**Mabel Badenhop**

**FULL TRANSCRIPT**

Mabel Badenhop discusses her husband’s home.

Facilitator: Do you know?

Interviewee 1: What year?

Facilitator: Yes.

Interviewee 1: 1905.

Facilitator: 1905? Do you know when he came up to that block?

Interviewee 1: When he came up?

Facilitator: Yes.

Interviewee 1: February was the month but it would be about four years…

Interviewee 2: This is about him if you want to read that.

Interviewee 1: I think if he wants to know about my husband – I didn’t realise that. We’ve got quite a lot of cuttings about that.

Interviewee 2: Yes, we’ve got them all here. They’re all here.

Interviewee 1: Oh, it’s on there, is it?

Interviewee 2: You ask her questions and she’ll tell you.

Facilitator: I’ve got it here. He arrived in 1895. When did you build that house you were living in?

Interviewee 1: We started in two little rooms which were a kitchen afterwards. Do you remember that? That was when we got married and gradually as time went on, when this daughter was born, we moved into that other house.

Facilitator: And that would be in…?

Interviewee 1: So it would be three or four years after we were married.

Interviewee 2: So that’s 1910. That’s five years after…

Facilitator: 1910? I placed it as around 1910.

Interviewee 1: We kept building it, you see, and we lived in the other one. It was made into two rooms and then after we’d moved in, we took the partition away and it was one long big kitchen there.

Facilitator: Did anyone live with him before you were married?

Interviewee 1: No, he was away working.

Interviewee 2: His mother.

Interviewee 1: His sister lived up there, Mrs Kavanagh. Did you know her? She’s passed away a long while. She was lame.

Facilitator: They had the coaches there, didn’t they?

Interviewee 1: Yes. Jim, her husband, had the coaches.

Facilitator: And they stabled the horses in the yard?

Interviewee 1: Yes, that’s right.

Interviewee 2: Dad’s mother lived there. Where did Dad’s mother live?

Interviewee 1: Dad’s mother? Oh, Dad’s mother lived down near the post office. Do you know where the post office was?

Facilitator: Where Herman and Lily lived?

Interviewee 1: The Peagrams had it last but let me see. Who had it? Lily, Herman’s wife, had it for – well, his mother lived there for a while. She never lived with us. She died a year before we were married, his mother.

Facilitator: You sold the place when you left up there, didn’t you?

Interviewee 1: Yes. When we moved up north to Cobram.

Facilitator: Well, those are what I wanted.

Interviewee 2: On this one, you’ll see how much dad had when he bought them. You can borrow these if you like.

Facilitator: Do you know when he built the barn?

Interviewee 1: The barn? My father’s place?

Facilitator: No, your place.

Interviewee 2: No, Dad’s place. Our own place.

Facilitator: Your place.

Interviewee 1: Oh, our place? Oh, I know it was built not long after we moved into the other house. He was always doing bits in among – he used to go out working a lot, you know, my husband, and he used to do bits at home when he wasn’t doing other work. But I know that we had a windmill down there. Do you remember the windmill?

Facilitator: Yes.

Interviewee 2: Well, you must have had the barn pretty early in your married life.

Interviewee 1: It was not long after we moved into the big house that he had the barn built. It was awfully close together.

Facilitator: That gives it, you see. After you were married…

Interviewee 1: Oh yes.

Facilitator: Because that barn is an important place.

Interviewee 1: Oh, there was a little shed there where he stabled his horse.

Interviewee 2: That other barn you had that was her father’s barn.

Interviewee 1: I think he sunk that well after we were married. I wouldn’t be perfectly sure about that.

Facilitator: There’s some doubt about when…

Interviewee 1: I know we only had water and barrels for the first year up by our house.

Facilitator: Off your roof?

Interviewee 1: Yeah. We started in a very small way, you know. We were not rich people. People thought we were but we were not.

Interviewee 2: Oh, five years [unclear 0:04:33.5].

Facilitator: You were rich in other ways.

Interviewee 1: Oh yes. But I mean, some people had an idea.

Facilitator: Have you seen this?

Interviewee 1: That all looks rather familiar.

Facilitator: Yes.

Interviewee 1: Now, just exactly where are we?

Facilitator: Mountain Grange.

Interviewee 1: Yes, I thought that was Mountain Grange. What’s this place?

Facilitator: The barn.

Interviewee 1: Oh, that’s the barn?

Interviewee 2: But that’s not the barn you’re talking about?

Facilitator: No. That’s your father’s barn.

Interviewee 1: Yes, and that’s my mother’s home.

Interviewee 2: Were you born there?

Interviewee 1: Yes, but it doesn’t – it’s very small. They were just building when I was born. I was born there but in a room in the foundry. The house wasn’t finished.

