



Writing family history

William Taylor interview: part two

William Taylor:

We used to play in the streets as much as anybody else. You see, people today can't visualise this. You see, you had no cars dashing around roads, and so you were able to play in the streets. I mean, kids used to get together, play football, play cricket in the streets.

Interviewer:

Did people used to just sort of hang around in the streets chatting as well?

William Taylor:

Oh yes, people did. I mean, neighbours were very much more friendly in those days. It was part of life, that they were able to talk to each other. And you'd see them meet in the street and talk, but the children themselves really did live on the streets, let's put it that way. You played football, you played your cricket, various things you could do. During our summer holidays, most of the time we would walk over to Victoria Park. I mean, I wasn't very far away, I say very far away, I had a mile and a half probably, or two miles, we used to take a sandwich with us and play in the park. These places were always full of people. So different today. Because you can go into recreation grounds and parks, and nobody there. There were technical schools, and there were also the grammar schools, and I always felt I'd like to go to a grammar school, but when I passed my exams, I couldn't go because my parents couldn't afford me to go. They were looking forward that once I was fourteen I'd have to go out to work, there was no ifs and buts about it. So, you had to give up a lot of things in my life because that is how people lived. They couldn't afford to let their children go for schooling as they do today. So I finished at fourteen. But when I got into business, before the war started, I'd already started doing a chartered insurance secretary, because I wanted to improve myself, and that was the only way I could improve myself was by taking my various examinations in those things. But again the war then came and stopped that. You try to do these things, and when you're away you can't do it.

Interviewer:

You know, once the war's over, was it easy to pick, pick up again where you left off?

William Taylor:

It's, no it, it's not very easy to pick up again because... I did try to, let's put it this way, I did try very hard. By the time, I came home in 1946 and in the September Maise and I were married, and we went and lived in the first part of our life married life with my mother. We had two rooms with her, then our daughter Janet was born in 1948 so life then started become rather more tedious as it was. I did go back to the city of London in Moorgate to try and get my exams back, but they were not fruition, I didn't get to the fruition I'd liked to have done.

Interviewer:

Yeah. Going back to your first job, how did you find that job, and, and, and why did you choose that particular job?

William Taylor:

Parents in those days always wanted their children to have a better job than they had. My mother, as I said, worked in the city of London, and she saw how people came to work, and so she thought that her son was going to get an office job, and at all costs she was going to make certain I had an office job. And so consequently she, as I said, she went and saw my uncle Tom, and he was able to arrange for me to work for the company that he was in. It was a tedious type of job really: answering the telephone, or on the telephone board. Picking up the letters for post, taking the letters, going up to the bank with various things. It was an

import and export company, so a lot of stuff was being sold to India. And so consequently every Thursday, you had to go round the banks anyway, with all the export documents so they can get their, get their money back. So, my life was really, sort of a runner really, I take it, I always call that my runner job. I got called up 16th October 1939. I was one of those people that was always going to go and do six months' training anyway, because it'd been announced early in the year that all people of age of twenty, would have to do six months' military service. So, I came under the Conscription Act then, and was called up, as I said, in October, as the Second Militia, and I stayed there then until February 1946.