

## Road Allowance Interview, Clayton Foulds

Conducted by Scott Duffee with George Gingras

June 11, 2014

**Scott Duffee (SD):** Could you please tell me your name and your home community?

Clayton Foulds (CF): Clayton Foulds, Livelong.

Daughter of Clayton Foulds (D): Where did you grow up?

CF: Part-time in Delmas, part-time, south of Edam.

**SD: That's where my family is from?**

CF: You ever been on that road to Turtleford to the big coulee?

**SD: Yes.**

CF: At the bottom of that hill, we lived four miles straight north. That's where my dad lived.

**SD: What did they call that place?**

CF: Livelong as far as I know.

**SD: Was that road allowance community?**

CF: No, dad had a quarter section of land there.

**SD: Who were your parents?**

CF: Jim Foulds and my mother was Maude. She was a Swain.

**SD: Who were your grandparents?**

CF: Alec Foulds and Sarah, and my other grandfather was John Swain, but his wife passed away before my time

**SD: Did your parents and grandparents always live in Livelong?**

CF: No, they lived all over. They lived down at Beatty at one time, and they all come up to—

**SD: Did your parents always live in Livelong or Vawn?**

CF: No, they lived down in Beatty or somewhere down there then they came up to Langmeade and south of Edam and different places.

**SD: So, Beatty, Saskatchewan. How about your grandparents, where did they come from?**

D: Some of them were born at the Red River Settlement in the North-west Territories. Well, that would be over by Prince Albert, I think they called it

CF: This was the North-West Territories. It wasn't a province. I know my mother was born in this province.

D: I should've had my history book here.

CF: I know Foulds, a lot of them, lived in around Prince Albert for a long time. Then they come up from there to Langmeade, south of Edam

**SD: What other Métis lived in that community south of Edam?**

CF: The Nolins lived there, but I don't know of any. I've been gone from there years, too. I knew Dorothy from a little girl.

**SD: What Métis lived in Livelong?**

CF: There were Nolins, Caplettes, Lavallees, Sansgrets, and Paquettes. I think that's most of them.

**SD: And how about here? How long have you lived on Jack Pine Road, where we are right now?**

CF: Since May 29, 1953, we lived down close to the highway. Where the power lines goes through, we had a shack on this side of the power line. We lived there for three years. Then we lived up here for half a mile for three years, and we have been here ever since. We moved down here November 11, '59. I think it was '58 or '59. I don't remember for sure.

**SD: What Métis families lived along Jack Pine Road?**

CF: There were Trotchies, Carons, and Ouellettes. There were some more of them, but I can't remember their names, they just stayed there for a while.

**SD: Did any non-Métis people live along Jack Pine Road?**

CF: No, they lived on the east side of the highway. There used to be five or six houses or shacks.

**SD: I guess we already asked what other families lived in Langmeade. Did we ask that already?**

D: That's south of Vawn. I don't know if there was any Métis that actually lived there.

**SD: Were there Métis families that lived in Langmeade, south of Vawn?**

CF: I don't remember really. I know of a lot of people, but whether they were Métis or not, I don't know

**SD: Did any of the people living along Jack Pine Road own their land?**

CF: No, not that I know of, just squatters.

**SD: But you did?**

CF: No, my dad bought a section of land and then we came up here.

**SD: Were you squatting up here? Did he own his land up here?**

CF: Yes, my dad owned a section here, and then we bought it from him later on.

**SD: But the other people who lived up here were squatting?**

CF: Yes, a lot of them anyhow.

**SD: Just your dad owned his land?**

CF: Yes.

**SD: So how did your family make a living when they moved here to Jack Pine Road?**

CF: When I moved here? Well, I had cows here. I milked cows and I worked wherever I could get a job.

**SD: Because you moved here with your dad, right? When your dad bought land here?**

CF: Well dad never lived up here. He lived in St. Hippolyte west of Vawn.

**SD: It was you who bought land here?**

D: Grandpa bought the land, but mom and dad lived on it, and then they later bought the land back from grandpa, to have it their own right.

**SD: Thank you for clarifying that.**

D: Grandpa had the land first.