Interviewee 2: [unclear 0:05:19.5] was just talking about that before you came, that her father selected the hardwood for his house and made in the shape of an H, that house.

Interviewee 1: I was born October 8th. I was really born in a little bark room, a little bark hut that they had temporary while they were building there. But the house was finished soon after. My father, he must have had a stroke I think. He fell from his horse. You know that, do you?

Facilitator: Yes.

Interviewee 2: In the old family albums, see, there’s the house built in the shape of the H. That’s old Mountain Grange. That’s her mother and father’s.

Interviewee 1: You see that? That’s old Mountain Grange and the old barn. I can remember the building of the barn so it must have been in my father’s time. I was only seven and a half when he died so it’s a long while ago.

Facilitator: I’d placed the building of it a bit earlier.

Interviewee 1: But they were building this house. The verandahs my dad put on after. See, my father selected 300 acres to start with and after he passed away, my mother sold most of them. There was a block given to my brother, Will, and another block to my sister, Alice. But after he passed away, my mother sold most of the land because we couldn’t manage it.

Interviewee 2: Is that the barn there?

Interviewee 1: That’s my mother and myself on the veranda.

Interviewee 2: That’s looking down near Hooper’s. That’s looking from Hooper’s side. Your brother, Will…

Interviewee 1: Well, he lived up that way.

Interviewee 2: Mrs Hooper was her mum’s sister.

Facilitator: Yes, Alice.

Interviewee 2: That’s Alice and her husband.

Interviewee 1: That was my sister, Alice. She married John Hooper. Do you remember that?

Interviewee 2: I remember the Hooper family but that’s all.

Interviewee 1: He was a tailor in Lilydale. It was how they brought the news that my father had fallen from his horse. They walked up from Lilydale to tell Mother.

Facilitator: That night?

Interviewee 1: No, it was the next day before we knew. She must have been very anxious that he didn’t come home because the horse came home, you see.

Facilitator: Old Euclid, the horse’s name. He was your horse, was he?

Interviewee 1: He was Father’s horse. You see, he was always riding horseback. He came home without him and to the sliprails and I remember letting him into the paddock. But that would have been in the morning, you see, I suppose.

Interviewee 2: He got struck by the lightning [unclear 0:07:56.4] but that wasn’t when he died.

Interviewee 1: It was just about dinner time on the next day when my sister, Alice and her husband walked up from Lilydale and told Mother. My father was taken to Uncle Henry’s place. Do you know where Henry Hand lived?

Facilitator: No. I know of him but I don’t know where.

Interviewee 1: Not very far from where he fell on the road there. He was taken there and my mother went there, of course. But it was nearly dinnertime on the next day when Alice and her husband came and I remember that the soup had all been put on the table and I can still see those plates of soup steaming. Mother went to the door and she said, “Is something the matter, Alice?” and she said, “Yes, Mother.” She said, “Is it Father?” “Yes, Mother.” “Is he dead?” “Yes, Mother.” I can remember those words just as if it was yesterday. But why it was dinnertime the next day before she knew – of course, we had no transport in those days, you see. It took a long while to get anywhere. They walked, I know, from Lilydale. But of course we had a horse and a buggy. I suppose my brother Will drove Mother in. I don’t remember. She was away for two or three days of course and then we went to the funeral. Did you know Mr Philips in Lilydale?

Facilitator: No. I don’t know Lilydale. I only know the mountain.

Interviewee 1: Oh, I see.

Facilitator: But there’s one thing that puzzles me. Your brother, Will, he lived up at Cherry Farm, didn’t he?

Interviewee 1: Yes, that adjoined our property, you see. Mother gave him that land when he was married.

Facilitator: On Cherry Farm, there was a building.

Interviewee 1: A guesthouse.

Facilitator: A building built of split palings and shingle. Do you know what that was? It was a two-storey old building.

Interviewee 1: My husband built Cherry Farm but I don’t know what the old place was.

Facilitator: Some say it was a barn but it was better than a barn. It looked to me as if it had been a home.

Interviewee 1: No, I can’t help you there. I don’t remember it.

Interviewee 2: What was Uncle Will’s house like?

Interviewee 1: No, Uncle Will had a nice little house, a small four-roomed house. But it was fresh and new when they married.

Facilitator: That was enlarged into Cherry Farm?

Interviewee 1: Oh, no. Cherry Farm was a much bigger place. It was quite a big place, Cherry Farm.

Facilitator: But the old one was enlarged, wasn’t it?

Interviewee 1: I don’t remember. Oh, the one they lived in before? Oh, I dare say it was used in some way. I don’t know. It was a complete little cottage.

Facilitator: You can’t remember what the old building was?

Interviewee 1: No. I’ve got a distant idea of an old building standing out this way. No, I don’t know what that was.

