

**MBL 014**

**Oral History recording made with David Kettlewell born 1946. David's father, Edgar, was Head Gardener at Hyning Hall, Warton the seat of Lord Peel. David lived on the estate with his family and talks about the garden at Hyning. Hyning was sold on Lord Peel's death, eventually becoming a convent. Edgar continued to work there as gardener. David's wife Josephine also contributes to the conversation.**

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|       | David moved to Hyning Hall with his family on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 1962. His father, Edgar Kettlewell was Head Gardener and his mother worked as a cook there. Six gardeners worked under David's dad. David names the gardeners and their roles.   |
| 1.53  | David talks about his holiday job of edging the lawns along the Red Walk. If he saw Lord Peel, David would need to hide in bushes and turn his back as Peel didn't speak to staff. Was that the same for your Dad? Edgar would see Lord Peel by weekly appointment. Every morning Lord Peel would go for a swim, so staff avoided the area.  |
| 3.48  | He talks about Lord Peel's sons William and Robert. When William came home for the holidays the first thing he did was to go to the Kettlewells' cottage and ask for buns. He tells a story about William putting peacocks in the peach house and getting in trouble with the previous Head Gardener. He then fired off a shotgun behind gardener to scare him. William and David used to have a great time together. David was the official photographer for William's 21 <sup>st</sup> – he describes the event. |
| 6.40  | Talks about his Dad who was always at work. Talks about Greenhouses, vinery, peach house and orchids. Gardening was Edgar's passion - all he thought about was gardening. There were two cottages behind hall one lived in by the Kettlewells the other by the Dodds. Dodd was Peel's chauffeur and his wife worked in the kitchen (smoking whilst she cooked).  |
| 8.16  | Talks about the tulips in the rockeries. Opposite the herbaceous border was a raised walk. There was an Iris garden and rose garden. A different variety was grown in each rose bed. There was a holly hedge with a gate in each side. Hancock (garden designer) had the gates made.   |
| 9.40  | David's favourite place in the garden was the rockery. At the front of the house the daffodils were unbelievable. The only place staff didn't go was Lady Peel's garden. This was all walled off.  |
| 10.47 | Can you tell me about your dad and his working day? Out at 7am. He never slowed down. He wanted everything done as he wanted. He was a workaholic. In summer, he would still be there till 10. He would have relatives who were visiting for the day working in the garden.  |
| 12.29 | What would you do during the holidays. Edging, weeding, mundane jobs. In winter, he would be in the potting shed washing pots in freezing water. Talks about the task and cleaning tools. He never got the decent jobs! His dad didn't teach him anything about gardening. He hated gardening as his dad put him off.  |
| 14.30 | Talks about first week they were there and going on a bus in the snow to Lancaster to see 'Summer Holiday'. It took a week to get a tv. No central heating in cottage - freezing. Josephine mentions horse hair blankets and rag rugs. Tended to live in one room. Front room so cold. Talks about their first washing machine.  |

