

**Westman Oral History collection**

<b>Interview Date:</b>	<b>1981-05-21</b>
<b>Narrator (interviewee):</b>	<b>Irene Lazenby</b>
<b>Interviewer:</b>	<b>Irene Lazenby</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Reston, Manitoba</b>
<b>Transcriber:</b>	<b>Shyanne Bear</b>
<b>Date Transcribed:</b>	<b>2020-05-28</b>
<b>Recording Format</b>	<b>Tape Recording</b>
<b>Length of Recording</b>	<b>00:11:35</b>

Note: This interview was more so a narration, and the interviewee and interviewer are the same person. Therefore, limited amount of questions.

**Interview Starts**

[00:00:08] [false start] Lazenby of the early nineteen hundreds...hundreds

[00:00:10] Well Herb Lazenby came out from England in 1903 from Lincolnshire. And uh he was uh about uh 20 years old when he came out.

[00:00:20] [background noise]

Q: [00:00:29] Is that the other side?

A: [00:00:31]. [conversation continues] ... With him along with two close friends. Walter Brown and he was just 19, and Dick Brown who was just 17. And they tell of their trip on that boat which was a great experience. They had very little money, hardly enough to uhm get as far as they were going. Ahh which they wanted to come across to ah or they were sent to Reston by the immigration uh man. And uhm one of the folks lost their train fair and they uh put their money together to buy him a ticket.

A: [00:01:09] Dick Brown lost his, to buy him a ticket. And uh then they didn't have enough left to eat. The usual way that uhm the immigration officer, Billy Mcdougall, would uh place them on farms where the farmers needed help. And they used to uhm farm until they had gathered up enough money to buy a horse and maybe ah plow, one for a plow. And then they would just have a little shack made out of anything they could get their hands on some of them made so... out of sod. And uh some of them, one fellow in the Hillview District he had a uhm dug uh a hole on the bank of a creek for shelter for a whole winter. And he just lived in that sort of a cave  
Ah [cough]

A: [00:02:01]. Herb uhh worked for different farmers around until he could get enough money to be able to uhm ah start out on his own.

Q: [00:02:14] Where Mr. Lazenby be settled? And whom did he marry?

A: [00:02:19] Well ah Herb Lazenby worked for uhm Alex Wilson and he was out here in 1881. One of the first pioneers of the district. And he, his homestead he broke the sod it was all ball prairie but he had been started up for a while, because this now is nineteen hundred and ahh four.

A: [00:02:41] And he, after working for a few farmers he was working at the Wilson farm and he met ah Eltsie May Wilson. And ah on November the 11th, 1913 they were married.

A: [00:02:50] And Mr. Wilson helped him buy uh half section on 19827 out in the Hillview District about uhm 08 and a half miles or 9 from Reston. Now on this land they uh had a house and a barn. But Herb had to pay \$8500 dollars for it.

A: [00:03:22] Today this sounds cheap. But Herb and his wife had a hard time paying for it. When the Hungry 30s came along they had to borrow \$1800 dollars from a mortgage company, at \$100 dollars a year, for 30

years. And sometimes they were not able to pay this mortgage, and they had to borrow money from ah Mr. Wilson.

A: [00:03:49] They ah they really felt lucky to even get the loan from the mortgage company because the banks wouldn't lend them any, the municipality had no money for relief, and there was no such things as welfare. But today in 19 hundred and 82, that same half section is selling in this district for \$100,000 dollars.

A: [00:04:14] And it would take another \$100,000 dollars for equipment in order for a young person to get started today. This is the difference in trying to farm in ah 19 hundred and ah 4, and 19 hundred and 82. In fact, the young farmer simply cannot get started up today.

[New tape]

[mumbling in the background]

A: [00:04:36] The youth of today hear those folk say those were the good ole times in the hungry 30s. They are probably thinking about the close nit friendship of the love of neighbors because they all shared what they had. Herb farmed with horses, they milked cows to have a little extra money, sold the cream, made butter and sold it, and they had eggs, they raised chickens

and sold chickens and ah used them for meat, they had their own pigs for meat, their own cattle for meat. And They had a very large garden, from it they canned their vegetables. And ah there was quite a bit of wild fruit in those days, and they would go hunting for saskatoons and chokecherries and ah wild plums and strawberries, and raspberries.