Facilitator: It was a beautifully built old place. It was only small. Enough for two rooms on the ground and two rooms upstairs and it had a staircase upstairs.

Interviewee 1: Was that on Cherry Farm?

Facilitator: Yes, right alongside it. I used to work there. Before I started with you people, I worked there.

Interviewee 1: I wonder who lived there before Mr Robertson took it, whether my brother went straight – he went to Mountain Grange after, you know, to live, my brother did and my mother came over to the shop, to the post office with my other sister, Florrie.

Facilitator: Yes, I know that.

Interviewee 1: You remember Mrs Walker?

Facilitator: Yes, very well.

Interviewee 1: Well, when they left Mountain Grange, my brother Will went down there to live and Cherry Farm was built.

Facilitator: Yes. But this was a very old place, much older than Cherry Farm. I thought possibly your brother had gone there when he was married.

Interviewee 1: Oh, no. I don’t think that was it at all because we have a small house, just a couple of rooms until – our own place was nearly finished when I was born. They were building it. Of course, it had no veranda, not in my father’s time. But my father had the timber cuts, you know, the hardwood. He supervised the cutting of that timber.

Facilitator: Where did they cut it?

Interviewee 1: Oh, do you know there’s another road that comes down onto the main road? We built that road.

Facilitator: Inverness Road.

Interviewee 1: Inverness Road, yes. Well, somewhere there they had sawmills or something.

Facilitator: It wasn’t pit sawed?

Interviewee 1: No, I don’t think it was anything to do with the Childs either. But it might have been because they had a saw mill, didn’t they?

Facilitator: Later.

Interviewee 1: I can’t place that place that you’re speaking of. Although I have a recollection of seeing something built there. But we never lived up there. I’m sure of that. We went straight from where I was married – I was married at home in the old home and we went straight up there and that was where we lived until Henry was 21.

Facilitator: What was your sister’s name, Alice, was it, that married Hooper?

Interviewee 1: Yes, Alice.

Facilitator: Can you remember when their house was built?

Interviewee 1: Well, they lived in Lilydale for – they were married before my father died and they lived in Lilydale for a few years. But he didn’t get on well with the tailoring and he had to leave it and Mother built that house for them. It was never finished. It was partially finished. It had a couple of good rooms but it wasn’t all finished. She built that house for them. Let me see. How old is Bert, do you know?

Interviewee 2: He was 86 this year.

Interviewee 1: Well, it was built before he was born. He was born there. [Ruby] was born in Lilydale, the eldest child, my eldest. Alice had three children and she died when the last one came. She was only 34. She only lived to be 34. But Bert was born in that place.

Interviewee 2: She died in 1898, Alice.

Interviewee 1: Who did?

Interviewee 2: Your sister, Alice.

Facilitator: She died in 1898.

Interviewee 1: Who died in 1898?

Facilitator: Alice.

Interviewee 1: Alice. It was about three years before that because there was another child, you see, when she died.

Facilitator: Three years before that. That would be…

Interviewee 1: Three or four. I would only say about because I wouldn’t know exactly.

Facilitator: No. Somewhere in the nineties.

Interviewee 1: Yes, that would be right.

Facilitator: I’m building a register of all houses on the mountain too, cataloguing all houses and all the buildings and that’s why I want to get the details of yours.

Interviewee 1: Cherry Farm was burnt down. You knew that, didn’t you?

Facilitator: Yes. It’s been rebuilt since. They’ve rebuilt since. There’s another house there.

Interviewee 1: Oh, is there? I’ve never been up there.

Facilitator: There’s another house there.

Interviewee 1: I know very little of the land now. But my husband built about 20 houses on the land in different places. He built one from bags down in the Mint.

Facilitator: He built two for Mrs Dunbar.

Interviewee 1: Yes. I think he might have started building there. I’m not sure. But he built a lot down near the Methodist church there at the corner, different ones, mostly holiday houses I think a lot of them were. Of course, Cherry Farm was a big one.

Facilitator: You don’t know what year that was built, do you?

Interviewee 1: It was in the year before Alice was born, a few months before Ernest was born. Let me see. Ernest will be 60 next September, no, 61 in September, he’d be. The 2nd of September.

Interviewee 2: So that would be 1911.

Facilitator: About 1911? Nice to know.

Interviewee 1: I think that would be right but you’d better put ‘about’ because I’m not perfectly definite about it. I was only young and these things don’t impress you much at that age, do they?

Facilitator: You were a very busy person too.

Interviewee 1: Oh yes. I’ve always been a busy person and these last few years, I’m absolutely lazy.

Interviewee 2: They were unfortunate. Their other brother, you see, was drowned when he was 27, Mum’s brother. There was only one brother and the girls to do the farm. It just wasn’t suitable really but there you are.

**END OF TRANSCRIPT**