

[Start of interview - 00:22:44]

WRM What's your name?

JS Jim Smith.

WRM Jim Smith?

JS Yes.

WRM Yes, and you were at Whinney Mire?

JS That's right.

WRM Were you born there?

JS No.

WRM You weren't?

JS No.

WRM No? How long have you been at Whinney Mire?

JS All me life.

WRM You had?

JS Yeah.

WRM Yeah, you went there as a baby did you?

JS Yeah.

WRM Yeah? Ah yes. What was your father's name?

JS Joseph Waller.

WRM Joseph? Ah yes, and he farmed there did he for quite a few years?

JS Yeah.

WRM Whinney Mire, that was one of the farms that had the sheep up on Ingleborough, was it?

JS That's right.

WRM Yeah, whereabouts on Ingleborough?

JS On t'lower edge o' Crina Bottom rocks, like.

WRM Ah yes, how does it work on this side? Teddy Dawson's told me about Newby and Clapham commons, and how they work that, but how did the Ingleton men work it? Was it stinted?

JS No, there were boundaries, stones right up like onto Ingleborough.

WRM What kind of boundary?

JS Just a stone up, with Newby at one side and Ingleton on the other.

WRM Aye, what has it got on one side, Newby?

JS N for Newby and I a't other for Ingleton.

WRM Oh yes, where's the stone?

JS Well, it's 'alf way between t'fell gate an' Bleak Bank like. Yer know, straight up?

WRM Yes. So you were up on White Scar moor were you?

JS Yeah. Well, we bought a lot of land at Skirwith, yer see?

WRM Oh, I see.

JS And we've got our sheep heathed o'er that side, yer see.

WRM Was it stinted at all?

JS No.

WRM It wasn't?

JS No.

WRM No, no. Was it in a fence?

JS No, no fence, no.

WRM You just let 'em open?

JS Yeah, they heathed on their own ground, like.

WRM Aye, so they were heathed were they?

JS Yeah.

WRM What kind of sheep did you keep in the old days?

JS Dalesbred; Dalesbred and Swaledales.

WRM They've always been that for years, have they?

JS Yeah.

WRM It'd be very rocky up there, wouldn't it?

JS No, it's not so bad.

WRM Isn't it?

JS No.

WRM So you'd drive them up Crina Bottom, would you?

JS No, from at Cold Cotes.

WRM Cold Cotes? Ah yes?

JS Yeah, where we've land up t'dale, yer see, they used to meet back over that way yer see across heath, like.

WRM Oh, I see. Yeah. So you were just this side of Newby Moss were you?

JS Yeah.

WRM I see, yeah. And how often did you gather them up there?

JS Well, there was t'clippin', dippin', then t' [unclear 00:25:17 – draft?], an' dippin' again.

WRM Yes, that's right. And you gathered them down to Newby Cote then, did you?

JS No, Cold Cotes.

WRM Cold Cotes?

JS Yeah.

WRM Ah yes. And what was there down there, were there some enclosures, or crofts or anything?

JS No, we made some pens, like. We used to ketch 'em all out, every farmer... it used to be a heck of a job, and then we put a shedder in. That was no work at all. Once we'd put a shedder in every man 'ad 'is own gate, yer see?

WRM Oh, I see.

JS And let 'em into 'is own pen, you see? And then t'sheep got to know their pen, like.

WRM Oh, did they?

JS Yeah.

WRM So you brought them all down together?

JS Yeah, we used to arrange a day and all go that day, you see.

WRM Yes. Was there a group of you?

JS Yes, all t'farmers round about went up. All Ingleton side went together, yer see. Newby men they'd go together, yer see.

WRM That's right. Now the Ingleton men, did you used to have a meeting every year?

JS No.

WRM No, you just got in touch with each other?

JS Yeah. Well, it was arranged nearly from one year end to t'other like, yer know?

WRM Yeah. It wasn't like Austwick where you met at the Village Hall once a year and had a natter?

JS No.

WRM I remember John Chapman saying, 'This'll make t'old ewes late for a bit of fodder', you know? He used to lay on a bit of diamond fodder when he weren't there. And the Ingleton men, which were years ago, which farms?

JS Goat Gap, Sunderlands, High Leys, Nutgill, Holly Platt, Slatenber and Yarlshber. Who else were there? Sam Wellands at Cold Cotes, Brackenber, Round Farm, Dickie Metcalfe at Goat Gap...

