

Summary of Interview with John Dixon (#1 of 3)

Interviewee : John Mathias Dixon, born 29 April 1896

Interviewer : Denys Vaughan

Date of Interview : probably January 1993

Duration of Recording : 36 mins 2 secs

Approx time (mins)	Content
0 – ¼	Introduction to planned recording by Denys Vaughan.
¼ – 2½	Discussion regarding JD's elder brother Tom, and younger brother, William.
2½ – 3	Mention of film in DV's possession of brother Tom running after cattle in Hampsfeld.
3 – 5	Hard lesson early in life for not telling the truth.
5 – 6	Career built on trust, not living for money.
6 – 7½	Father was first tenant at newly build Ellerside Farm in 1890s. Mention of some old bills, including bill from butcher Crewdson for beef @ 6 ^d /lb. Remembering visits of traction engine driven thrashing machine, driven by Joe Johnson of Flookburgh.
7½ – 11½	Discussion of various people mentioned in an old Grange Red Book in JD's possession, including father William at Pit Farm; Mr Haddock, a clothier in Cartmel; Mr Lancaster, a saddler; several members of the Frearson family, including Dixon Frearson who was a tailor, and father of Arthur Frearson who had just retired from Cartmel choir after 60 years therein, and Arthur's aunt who was a tea dealer; also the Howson family who were builders, based at Aynsome, but went out of business due to bad debts.
11½ – 14	JD moved from Pit Farm to Borwicks Farm in 1923, which father had bought from the Remington family in 1918. Also took over Greenbank Farm about the same time. Lot of estates changing hands about that time. A good lamb valued at about 30 ^s at that time.
14 – 16	Breeds of sheep used. Sheep yard described on fell above Pit Farm, and names of parts of the fell given.
16 – 16¾	Sheep dipping, and changes in practice.
16¾ – 19½	Stories of sheep getting stuck in clinks on the fell, and DV finding sheep in a mineshaft on Coniston, belonging to Alan Wilson from Coniston Hall.
19½ – 21½	Starting to deal in cattle etc., mention of Fred Inman, parents at Longlands, Mr Hickson, Fred Scott, and borrowing money from father.
21½ – 23¾	Story of getting done with the first beast ever bought.
23¾ – 25	Early milk round in Cartmel, mention of Fred Inman again, cycling round countryside to buy bullocks.
25 – 35	Stories of supplying cattle to a big buyer named Mr Girling, including arranging wagons to Ipswich at Cark Station with Mr Brown the Stationmaster there. Also sending cattle to Lancaster auction market by train, and attending Ulverston market every week, prices for cattle pre-war.
35 – 35½	Mention of John Nelson, a manager for Mr Nash at Pit Farm.
35½ – 36	Growing oats and barley – answer curtailed by arrival of visitor.