A: [00:05:31] And they'd tell about taking their wheat a distance of about 22 miles to the Virden flour mills to be ground into flour for bread, and they'd have the grits in that for porridge and they'd have the bran from it from baking and then they'd use the short for... [interrupted by question]

Q: [00:05:49] No I was supposed to press the play

[conversation continues on mid-sentence]

A: [00:05:51] ...It would cover the cost of grinding. So, there was really no exchange of money.

A: [00:05:59] Mrs. Lazenby made her own soap her own quilts, her own dresses, she hooked rugs, she knitted all their socks, their mits, and gloves, and sweaters. And um they didn't have any uhm electricity so therefore they had no refrigerators. But she used to salt their meat somehow in great big barrels, and she cured the hams from the pigs. And ah we I've heard people

say that those were the best hams in the whole community, and at the Reston fair that was carried on once a year that she took all kinds of the prizes for her cured hams, and her butter, and her eggs, and her canned meats and vegetables and fruits.

A: [00:06:48] Herb tried to save money to. He made all the children's their toys. Their spinning tops he made them from spools. Their little sleighs from ah waste lumber. Their catapults. He even made snow shoes and skis. And he made sling shots, and he cut up the tires for the rubber bands for the sling shots. He made little toy wagons, and uhm kites, and bows, and arrows  
[coughs]

A: [00:07:19] So, ah they were able to have lots of fun with these things with very little expense. They truly tried to live off the farm.

[00:07:28] [another voice interrupts, mutters a mumble]

[conversation continues]

A: [00:07:29] One of the interesting things in those days was ah going to Church, everybody attended Church. They were very religious. Herb was an English, of the English church and uhm Eltsie was a Methodist. But ah the

little Hillview church that was built in the district, everybody went together. And they built their own little church and it had its ah, it was there for over 50 years where the district ah attended. They had their own young peoples, and sometimes in later years there would be 60 and 70 attend the young peoples.

A: They uhm, there was three church services. One was Methodist, and everyone attended it. And one was ah ahh, United wasn't until 1985, Methodist, and English, and Presbyterian. And then they had Pentecostals that used to come and hold services there. It was a non-denominational Church because everybody had to turn in and help build it.

A: [00:08:40] And besides their church services and their young peoples they had big baseball games at the little Hillview church and everybody turned out to play baseball, softball. And ah they seemed to all enjoy sports, and Mrs. Lazenby was a very avid sportsman. Having, ah in her youth, on her father's farm, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wilson, in the same district. They had a tennis court, they built it themselves. And ahm everybody went to play tennis there. And ah the creek went right close to their home, and they had great skating parties on the creek

[00:09:22] [pause and interruption by tape malfunction]

[multiple conversations going on]

A: [00:09:25] There isn't a bloody thing on it glowing.

Q: [00:09:31] [background voices speaking at the same time] Did I press the play button instead of the record?

A: [00:09:] [interviewee replying to the background voices at first] Oh, you're not.

A: [continues on her conversation] Oh there isn't a bloody thing on there. Press the play button instead of the record...

Q: [00:09:43] ... Isn't that the shits?

A: [00:09:45] Well that's exactly what I've done...

Q: [00:09:47] [background voices mumbling] What's that light on there for?

A: [00:09:51] Well that's exactly what I've done... I've been playing it. And I pressed the play button instead of the recording. There isn't a thing on it



A: [00:09:57] Well alright let's do the whole thing over again

[previous conversation prior to interruption begins playing]

A: [00:10:04] They curled, there was a curling rink in Reston, and they used to drive in with the team and cutter. Mr. Lazenby wasn't too much of a curler, but the Wilson family were noted for their curling. And they had their own team in their own family. And often though the four Wilsons, with their brothers would win the, take the trophy.

A: [00:10:25] And she was a great ball player, she went to all the different towns around playing ball. And there is ah a picture of that ball team, and they're in long dresses playing ball.

[coughs]

A: [00:10:41] The Lazenby's had a family of of (repetition of word on purpose), two boys and a baby girl who died at birth. Leslie Lazenby, and Alvin Lazenby. Ah In 1948 they moved to Virden off the family farm. Ah Leslie was a farmer and Alvin was on the home farm. And Herb wasn't very well and in 1949, he died of a heart attack. And ah Mrs. Lazenby tried to

carry on alone in her home. But due to her uhm cancer, she had a number of operations for cancer. And in 1970 she passed away having battled with cancer for over 30 years. They were buried in the Reston cemetery.

[00:11:30] Talking Ends

[00:11:35] **End of Interview**