CF: I cut logs with the old Swede saw, and then I hauled them off my neighbour to get them sawed. I got a saw and we built a house with it. Do you know what a Swede saw looks like?

**SD: I've seen them and I've heard about them. Their damn good saws if you keep them sharp.**

CF: They are hard on the arms.

**SD: Oh, I bet. So, your dad and mom lived in St. Hippolyte?**

CF: Dad ran a ferry for years. I think he went down in '46, and he stayed there until the flood washed away the ferry. I don't remember what year that was, and he worked down east of PA

**SD: But he lived in St. Hippolyte?**

CF: He lived at the ferry, never right in town.

**SD: Who did you say lived in St. Hippolyte?**

D: Grandma and grandpa used to live in St. Hippolyte after grandpa left the ferry.

CF: There was a big outfit.

D: They moved to St. Hippolyte. It's just a little country community.

**SD: My aunt was the last person living there.**

D: Oh, who would that be?

**SD: Head.**

D: Oh, okay. Dad knows all the Heads.

**SD: Those are my relatives and my grandma, her husband had the homestead down the road, the road from Edam and Vawn. It's a familiar area.**

CF: That tractor in this community had 550 horsepower.

**SD: Wow, huge! That's amazing**

D: Granny and grandpa that lived at St. Hippolyte. Then there was Uncle Joe and Auntie Hilda Greer used to live there and Vermettes who lived in that area.

**SD: Were there Métis who lived in St. Hippolyte? That community was quite mixed.**

D: There were a lot of French there so I'm not sure. I know the Vermettes were French.

**SD: They had the post office and the graveyard there. I remember playing in both of those.**

D: I remember the cemetery, but I don't remember the post office.

**SD: My uncle and aunt lived in the post office house for a short while. I didn't know there were other Métis living in St. Hippolyte. It's nice to know that. So, did your family do a lot of hunting?**

CF: No, not really. I used to hunt.

**SD: How about picking berries or things like that?**

CF: We picked lots of berries.

**SD: What kind?**

CF: Well, we went up north and picked blueberries, pin cherries up there at \_\_\_ Lake.

**SD: Did anyone in your family use herbs when they got sick?**

CF: Not that I know of.

**SD: Do you know of any?**

D: No, I don't

**SD: Did anyone in your family wear moccasins?**

CF: I wore them a couple winters, Indian moccasins.

**SD: Where did you get those?**

CF: Thunderchild. There's dad's land, and this was the reserve over on this side. This was the road in between.

George Gingras (GG): So, your father's land was right beside Thunderchild Reserve.

D: On the edge of it, I guess.

**SD: How did you family celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve and other holidays?**

CF: The neighbours used to come around here, and we would have a whole house full. Sing and dance and play violin, guitar, banjo, and accordion. In those times, when anybody had a big house full, they would put on a dance. I don't remember ever hearing or seeing and liquor around, but everyone had lots of fun.

**SD: What languages did your family speak?**

CF: English, same as me.

**SD: Any French or Cree or Michif?**

CF: My dad could talk Cree.

**SD: Did your dad ever say that he spoke Michif, just Cree probably?**

D: I never knew of them speaking anything else but English, so I don't know. Dad could speak some Cree when he worked in the bush because he had native people who worked for him. So, he learned some of the words that way.

**SD: So, your dad spoke Cree?**

CF: Yes.

**SD: Where did he learn how to speak Cree?**

CF: My grandfather never learned to talk English until he was 16. I guess that's where he got it.

**SD: Which grandfather was that?**

CF: John Swain.

**SD: Do you speak Cree?**

CF: No, just a few words.

D: Probably ones you wouldn't want to hear.

**SD: Do you remember your dad or grandfather ever telling any old stories?**

CF: My great-grandfather, I remember him telling me about when they were fighting the Indians. They had buffalo hides that were dry and were round, and he said, "There are the Indians over there." They were shooting at that thing, and some fell on the ground, and he said he picked it up and his mother gave him hell.

**SD: What other stories did your great-grandfather tell that you remember?**

CF: I don't really remember much because I was never around him very much.

D: Dad left home when he was 13, I think it was, and he started venturing out.

CF: The old man was 105 when he passed away, and his wife was 104.