WRM And some of those are no longer farms, are they?

JS What now? No, High Leys is gone. Oh, there was Brass from Nutgill.

WRM Mr Brass?

JS Yeah, from Nutgill.

WRM Nutgill. What was his first name?

JS It were Douglas, like it's young John now what 'as it, his nephew.

WRM Where's Nutgill?

JS On t'Bentham road.

WRM Ah, yes, yeah.

JS Going to Bentham, you know?

WRM And so the Ingleton men, they put theirs up on the hill at Cold Cotes and the area generally speaking was round Ingleton. How far up the dale did it go into Chapel-le-Dale, not far?

JS What?

WRM The area covered with your sheep.

JS Oh, they went right up to t'far end o' t'dale, like.

WRM Did they?

JS Yeah, on t'fell, like. And there were Bob Capstick, at Fell End 'ere, 'e turned

up.

WRM Right. And so you arranged from year to year about rounding them up. What time of day did you set off to round them up?

JS Well, in summer with t'hot weather we'd be up at four o'clock or three o'clock in t'morning like, before the heat got up like an' get 'em down yer see? Especially with hay-time, like, we'd get 'em down an' they were clipped an' back like, yer know?

WRM So what was the routine? You sent some men up to the wall at the top did you? Did you go right up to the top of Ingleborough?

JS Well, I used to take 'em up in t'Landrover, up t'dale?

WRM Did you? You took the men up there?

JS Yeah. I did at t'latter end like, but I used to go at t'far end like, but this last five to ten year I had to go up t'dale like, yer know?

WRM How far up did you go?

JS Up to just past Dale House there.

WRM Ah, yes, which is that?

JS Yer know where t'road turns back down towards **[unclear 00:29:03 – Barge's?]**, down t'back road?

WRM Oh, yes.

JS We used to go up there an' turn round at that road end. Well, they 'adn't far to walk onto t'fell there.

WRM Oh yes, near the Church?

JS Yeah, you hadn't far to walk then up on the fell, you see?

WRM Yeah, because you hadn't any sheep up on the scars, had you? It was on the lower part, was it?

JS Oh no, they used to go right up on t'scars.

WRM Did they?

JS Yeah, right to t'far end.

WRM Right up to [unclear 00:29:23 – Ark?], is it they call it?

JS No, right up past Ark, right on there.

WRM Did they? And did they go right to the top of the hill?

JS Yeah.

WRM So it would be a heck of a job rounding them up?

JS Well, it was, years gone by yer know, because all t'walls got down up there, so we'd right away to Ribbleshead to go to. Where t'rails were down in t'top fields these crossed right across to Ribbleshead. Years gone by all t'fences got knocked down, yer see?

WRM Yeah. But have they been all put up now?

JS They're all put up now, aye.

WRM So it's better now than it used to be?

JS Oh, yeah.

WRM So at gathering time then, you got up early in the morning and in the old days you got to set off, what, on a horse?

JS No, I walked it.

WRM Walked it?

JS Yes, I allus walked it.

WRM You'd have to walk up the dale...?

JS No, we used to walk right up t'fell from Cold Cotes.

WRM Ah yes, that's right.

JS Straight up.

WRM Up onto t'top of Ingleborough?

JS Yeah, an' round back.

WRM And then bring 'em all down. Did the sheep shed themselves?

JS Well, Newby side sheep went that way and Ingleton side went this way, yer see?

WRM Oh, I see.

JS They'd an idea wheear to go.

WRM So you went up with t'Newby men, did you?

JS Yeah, they'd all go t'same day, Clapham an' all; they all gathered t'same day if they could like.

WRM So there'd be a few thousand sheep floating about?

JS Aye, there were, aye.

WRM And when you came down to Cold Cotes you brought them all together at one time, but then later you had this little pen, did you?

JS Well, every farmer rented 'is own pen at t'fell bottom, yer see? When we used to allus catch 'em out on t'fell every farmer had to 'old pen, well, that were hard work so we put a shedder in. While sheep run at this shedder, an' every man stood at his own pen wi' gaites comin' up 'e let 'em through, yer see?

WRM Oh, I see.

JS They get to know an' all, they knew their own pens.

WRM Did they? What sort of a fell is Ingleborough?

JS It's alright.

WRM It is?

JS Yeah.

WRM Is it good for sheep?

JS Oh, aye.

WRM There used to be a bit more heather up there did there at one time? Old Georgie Berry used to say.

