

11-12-2014

Interview with Carol Lipply

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Publication Information

Harris, Chandler, "Interview with Carol Lipply" (2014). *Immigrant Oral Histories*. Paper 6.
<http://repository.uwyo.edu/ioh/6>

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Chandler Harris
Carol Lippy Interview Notes

Interview opens with a discussion of the basic circumstances surrounding Carol's migration to the United States. This discussion includes a discussion of why Carol decided to move to the United States with her family instead of remaining in Scotland.

"I was lucky enough to be married to a man who let me go back to Scotland pretty often."
"It wasn't like I was over here and I would never see Scotland again"

The discussion then turns to her friends and family who had immigrated to the United States and Canada, and how that helped her immigrate.

"There was an adjustment, everything was different."
"I still get people saying to me 'oh where are you from?'"

Then there was a discussion of whether or not she felt welcome.
She felt very welcome. She had friends come visit.

"I talked to my mother every Sunday"
"I didn't have any problems with people being snotty... except for Ron's mother... but that's just the way she was"

She then talked about how race and color made a difference in immigration experience. And whether her experience was unique.

"The first person people said to me, and I still get it. 'My ancestors came from Scotland.'" "A lot of Scottish people immigrated to this country" people claim that their great great great grandfathers came from Scotland whereas white American's can't relate to people of color as easy.

To what extent has being Scottish influence you and your family in the United States.
She discussed how all of her children and many of their spouses have traveled to see Scotland.

"There's a lot of traditions we had at Christmas, I always brought my grandchildren Scottish candy." "They used to go guising in Scotland, but now the trick or treat because they are more Americanized." "It's getting more Americanized over there, I just about died last time I went over there." "When my daughter was little I used to teach her Scottish songs... and we sent the tape over to my parents in Scotland."

We talked about singing and learning Scottish with her children.

"My kids understood everything Scottish people said, since they lived with me." "When Scot went to school he got questioned to where he was from since I taught him a Scottish accent."

The interview then moved to a topic of her identity as Scottish versus American.

"Put it this way and don't take offense by this... I love America but my heart belongs to Scotland." I get Scottish papers on my I-pod. I watch BBC Scotland. I eat Scottish candy. I don't feel like I'm so distanced. I can turn on the radio any time I want and hear Scotland." "I think

I'm totally American when I'm over here... whenever that plane touches ground in Scotland I'm Scottish." "I always wanted my kids to know... my kids wore kilts and got Scottish things to eat."

She always brought Scottish presents back to her grandkids to remind them where they came from.

She discussed how her kids and grandkids have picked up Scottish phrases and they relate to Scottish fairy tales.

The interview then turned to a discussion of what it means to be an American. (this portion of the interview led to a discussion of the healthcare system which was a detour from the main question, including a discussion of how much she liked the socialized medicine in Scotland) "There's a lot of inequality in this country... But there's a lot of good people in America..." 32:00- discussion of healthcare she doesn't want included in interview.

Carol then discussed her grandmother who served in the British House of Commons with Winston Churchill and some of her stories. This turned her off to politics so she doesn't like politicians in Scotland or the United States.

Her discussion then involved Scottish independence.

"Because Scotland is rich with oil and it all goes to England and Scotland doesn't get what the English get so the English get what they want and Scotland is paying for it." "Why can't England be fair?"

"I follow all politics, but it's a waste of time because they're both the same"

Life in home region.

"It was just hand to mouth... I remember growing up and I had two school uniforms and one dress." Here there's no room to hand anything else. "We were all poor unless you were related to the queen, or you were a lord."

As the interview progressed past this point the conversation became increasingly erratic with discussions focused on family stories and poverty.

Current British nativism against foreigners in Scotland.

"They come from East Europe like Slovakia and Czechoslovakia and they get off the boat get social security and just never work... They're not all bad, the Indians are mostly upper-class because a lot of them are all doctors."

Has Scotland changed.

"yes its gotten more Americanized, kids are walking around now with their American clothing.

American food when she immigrated.

"I didn't know what pizza was, I remember going to this one pizza place and Ron had ordered a Supreme Pizza. I thought it looked like someone had already eaten in, but I can eat cheese pizza now." "We didn't have any American fast food we had fish and chips." "Every show on TV is American."

How would things be different if you hadn't come to the United States?

"I don't think it would have ever happened. I think it was easier for me to get adjusted to this than for Ron to get adjusted to Scotland."

Carol lived in Scotland until she was 20, their family stayed in Scotland 2 years before coming to the United States.

"I was around the (LDS) church. My four friends went to Canada and I was going to go with them but then I met Ron."

Would things be different if you weren't married when you immigrated? "I wouldn't have done it unless I was with my friends... for a single person to come over, that's not for me."

51:30

Is there anything you wanted to talk about?

"When I was growing up it was a lot different, but now as a grandma going back it's a lot more Americanized." "I like it here, as long as I can get home, and see my family."

55:00 The interview derailed severely at this point and Carol began to talk about different things unrelated to the topic of the interview.

Between the 1:01:00 and 1:06:00 Carol discusses Scottish weather and winters. She said she used to hate it because she would hear birds chirping at 2 am since it didn't get dark until very late. She remember she used to see the Aurora Borealis as a child. They lived right on the sea so the snow never stuck around for long. She said she got allergies she never got in Scotland in the United States.

Interview is over at 1:09:00 the rest is a conversation with my grandfather