



Dean Heritage Centre  
 Camp Mill, Soudley, GL14 2UB  
 01594 822170  
[www.deanheritagecentre.com](http://www.deanheritagecentre.com)

## Summary of Batch 1 of Oral History Recordings

### Elsie Olivey Collection

This is the earliest batch of interviews – carried out in the 1980s & the interviewees were mostly in their 70s 80s & 90s. Most of the interviewees were born between 1890 & WW1. Their recollections of childhood are therefore turn of the century and the early 1900s.

Reference number	Name	Place	Occupation	Content
1997.36.1	William Bowdler	Soudley	Miner Gloucester Aircraft Company Saw mills	Growing up in Soudley, school, Camp Mill, work, mining, transport
1997.36.2	Alfred Warren	unknown	Miner	Mining, Foxes Bridge colliery, General strike, pit ponies, mining conditions, childhood memories
1997.36.3A	Liz Hiatt	The Pludds	Teacher	Growing up at The Pludds, home life, Slad School, Lydbrook school, teaching, married life
1997.36.3B	Winifred & Archie Freeman	Cinderford	Miner Armed Services	Growing up in Cinderford, Bilson school, work mining, Crump Meadow colliery, WW1, courtship, domestic life
1997.36.4A	Albert Meek	Cinderford	Miner	Growing up in Cinderford, hodding, mining, Crump Meadow colliery, domestic life, school, Cinderford life
1997.36.4B	Frances Webb	Cinderford	Kitchen maid Domestic service	Family, Growing up in Cinderford, School at St. Whites & Double View school, domestic science, work at Whitemead Park, church, Temperance movement
1997.36.5A	Molly Curtis	Cinderford	Domestic service	Childhood, cottage life, domestic service, fathers and brothers as miners, school, growing up in Cinderford, Speech House demonstrations
1997.36.5B	Tom Gibbs	Mitcheldean Ruardean	Teacher	Growing up in Ruardean and Plump Hill, domestic life, school, being a teacher in the Forest, childhood memories, The Slad



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				school, Newham Bottom
1997.36.6	Jesse Hodges	Cinderford	Miner	Detailed descriptions of mining and hodding, Crump Meadow colliery, growing up in Cinderford, father in mining union, General Strike
1997.36.7	John Griffiths	Mitcheldean	Miner Brickworks	Life in the Forest, mining, hodding, Foxes Bridge colliery, miner's disease, Voyce family, nail making, Mitcheldean
1997.36.8A	Mrs Amy Adams	Ruardean Hill Cinderford	Seamstress	Family life, growing up in Ruardean, fathers and brothers mining, school, chapel, shopping in Cinderford, Speech House demonstration, 1930s depression, keeping pigs
1997.36.8B	William Simmonds	Awre Soudley	Farm labourer Haulier Armed Services	Growing up in Awre, living in Soudley, Camp Mill, Great Western railway line, haulage, WW1
1997.36.9	Arthur Holder	Cinderford	Farmer	Farming, various farms, cider making, growing up in the Forest, school,
1997.36.10	May Parry	Cinderford	unknown	Growing up in Cinderford, Ruspidge, shopping, home life, schools, chapel, miners in her family
1997.36.11A	Cyril Trigg	Lydney	Tinplater Railway work	Worked at Lydney tinsplate works, then on railways, descriptions of railway in the Forest, transporting coal
1997.36.11B	Mary Hale	Parkend Ruardean	Farm labourer Shop work, laundry work Forestry	Living in Ruardean in hard times, domestic life, shopping, working on farms
1997.36.12A	Howard Moore	Drybrook	Delivering coal by carts Haulier	Growing up in Drybrook, father as a collier, delivering coal, home life, chapel, Speech House demonstrations
1997.36.12B	Ronald Jones	Newnham Cinderford	Colliery machinery maintenance	Lightmoor colliery, technical descriptions of operating machinery
1997.36.13	Harry Roberts 1	Cinderford	Miner	Detailed descriptions of mining – New Fancy colliery, technical processes, hodding, clothing, food, conditions, horses, strikes
1997.36.14	Harry Roberts 2	Cinderford	Miner	Growing up in Cinderford 1920s, home life, school, Sunday school, games, Speech House demonstrations