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| 17.20 | Did Lord Peel look after the staff well? He paid well. Edgar had previously been at Harewood House – given a gardening job after the war. Then to Ackworth school before coming to Hynning. They all came on the train to Hynning, picked up at Carnforth Station.  |
| 19.58 | Had your Dad learnt about gardening on his pervious jobs? Only thing he didn't know about was orchids. When he got the job he read up about orchids. David talks about the greenhouses. There was a big greenhouse split into 2 - one end tropical the other vinery. Black and green grapes were grown and peaches and nectarines in the peach house. The orchid house was a double greenhouse, one part for temperate and one for tropical. Next greenhouse was a nursery for seedlings. Small greenhouse also (a shed there now). There was a warm house for African violets next to a boiler house and above that a tool room. Behind the greenhouse there was a range of buildings- potting shed, fruit room, next to that a mess room for workers, another room then the pump room for pool. |
| 23.19 | Potting shed. Stone benches are still there. Edgar asked Lord Peel to buy a soil steriliser which David describes.  |
| 24.80 | David describes the main changes to Hynning? Red Walk now all grass. Top of garden there was a stone bridge, which is still there but rockery conifers have grown into full size trees. When you were on the bridge there used to be a vista to the rose garden but that has now disappeared. The pool has also gone. There used to be two white seats that the Peels sat on. David describes the garden. There was a 'well' put in by Hancock. Tennis courts and blossom from cherry trees. All year round there was colour which has now gone. He describes apple trees and fruit cages. Kitchen garden used to be full of veg.   |
| 29.04 | You went back recently was that the first time? The first nuns were marvellous and friendly - he mentions Sister Mary Lawrence. Nuns were friendly and they would take dogs and children up to visit. The nuns held a party for his mum and dad. They talk about recent nuns and had got the impression they weren't welcomed. When his dad died they put a seat for him in the gardens but the seat has disappeared. Talks about recent visit and seeing a house sign to white library. Informed sisters that it wasn't library but the servery. Nuns used to take their children up stairs. She talks about how neighbours sharing has now changed. Talks about mum and dad in Yealand sharing with neighbours. Used to be in everyones' houses.  |
| 35.00 | It had been different at Hynning as they were on their own in the cottage and it was quite isolated. Talks about where people at Hynning lived.   |
| 36.15 | Could you take me through the chronology of Edgar working after Lord Peel? Dad stayed on when there was new owner but they had to move to Yealand. When estate was sold to nuns they asked him to stay on with one other gardener. Lord Peel died and the estate was sold as William was more interested in Gunnerside Estate in Yorkshire. David never saw William again. Robert has a landscape gardening business. Every September the Peels would go to Gunnerside for a few weeks with the whole household. He talks about loading the car (ex of George Formby) with veg. Lord Peel would go over in Rolls.   |
| 41.30 | How did the gardens get shown off? They had open days for charity and David describes an open day. David wrecked it one day by having appendicitis as they had to take bunting down for the ambulance. Lady Peel did a lot for Catholic church. Talks about his dad not liking Maggie   |

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|                | Thatcher. Josephine worked for someone who used to be a maid at Hyning. Lady Peel used to take in orphans from Ireland. She would speak to staff. She had her own things she wanted to do in garden.  |
| 45.30          | Did your dad have the freedom to do what he wanted in the garden? He shared ideas at the weekly meeting with Lord Peel. He thinks that Edgar changed the herbaceous border a lot. They valued his input but he was stuck in his ways – an old school gardener. He didn't change with the times in terms of gardening and he wouldn't try new things on his allotment.   |
| 47.90          | What happened to things such as the orchids. Orchids taken into the house sometimes for a display. All cut flowers came from garden Every morning there was a list detailing what flowers they wanted for displays. Pot plants in the hot house were grown to take into Hall. House parties? No but they had small dinners and always wore black tie. His mum used to say that ladies withdrew after dinner - very old school. In the breakfast room along one wall was a sideboard and every morning everything was laid out, but most would go to waste. Mum cooked everything on an aga in Hall.   |
| 50.40          | Did your friends visit you? When you lived down there you didn't really have friends. You were in your own world (which is why David took up photography).  |
| 51.30          | David talks about his dad's idea to open a garden centre, on the A6, which was rejected by Mr and Mrs Peel. They said that it wouldn't work but Edgar thought that they would be popular. They had many rare trees there. The Kettlewells had it to themselves for a lot of the time even when first nuns were there. Josephine talks of the first time she went to hyning in the 70s. Edgar used to stride out. He wore a suit, shirt and tie (often castoffs) to work and didn't care what he looked like. Respected position? He got into judging local shows. He was friendly with the head gardener from Wray Castle - Leslie Cheeseman. They judged shows together. |
| 57.55 – 103.10 | Both give a detailed list and description of the shops in Carnforth in the 70s. David talks about the Pru office which was almost Dickensian in 70s. Crag was still working then. On New Year's Eve the steam engines at Carnforth Station would come out and toot. Steam engines shunted throughout the night (behind their house).  |
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|                | Interviewed and summarised by Emma Aylett April 2016  |