**June Worby 28 March 2022 at Oxborough Village Hall**

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**Summary**

Born 1941 Whittington, moved when aged eight to Ferry Farm Oxborough, swam at Salmon’s Hole Whittington, then Oxborough Ferry.

Key:

**I = Interviewer**

R = Respondent

[00:00:00]

**I: My name is Helaine Wyatt, and I'm a volunteer for the Breckland Fen Edge & River Project. I am about to interview June Worby, who was born a Fuller, and lived with her family at Ferry Farm, Oxborough. But she's going to tell us more about that. So, June, you were born when?**

R: May 1941.

**I: And you were one of how many children?**

R: Six.

**I: That's right. And what was your father?**

R: A farmer.

**I: Yeah. And your mother?**

R: Just a housewife.

**I: Yes. Looking after the six children?**

R: Yes.

**I: So, tell me about your memories of using the river, and whereabouts did you use it? Which river was it, for example?**

R: Well, I was born at Whittington, and I moved to Oxborough when I was eight years old. So, I can remember the River Wissey at Whittington going down the old school lane and then through a gateway, and then down there.

**I: Across the meadow?**

R: Yes.

**I: I remember it. Yes. So, you swam near Salmon's Hole...**

R: Yeah.

**I: ...but you didn't know...**

R: No.

**I: ...back then. And what was the river like then?**

R: Oh, it was lovely and clear and, yeah. Yeah.

**I: And how deep was it? Can you remember?**

R: Well, where we used to swim was alright, because we used to go down there. If it was a Sunday in the summer, very hot, even my mother and father would come down.

**I: Yeah.**

R: All of us, you know?

**I: Yes. And did they take a picnic or something?**

R: Yes, we probably took something. And there was other families there as well.

**I: Can you remember the names of any of the families?**

R: The Newtons probably, the Stebbins probably. The Reeves. They all came from Whittington.

**I: Yes. Yeah. I've heard of the Reeves, actually.**

R: Yeah.

**I: And whereabouts in Whittington did you live?**

R: Norman Drive.

**I: Alright.**

R: Yes.

**I: I know. Yeah. And could you swim?**

R: No.

**I: Right. So, it was just sort of messing about in the water?**

R: Yes. Yes.

**I: And can you remember...I think I remember slightly older children, particularly boys, sort of having like a big tractor tyre to mess around in.**

R: Yes.

**I: And sometimes if they were lucky or rich enough, I suppose, had a canoe or something.**

R: Yeah.

**I: Can you remember?**

R: I can remember two boys having a...well, I thought they had a boat. Whether that was theirs or not.

**I: Right.**

R: I used to go down there with my sister and some other friends of hers. But not on a Sunday. That would be like a weekday in the holidays probably.

**I: And this was all before you were eight years? Well, up until the age of eight?**

R: Yes. Yeah. I'd be about eight then, probably. Yeah. And my sister was four years older than me, so she'd be 12, you see?

**I: Yes. Yeah.**

R: Yeah.

**I: And so, then after you were eight, you moved to Ferry Farm, Oxborough?**

R: Yes.

**I: And did you go swimming to the river then?**

R: Yeah, we used to go down to the river.

**I: Whereabouts?**

R: Well, there's a cottage further down from Ferry Farm, and we used to cross over from there because that was then a grass field, but they've since been ploughed up.

**I: And we're talking about near Oxborough Ferry?**

R: Yes.

**I: Alright. Yes.**

R: I have been down to Oxborough Ferry, but I've never swum there. Just used to go down for the daffodils and the snowdrops when they came out.

**I: Were there any cottages there then?**

R: No. Just a few bricks left. That was all.

**I: So, you would be on the Oxborough side of the ferry, then?**

R: Yes.

**I: I think there's a, a footpath that sort of goes across fields...**

R: Yes.

**I: ...towards that.**

R: Yes.

**I: Okay. And have you ever learned to swim?**

R: No.

**I: But you weren't frightened of the water or anything?**

R: No.

[00:04:28]

**I: Right. Okay. And have you got any other sort of memories that you have about using the river?**

R: Well, in the holidays, I had a friend from Whittington, and she used to come with some other, and there used to be a lot come from Methwold as well.

**I: Is that right? What was your friend's name?**

R: Joy. Joy Matthews.

**I: Okay.**

R: Yes.

**I: And whereabouts in Whittington did she live?**

R: She lived at Norman Drive.

**I: As well?**

R: Yes.

**I: And so, were they council houses there?**

R: Yes, they were council.

**I: But they must have been quite new then, were they?**

R: Yeah, they seemed...they had bathrooms and that sort of thing, yes.

**I: And what was it like sort of moving from there to Ferry Farm?**

R: Well, I quite liked it, but sometimes I missed Whittington, because we'd had telly, lights when we went down there and there was no bathroom. No electric, there wasn't. But that was put on later.

**I: Yeah. And I guess you went to Whittington School, did you?**

R: Yes. Yes.

**I: Yeah. I don't know when it closed, but perhaps it was still operating when you left and went to Oxborough.**

R: Yes. I was still, yes.

**I: Right. And then you went to Oxborough School?**

R: Yes. Yes.

**I: Alright. I think that probably is as much as your memories of the river...**

R: Yes. Yeah.

**I: ...which is the important thing, really. So, it was always the Wissey, I think, rather than the Gadder at Oxborough.**

R: Yes.

**I: Yes.**

R: Because the Gadder comes through our farm, doesn't it?

**I: Yes, it does.**

R: Yeah. But that's more what I would call a stream.

**I: Right.**

R: Yeah. That's...

**I: And then that's the one that leads to the Hall, isn't it?**

R: Yes. That's right.

**I: Across.**

R: Yes.

**I: Yeah. Excellent. I think that's perfect.**

R: Yeah.

**I: Thank you.**

[00:06:21 End of recording]