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1997.36.15	Harry Toomer	Ruardean	Miner	Mining at Trafalgar + Arthur & Edward colliery, account of 1949 flood at Waterloo, growing up in Ruardean Woodside, school
1997.36.16	Marie Hobbs	Cinderford	Home teacher for blind people	Her work for the blind, herbal remedies, St Anthony's well, witch story, her awards
1997.36.17A	Caroline Nicholls	Soudley Ruspidge	Domestic service	Growing up in Soudley and Ruspidge, Camp Mill, mining, tragic accidents in her family, home life, doctors, Speech House demonstration, war, Dilke hospital
1997.36.17B	Gurnos Roberts	Christchurch	Forestry worker	Work for Forestry Commission, wildlife, gypsies, tourism
1997.36.18	Amy Howells	Ruspidge	Pupil teacher	Mining, domestic life, life in Ruspidge, teaching, Sunday school, herbal remedies, chapel, shops
1997.36.19	Hylton Miles	Bream Lydney	Tin plater	Growing up in Bream, school, father mining, Lydney tinplate works, life in the Forest
1997.36.20	Frederick Baden Watkins	Flaxley Abbey	Watkins Engineering Company & owner of Iron mines in West Dean	Detailed descriptions of iron mining, New Dunn iron mine, Robin Hood iron mine
1997.36.21	Milsom Cooper	Christchurch	Miner	Growing up in Forest, free mining, Cannop colliery, domestic life, various recollections
1997.36.22	Mrs Edith Harvey	Cinderford Coalway Ellwood	Shop work	Childhood memories of Cinderford, moving to Coalway/Ellwood, chapel, school, father's work for Singer sewing machines, clothes
1997.36.23	Harry Roberts 3	Cinderford	Miner	Shops in Cinderford, detailed descriptions of shops
1997.36.24	Harry Barton	Cinderford	Miner Finance Officer of FDMA	Mining, working at Lightmoor, WW1, national strikes, mining union, childhood in Cinderford, Speech House demonstrations
1997.36.25	George Rogers	Broadwell	Miner Under Manager at Eastern United	Good descriptions of life as a miner, hodding, coal seams, Working at Lightmoor and Eastern United, General Strike,
1997.36.26	Doris Harvey	Coleford	Domestic service	Growing up in Coleford, Toll house Poolway Coleford, family, domestic life and hard times, school, going into service, gypsies, Sunday school



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1997.36.27	Copies of earlier recording			
1997.36.28	Elizabeth (Liz) Ibbotson	Soudley	unknown	Not an interview, recording of herself talking. Growing up in Soudley
1997.36.29	Ted Nelmes		Miner	Mining, father's work at New Fancy pit, good descriptions of mining
1997.36.30A	Gilbert Baghurst	Lydney	Miner	Mining at New Fancy & Princess Royal + hodding
1997.36.30B	Percy Basset	Blakeney	Miner & ostler	Hodding, mining, ostling, New Fancy colliery & Princess Royal colliery
1997.36.31A	Harry Byett	Ruspidge Soudley	Miner – Deputy & Union Rep Parish & District councillor	Growing up in Soudley & Ruspidge, Eastern United colliery, hodding, Parish & District councillor
1997.36.31B	Charlie Hazell	Ruspidge	Plumbing, working on Severn bridge, fisherman Parish councillor	Family, parish council work, his various jobs, Lydney docks, Lightmoor opencast
1997.36.32A1	Severn Sound Radio with Elsie Olivey & Richard Tamplin	DHC	Elsie Olivey – founder of DHC & the 1980s Oral History project. Richard Tamplin – DHC director	Interview about Dean Heritage Centre, Forest history & the Oral history project, capturing older generations memories, dialect
1997.36.32A2	Severn Sound Radio with John Joiner & Richard Tamplin	DHC	John Joiner DHC Chair of the trust. Richard Tamplin – DHC director	Interview about how Dean Heritage Centre started, Forest heritage, tourism. Phone in discussions with listeners
1997.36.33A1	Doris Turner	Parkend	Shop work	Growing up at Parkend, school, family life, singing the Forest anthem, chapel
1997.36.33A2	Harold Wheeler	Ruardean	Haulage, farming Armed Services	Growing up in Ruardean, school, mining, farming, haulage, WW1
1997.36.33B2	Mrs M Addis	Bream	Domestic service	Bream childhood, family, encroachment, Severn tunnel, mining.



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1997.36.33B3	Ramsay Peglar	Drybrook	Miner	Childhood, family life, Severn tunnel, natural remedies, mining
1997.36.33B4	Maud Potter	Milkwall	Family run shop	Growing up Milkwall & Coleford, family, entertainments, Speech House demonstrations
1997.36.34	Mrs Emily Rosser	Clearwell	Domestic service	Childhood memories – school, Sunday School, playing, mining, home remedies
1997.36.35	Mr Ted Gwilliam & Mrs Marion Gwilliam	English Bicknor	Farmers	Farming in English Bicknor, farming before mechanisation, growing up in Ruardean, 1920s strikes
1997.36.36A1	Mr Albert Davies	Pillowell	unknown	Only 10 mins + very difficult to understand. Not useful
1997.36.36A2	Mrs Eunice Porter	Coleford	Domestic service	Family life & childhood, home remedies
1997.36.36B	Mrs Millwater	Ellwood	Domestic service	Childhood memories, family, home remedies