**SD: And that was your great-grandfather?**

CF: My great-grandfather and grandmother.

**SD: And their last name was Foulds?**

CF: Swain.

**SD: Can you remember any other stories that your grandfather Swain told you?**

CF: Not really.

D: How old were you when you left home?

CF: Fifteen when I started working out.

D: Then he joined the army when he was 19. You joined the army when you were 19?

CF: Twenty-one.

**SD: What year was that?**

CF: '43, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**SD: Did you go overseas?**

CF: Three years. I'll show you.

**SD: Okay, thank you. Oh wow.**

CF: I got some more buttons like this I never put them on. So, I think I've done my share.

**SD: I think so.**

GG: And we thank you very much for that.

**D: That's his pride and joy.**

CF: We landed in France. I think it was Calais, the name of the place we landed.

GG: I feel quite honoured just to see that little bit.

**SD: This would be what your dad was honoured with recently, I guess?**

D: Yes, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**SD: Okay.**

CF: This is my little great-grandson I was telling you about. Three years in a row, they took the championship. I think they playoff in Edmonton. I'm not sure though.

D: He plays with a lot of native hockey teams

CF: Two years ago, he was a little short for the world record—

D: For his age.

CF: They saved him because he's such a good little player. They saved him in case they needed him later on. My grandson said, "If we woulda known he was that close, we would have let him play."

**SD: So did your dad speak Cree much when you grew up?**

D: No. They were more or less firm believers of speaking what everyone could understand. They didn't believe in speaking, so we couldn't understand or somebody else couldn't understand. That was their firm belief.

**SD: That's the type of thing we are curious about: Métis with English heritage and Métis with French heritage.**

**SD: What do remember about living along Jack Pine Road?**

CF: Not too much.

D: Do you remember any stories about Whitefords and others who were living across the road?

CF: Just that Irvin Whiteford and I worked together out in the bush, and I had team of horses. He had a half-ton truck, and we cut willow pickets we made a living anyhow.

**SD: How much did you get paid for willow pickets?**

CF: About .7 cents a picket.

**SD: How come they used willow for pickets?**

CF: Willow is a tough. It lasts for years

**SD: They don't rot in the ground?**

CF: Well, there's a diamond willow and there's the straight willow. The straight willow is nice looking, but they aren't any better than poplar. But the diamond willow lives for quite a few years. I don't how many, but quite a few

**SD: So, you used to do that for a living when you made willow pickets?**

CF: When we did that, it was like an extra. We milked cows. We always had a cream cheque coming most of the time. Then I worked wherever I could get a job.

GG: What were the odd jobs that you did?

CF: Doesn't matter, whether picking rocks or picking roots or whatever, cut wood. I spent about 27 years in the bush.

**SD: So, you picked Seneca roots as well?**

CF: No, we did when we were kids, but not later.

GG: It's one of those trophies from a chainsaw contest. I like that.

**SD: What did you do to win this?**

CF: I won first prize in chainsaw.

**SD: Did you just cut—?**

CF: I got that in Glaslyn. The only times I've been beat in chainsaw was when my sons done it.

**SD: Oh**

CF: But I was in my 50s when they done it.

**SD: Those old chainsaws were pretty rough to use?**

CF: You get used to it. I worked north of PA for little over the year. My son Dale got first. I got second in chainsaw there. Meadow Lake South and Glaslyn, I took first and Milton, my oldest son got second. The next year, it was the other way, the next year Milton and Dale, my two sons ran. I didn't bother because they're faster than me. I'm sure of that. Then I run Meadow Lake South. I got first place there.

**SD: How were the Métis people treated? Were they treated well?**

CF: It depends. Like some of the stores figured that anything was good enough for the Indians. Well, I had a couple of arguments because I had them cutting in a truck for a few years, too.

**D: How did you stick up for the Indians?**

CF: Well, they figured that groceries, anything would do for the Indians. They would pay cash the same as anyone else, and I made damn sure they got what they ordered or else they didn't take it.

**SD: Which store was this?**

CF: Oh, different stores. It wasn't even the stores. It was some of the workers who were against the Indians.

D: Were they the actual Indians or were they the Métis people, too?