JS There used to be one side all heather. I remember our old fella tell he used to walk from Bleak Bank over to Crina Bottom House, yer know? They used to have cows there, an' he said he used to walk on t'heather. It used to spring as they walked on it, yer know?

WRM Do you remember when Crina Bottom was a farm?

JS No.

WRM But your father did?

JS Yes, Grandfather did, an' Father, aye.

WRM What was your Grandfather called?

JS J.W.

WRM J.W.?

JS Smith.

WRM Smith. And he remembered when Crina Bottom was a farm?

JS Oh, he used to get 'ay there an' feed t'cows there.

WRM Did he?

JS He used to walk from Bleak Bank over to feed 'em in winter.

WRM Who had the farm?

JS Eh?

WRM Who had the farm?

JS I don't know who'd 'ave it then. It'd 'appen be... I couldn't tell you who 'ad it. But it was some relation of t'Smith family, like, like what 'ad it.

WRM Yeah, and your Grandfather, when he was young he used to walk across there did he? From where?

JS Bleak Bank.

WRM From Bleak Bank? He used to live at Bleak Bank did he?

JS Yeah, he were workin' there, like. An' he used to walk across to Crina Bottom to feed t'cows in winter.

WRM Yeah, gosh, that's nice. An' there used to be some fields round it were there?

JS Yeah, well there still are, it is like.

WRM Was there meadows?

JS Yeah.

WRM Yeah. And they used to make hay there, did they?

JS Yeah.

WRM Get their Irishmen from Bentham, did they?

JS That's right, aye.

WRM *[Laughs]* That's right. *[Unclear 00:32:44 – Amber?]* Ewbank was telling me about going up. He said that he worked for his uncle up at Newby Cote and he said he got half way up Ingleborough one day, he was supposed to be gathering sheep, and t' mist came down and he went up for t' sheep and in the end they brought him down.

JS *[Laughs]* Aye.

WRM He followed them! *[Laughs]*

JS Yeah.

WRM Yeah, so you've had some do's up Ingleborough then?

JS Aye, '47 was a bad 'un, I'll tell ye.

WRM Do you remember it?

JS I do that.

WRM Yeah? What happened that time?

JS Oh, we lost a lot o' sheep. Well people did, we weren't so bad. Gypsies come an awful lot. They buried t'sheep for t'wool.

WRM Did they?

JS An' they used to pull all t'wool of it an' take it up onto where you 'ad a bit o' waste ground over that railway; common ground, is it?

WRM Yeah?

JS Clapham Bottoms? I don't know whether they call it Clapham Bottoms or not. And they used to 'ave it all spread out to dry, and the smell were terrible.

WRM What happened? The dead sheep were all dropped into a pot-hole, were they?

JS Well, I don't know what they did, they had to bury them like, but for t'wool; they used to pull all t'wool off 'em an' then tek it out round t'caravans to dry.

WRM This was after they'd been buried?

JS No, they took t'wool of 'em first. They'd pull all t'wool off.

WRM Oh, I see, yeah. This was the gypsies?

JS Aye, an' the smell, it were terrible.

WRM This was before the farmers got at 'em?

JS No, they made ‘em tek ‘em, t’save ‘em burying ‘em, yer see?

WRM Oh, I see. What did they do with the bodies?

JS They’d bury ‘em, I think.

WRM Yeah, and were there hundreds?

JS Oh, thousands.

WRM Of sheep?

JS Aye, thousands went down.

WRM What, on Ingleborough?

JS Aye, well, an’ down in t’land, yer know; it lasted that long, yer know?

WRM Do you remember it starting?

JS I do that, aye.

WRM What happened?

JS Well, it was just some o’ similar weather as this; wet back end an’ then it come February ‘til about March.

WRM It was a north-easter, was it?

JS It was that. It filled all t’roads. We must have dug eight or ten times Cotes’ road out, as fast we dug it out it filled it again. To fetch all the milk and

proven we went through t' field like, through our field. We 'ad to pull t' walls down to get up to village.

WRM And the point is that you hadn't much warning to get the sheep down, had you?

JS Oh, we 'ad plenty warning. We 'ad 'em down, yer see?

WRM Oh, you'd brought 'em all down?

JS They was down, yer see, they were down 'ere, aye. But the trouble was they 'adn't watter, that was t'trouble.

WRM So the sheep were brought down for lambing were they?

JS Well, they didn't lamb while April, like, but they allus come down for winter, yer see? There are not many sheep up in winter, like.

