up in pieces, everybody had some.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

That was good.

Sylvia Buckle:

In the winter time now see, everyone small going to school we use to have... they use to take turns. Daddy use to... daddy would take week for week. One week daddy would take turns, bring us up on dogs take us up to school and the next week, Uncle Tom would take us and the next week, Uncle Staff would take us.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. That was good you had help like hey?

Sylvia Buckle:

Oh yeah, yeah when we was smaller. Like I said, after we got bigger we use to walk most of the time, unless it was a dirty day or something. If it was a dirty day, we'd stay in school until somebody come and got us.

Marie Marshall:

What about fire in school? Did you have to take your turn at that?

Sylvia Buckle:

Oh, we'd take our turn at that, we'd take firewood to school and light the fire, yeah. We use to have it good in school... we use to have what'd you call it?

Marie Marshall:

Pot bellied stove.

Sylvia Buckle:

A pot bellied stove, but what we use to drink. When we have our lunch, daddy use to bring...what do you call it?

Marie Marshall:

Chocolate malt...

Sylvia Buckle:

Chocolate malt.

Marie Marshall:

...we use to have.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah, chocolate malt we always had that, yeah.

Marie Marshall:

That was good hey.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah that was really good. Yeah. And Christmas time, sure maid...Christmas time we'd always have a Christmas tree in the school, hey with children. Everybody would be terrified with Santa Claus. It's some difference then what they is today. We was all frightened to death...frightened right to death. (laughs)

Marie Marshall:

Have to be more then Santa come now (laughs).

Sylvia Buckle:

I don't know if 'tis anybody. I don't know if there was anybody went up and got their gift by their selves, the parents had to take them in their arms and bring them up and kiss Santa Claus.

Marie Marshall:

Everybody was frightened to death yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah and ah...

Marie Marshall:

So did your mother make a lot of your own clothes?

Sylvia Buckle:

Oh yes, mom made all our clothes.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

When we were small, made everything, it was only in late years that we'd finally get ah...you had a dress but you had a Sunday dress.

Marie Marshall:

Everybody had a Sunday dress, you just wore it on Sunday and that was it.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah, I can remember. I believe I was fourteen years old... thirteen or fourteen years old before I remember I wore a pair of pants. We never use to wear no pants, we all wore dresses, hey.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

But we had stockings.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah. You'd get tights...the last few years you'd get tights, I mean everybody had stockings with a garter on them...

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Sylvia Buckle:

'cause a garter would keep them up.

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

Another fashion they use to have to wearing a pair pants and a skirt out over it.

Sylvia Buckle:

That's what they use to do.

Marie Marshall:

Remember that?

Sylvia Buckle:

That's what they use to do. Put on the skirt and a blouse out over.

Marie Marshall:

Pants inside.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah put the pants inside, yeah that's what we use to do. Oh my dear, we done that lots of times.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah. Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

But now, everything is changed now .

Sylvia Buckle:

Now, they got a piece of clothes everyday the week now.

Marie Marshall:

Won't wear it a second time.

Sylvia Buckle:

Too much now.

Marie Marshall:

Won't wear it a second time.

Sylvia Buckle:

Won't wear it a second time, nope.

It's strange because we were so happy with what we had ah...

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Sylvia Buckle:

So happy with what we had, maid. Things are so different today.

Marie Marshall:

Imagine have twelve children now today.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

Never handle them sure.

Sylvia Buckle:

Hmmm?

Marie Marshall:

Never handle them.

Sylvia Buckle:

No, never handle them now maid.

Marie Marshall:

Nope

Sylvia Buckle:

We had the brook there alongside too see. We use to go trouting down the brook, now

that's something we loved. Something I miss...when we got out of school now, we went down and went troutng. 'Cardin as we got older, we use to look forward to Newfoundlanders use to come over.

Marie Marshall:

(laughs) Now you're going to tell it.

Sylvia Buckle:

Newfoundland young fellows use to come over and they use to be up in Schnoorer Cove, my god, we couldn't wait and I use to pray for a storm because sure shot when you see a good storm of wind, you'd see them all coming down for the brook with their boats in the brook. (laughs)

I can remember that just as well as it was yesterday.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah. And some of them fellows, are still alive in Sandy Cove, When we goes over, we goes to see them all the time.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

About our own age, hey. And they all remembers it so well maid...

Marie Marshall:

Yes, for sure.

Sylvia Buckle:

My God, maid. We use to have some time maid.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

Some fun, what. Yeah. The brook...a lot of people up the Harbor too, use to bring their boats down the brook, 'cause there was a storm coming up, hey...all hands bring them up in the brook and moor them off there. We'd look forward to all that stuff.

Marie Marshall:

(laughs)

Sylvia Buckle:

We never had no ski-doo's back then. We use to do a lot of randying in the winter time.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Steal anybodies komatik?

Sylvia Buckle:

No. Everybody had a komatik. We use to make... daddy use to make a little sleigh for us out of ah...ah... hoops of the barrels.

Marie Marshall:

Punchin' tub they was.

Sylvia Buckle:

They use to take them boards off of a punchin' tub and put them together and make a sleigh for us. I can remember first. But in later years, perhaps you'd be lucky enough to get a komatik or even a sleigh.

I remember... first I can remember when we was small, hey. He use to make the sleighs out of.

Marie Marshall:

Hoops.

Sylvia Buckle:

Yeah. Like a punchin' tub, use to call them a punchin' tub and take the bars of them and fix them....

Marie Marshall:

They were good and slippery too, I say.

Sylvia Buckle:

Oh my dear were they ever greasy.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Sylvia Buckle:

Were they ever good. Yes, you'd get up on the hill and land right down across the brook hey.

Marie Marshall:

(laughs)

Sylvia Buckle:

Hmmm. Up on Brook Hill that's where we always use to go to. Get a big komatik if you

could find one and ... but they wouldn't let us take their komatik, big komatik because we'd get hurt. But sometime we'd take her...

Marie Marshall:

You'd steal her.

Sylvia Buckle:

Sneak off with her.

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Sylvia Buckle:

And when we... ten or twelve of us all in on the komatik right down across the brook and almost up by Uncle Les' there, we use to go maid on the back of brook hill there where Richard Normore is now.

Marie Marshall:

Go right down there.

Sylvia Buckle:

That's where we use to randy at, 'cause there were no houses there then.

Marie Marshall:

No

Sylvia Buckle:

No. There was a great big hill there and it was so smooth for randying. (laughs) We use to have some time down there. Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

That's about what 50 years ago?

Sylvia Buckle:

I'd say... yes. Oh yes, about fifty years ago. Yeah. Oh yes, fifty years ago for sure maid. Yeah. I'm trying to think about stuff. When you gets gone now, I'll think about a lot of things.

Marie Marshall:

I'll have to come back and talk to you again.

Thank you Sylvia, that was good.