CF: There were some Métis who worked there, I'm not sure

**SD: Did your family ever get a hard time because you're Métis?**

CF: No. I used to have a neighbour up here. He used to call me a "Half-breed," and I called him a "Bohunk." We had a good bunch of neighbours.

CF: I worked back and forth. There wasn't much cash, but I generally got suckered into most things. Anything you could do, pick rocks for them, but we got along.

**SD: When did people start leaving Jack Pine Road?**

CF: 1937. I'm just going by what I was told. Just before the war broke out, we started moving out of here. Just north here, on nearly every quarter, there was somebody was living on it.

D: When Whitefords lived by the highway, what year would they have moved out?

CF: I don't remember when they moved out but—

D: Must have been in the mid-60s or so, eh?

CF: It was in the '60s when they moved out because I know I had my red truck, a 66 and they were further down Jack Pine then.

D: I just remember as a little girl that because there was me and two other sisters and when Whitefords lived there, they would come for a visit. I don't know and a whole bunch of us, instead of lying in the bed properly, we all laid in bed sideways. There were about six of us laying in the bed sideways, laughing trying to sleep. I don't think there was much sleep.

**SD: So, you said there was a big flood up by the Saskatchewan River?**

CF: I don't remember what year that was. It was in the '57 or somewhere in there.

**SD: Do you remember any stories from that flood?**

CF: No, they washed the ferry down. There used to be big water poplars there, but after that big flood, the ice cut them. The ice would be three feet or so deep, and then when it broke loose, well then, they'd hook a sand bar. Then there was a bang. We watched them. We went to the top of the hill. You could see the rock picker. I don't know which way he went with that big machine, straight south. We didn't get breast fed. We never went hungry and we never went dirty.

**SD: Do you know where your great-grandfather Swain originally came from?**

CF: I don't know. My great-grandfather lived somewhere down there by PA for years and then later on came up south of Edam, and that's where he passed away.

**SD: Was your family involved in the 1885 resistance at Batoche?**

CF: No, I think I was the only one that was a Métis.

**SD: So, you can't remember your grandfather Swain ever talking about the war in Batoche?**

CF: No.

**SD: So how long did you serve in the military?**

CF: Until my fourth year.

**SD: Did anyone else in your family serve in the military?**

CF: I had 18 cousins and kinfolk, two uncles, and the rest were cousins and second cousins. My uncle had 19 nieces and nephews in the forces.

D: Did you have any trouble joining the war?

CF: I don't know if you call that trouble. We stayed in trenches for three days and three nights, and we didn't eat and didn't drink. I got a piece shot from my leg yet, but I never went to the doctor. It was just numb. It was 4 years ago that I got it checked, and he said, "It's so close to the— It's better to leave it, then cut it." If they made a little bit of a slip that leg would be paralyzed for life. So, he said, "If it doesn't bother you, keep it." It doesn't bother me keep it. It doesn't bother me. I have to have my leg a certain way or else it would go to sleep when I drove my truck.

GG: What area of Saskatchewan did you join?

CF: Turtleford. I went and got my medical, and then when I passed, I joined the army. It was just a couple buildings down.

**SD: And most of your cousins joined the army too?**

CF: Well, there were four from one family, and three from another family and the rest, there was only one.

**SD: And those were your cousins?**

CF: Yes.

**SD: What were their names?**

CF: Swains, Spence, Pauls, Sayers, Swains. That's about most of them anyhow.

**SD: Do you want to share any stories about your time overseas?**

CF: I don't know. We never moved in daylight. It was always early in the morning or late at night when we always moved. It was after the war, and there was one little

guy. I figured he was five or six. Looking back, he may have been 9 or 10 because they were starving. The little guy came when I was having my breakfast. He was looking at me, and I could say a few words in Dutch. So, I told him, "To come," and he did. Then I'd give him the porridge I had left. I'd save some. He'd eat it. He cleaned it right up. He was there when we were there. Two months, and he was there every morning, noon, and night because I always shared my meal with him. He was a sharp little guy. We all talked English. But for those people over there, it's a little different. That little guy learned to talk English like I did. Then one day, he said his mother wanted to meet me. So, I said, "Okay." We went down maybe a quarter of a mile away, and she couldn't talk English, but he was her interpreter. I thought that was pretty cute. He didn't talk broken like the other Dutch kids who had broken parts here or there. He spoke just the same as I did. I know there was a girl who worked where we stayed. Her and I would sit and visit, and she would talk Dutch and I would talk English. You'd talk English to her, and she'd ask you in Dutch what I said. How I said Amsterdam and Rotterdam is almost two different languages. Well girl who stayed there was from Rotterdam.