WRM Oh, so there was nothing much up on Ingleborough?

JS No. The fella at Dale House, Brown they called him (he's dead now), he let all 'orses on an' 'e never bothered with 'is sheep. I went up one day an' dead sheep were showin' out o' t'snow an' t'horses were eating wool off 'em. Hungry to death.

WRM Horses?

JS Horses, aye; they were hungry to death, yer know?

WRM Which is Dale House?

JS Up Chapel-le-Dale.

WRM Up by the Church?

JS No, further down.

WRM Further down, ah, yes.

JS Just past White Scar Cave.

WRM Who was the farmer at that time?

JS Brown.

WRM Is he there now?

JS No.

WRM Dead?

JS Yeah.

WRM Of course, you don't want to mention too much of the people who are still living, do yer?

JS No. *[Laughs]*

WRM What was his first name?

JS Will Brown.

WRM He'd been caught out, had he, by the weather?

JS He didn't bother wi' 'em. He couldn't care less. He got paid, an' we it was that kept 'em alive, but we got nowt.

WRM Oh, he was just [unclear 00:36:17] was he?

JS No, 'is own. An' 'e couldn't care less.

WRM And where were these sheep, which part of Ingleborough?

JS On t'White Scar Caves, the worrit land round by White Scar Caves, an' on theear. He didn't bother wi' 'em.

WRM Do the sheep get right up the cliffs, on Ingleborough?

JS Oh aye, sometime they get stuck like at times.

WRM Do they?

JS Aye.

WRM Have you had them stuck up there?

JS We've had 'em down t'potholes, like.

WRM Have yer? Which potholes? Meregill?

JS Long Kin.

WRM Aye. And have you had to take ropes up to get 'em off t'craggs?

JS Aye.

WRM Who used to do that?

JS Old Jimmy Sutton.

WRM Did he? I remember him.

JS You do?!

WRM From Newby... his wife's still living.

JS No, he never married wa'n't Jimmy.

WRM Oh, it must have been... there was a Mr Sutcliffe.

JS Sutton.

WRM Oh, Jimmy Sutton, he used to go to t'Whist Drives at Austwick. White hair.

JS No, that'd be his brother.

WRM Aye? There was a Mr Sutton; anyway he used to go to Whist Drives.

JS Yeah, Jimmy were never wed.

WRM And Jimmy Sutton, what did he do, he got t'rope did he?

JS Aye, he were roped for t'job like. We got t'rope specially for t'job like.

WRM Where did Jimmy Sutton live?

JS At Holly Platt.

WRM Ah, yes. He was the man who was noted for...?

JS Yes, Reg Rainworth went down part, yer know?

WRM So he used to get ropes out to go down potholes? And he also got ‘em off crags, did he?

JS Yeah, but chiefly down potholes, like.

WRM The sheep had a pretty rough time in those days, did they, because they wouldn’t be fed as well as they are today would they?

JS I don’t know, they gave ‘em plenty of hay. They looked after ‘em.

WRM Aye, they seem to spoil ‘em today, don’t they? If you look at ‘em they roll on their backs to have their stomachs rubbed don’t they? *[Laughs]* Ah, lovely. And that ’47 winter...

JS Oh, it were a shocker.

WRM I mean, nobody would go up Ingleborough, would they?

JS Well, there were nowt on. Rabbits come down in thousands.

WRM *[Laughs]* From Ingleborough?

JS Oh, aye, they come right down to Whinney Mire they did. There were ‘undreds, yer know, thousands of ‘em.

WRM Did they?

JS Aye, they were skin and bone like.

WRM What, off Ingleborough?

JS Aye, they were in t'barns an' in among t'hay, getting' in 'ay barns; it were terrible. There were thousands of 'em come down. There're usually thousands on Ingleborough, you know?

WRM Is there, whereabouts?

JS All t'way; all over Ingleborough.

WRM Were they? It was a big warren, was it?

JS Aye, there were rabbits all over. An' then what do you call 'im, Murray the gamekeeper he trapped 'em all wi' rat-traps, you know?

WRM Did he?

JS He got a heck of a lot. He cleaned them out.

WRM I mean, you were infested with them, I suppose.

JS Oh, there were thousands on 'em.

WRM So it was a bit of disaster that winter was it?

JS *[Laughs]* Aye. I wouldn't like to see another.

WRM And then when was it that green ends started showing through on the hill?