**SD: Was anyone in your family involved in the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan or in any Métis politics at all?**

D: Not that I know of, but I won't say there wasn't.

**SD: So, do you remember where the different families used to live along the road here?**

CF: Well Alfred Gaudry used to live down on the corner, and different ones lived on this side of highway down there. This is Cadraains here.

**SD: Cadraains?**

CF: Yes, Denis, always big. His dad owned the land, but Denis is taking over now, and there this was all bush, but now you see this. Now, he's come with that big plough, a big disk. I think that's 40 a foot, big disk.

**SD: Well, do you have any other stories that you'd like to share with us while we're here?**

CF: I shot three bears,

**SD: When was this?**

CF: The dog was barking, and the wife got up, and she said, "There's a bear out there." So I got up in my shorts, and I grabbed my .303, and nailed him one. He took off in the bush. I didn't bother him. It's about 4 o'clock in the morning. A while later, the dogs brought the head back. Those teeth from the bottom up here are about that long. Tusks you call 'em. Her son shot two bears.

GG: Did you do the hunting and gathering also? You went and hunted as opposed to just doing the farm and the cows and the berry picking?

CF: We shot quite a few moose and deer. We hunted up north here. We hunted the odd deer around here. I had one little fawn. She'd been eating off the, if I reached

out, I could've touched her. She would come quite close. She had a patch. So that's how I recognized her. In that brush, on that quarter there, it was just about dark and there was a bear. They rooted this bear out. This bear come walking just this close to the road. Then he turned, and he went back and I never saw any more of him. They are pretty dopey. Most of them were born in February, they tell me. One guy had a tame one. Last time I saw the old bear, he was said he was 18 years old, and he told me he was lying down. All I saw was that he moved his eyes, but he said he was a real pet. They got him when he was just a few days old.

**SD: Well, thank you, Mr. Foulds.**

CF: You're welcome. ...From spring until fall and in the wintertime, when we had cows, I said it was a two-three-hour drive with a team of horses, and we didn't go too often.

D: Oh really? I didn't know that.

GG: You're related to—

CF: Jim Letourneau lived just south of Livelong. You know the turn by all those tractors? That's where Jim used to live, the one I knew.

**SD: Jim Letourneau?**

CF: Yes.

SD: Where did he live?

CF: South of Edam

**SD: Yes, that's my grandfather. Are there any old Métis cabins down this road that we could look at?**

D: Do you know of any Métis houses that are still standing on Jack Pine?

CF: No, they're all gone

D: Right across the highway, there is where Whitefords and—

CF: There were four or five houses there.

D: But there's nothing there now to look at.

CF: I say houses or shacks, more likely.

**SD: Is there any evidence of them there or any old foundations or anything?**

D: No, not that I know of.

D: It's just an access now going to the farmers' farms on both sides of the road now. Not that I'm aware of anyhow.

**SD: Yes, I'd like to go have a look at that spot, but I'm not sure where it is.**

D: Right across the highway when you go home.

**SD: Is that the Midnight Lake Road or right across Jack Pine?**

D: Jack Pine, right across Jack Pine.

**SD: And it's right across the highway, and that's where the houses would have been. So, we can go rooting around in there and see if we can find something?**

D: Should be able to.

**SD: It's still road allowance if it's just a few feet off the road.**

D: Yes, it's all road allowance.

SD: Are there any old houses you think we should look at while we're here?

CF: Not as far as I know. They are pretty well all down. A lot of Métis used to live on road allowance because they didn't pay any taxes.

D: Everything is destroyed that I know of.

SD: Well, if you think of anything before we go here let us know if anything comes to mind. It would be nice to look at something while we're in the neighbourhood.

D: Yes, its too bad Mavis wasn't here because she would remember different spots.

SD: Well good, good.