JS Only in April.

WRM Was it?

JS Aye, an' we'd a wonderful lambin' time wi' t'sheep what were left. Well, we hadn't lost so many, like. We had a wonderful lambin' time. Mind you, we 'ad looked after 'em.

WRM What else have you seen up on Ingleborough, I mean when you've been shepherding up there? Do you get many foxes up there?

JS There's more now then there used to be.

WRM Is there?

JS There used to be hardly any, but it's running with 'em now. It's terrible.

WRM Do people go out shooting them?

JS They don't bother as much as they did, but they're havin' a bit o' trouble now wi' lambs an' that in the spring.

WRM Are they?

JS They've brought a lot out of town, yer know, an' let 'em go.

WRM 'Ave they? Who's done that?

JS Well, these good-doers, aren't they? Somebody said they saw one let a van full go at our gate, up Skirwith, one day.

WRM Did they?

JS Aye.

WRM Why don't they do 'em in, down where they are?

JS Oh, they don't believe in it, do they?

WRM No... oh, gosh.

JS They don't believe in hunting 'em now, do they?

WRM No. So there's a lot of 'em are there?

JS Oh, aye, they went wi' a lot of lambs last year up t' dale.

WRM Did they?

JS They did, aye.

WRM And round about Ingleborough?

JS Yeah.

WRM Whereabouts do you find them on Ingleborough? Where do they get in?

JS In t'Arks, like. An' these what they're lettin' go out o' town, they're not goin' to ground, you know, they're stoppin' on t'top.

WRM Are they?

JS They're never used to goin' to ground, yer see, they're sleepin' out on t'top. They're bad to get.

WRM Yeah. You'll have been up on Ingleborough in some bad weather, won't you?

JS I 'ave that.

WRM What about wind, have you been blown over?

JS No, no.

WRM You've been right up on the top often enough.

JS Oh, aye.

WRM Somebody says an American's bought it.

JS What?

WRM Top of Ingleborough.

JS Geraway... I think that'll only be a tale.

WRM Will it?

JS Aye.

WRM Well, I thought I'd check it out. I thought it was a bit of a tale.

JS Yeah, it'll be a tale, that.

WRM Will it?

JS Yeah.

WRM Who is in charge of the Ingleton side now, do they have anybody organising it, or they don't?

JS No, I think there's one or two. I've got out o' touch now, like, you know?

WRM Yeah.

JS I've given o'er botherin'.

WRM Pardon?

JS I've given o'er botherin'.

WRM Oh, have you? Do you get badgers up there too?

JS No.

WRM And hawks?

JS Not many. Fair share of carrion crows up there, like.

WRM Yeah; yes, the trouble is there aren't so much of anything these days, are there really?

JS No.

WRM You know? There aren't all that many curlews like there used to be.

JS Not to what there used to be.

WRM The place used to ring with them, didn't it?

- JS Yeah, all birds there's not a lot left, is there?
- WRM Yeah. Of course, there'd be a lot of grouse in those old days, do you remember it?
- JS Yeah, I remember grouse being on Ingleborough, there's none now.
- WRM No. I mean, do you remember catching 'em or shootin' 'em?
- JS When I were a lad I used to... when t'telephone wires were up, you know?
- WRM Yeah. Where was that?
- JS On Whinney Mire, on t'main road.
- WRM Yeah?
- JS I used to go an' look at wire to see if there were any feathers. They used to catch t'weather when they were comin' across, you know: if they'd been shootin' they'd come across to Burn Moor. They were alright, you know, they'd just necked thisselves. Oh, I got many a one.
- WRM So really those grouse could... I mean, there was continuous heather all the way across from Burn Moor, across Ingle Moor and up onto Ingleborough?
- JS That's right.
- WRM So it would be all heather, would it?
- JS Yeah.

WRM Yeah, there isn't any now.

JS No.

WRM No, what's the big reason for that?

JS Over-stockin', I think.

WRM Is it?

JS I think so.

WRM Were there any old customs at all up round Ingleborough, farming customs?

JS No, I don't think so. What there were 'ave died out, I think.

WRM Yeah. Ee, well, thanks very much, that's very helpful of you. Did you mow rushes?

JS Aye. Not on Ingleborough, on Newby Moor I did.

WRM You did?

JS Many hundred a cartful, with t'old scythe.

WRM And did you get your coal from Ingleton colliery?

JS Yeah, horse and cart.

WRM And did you keep goats?

JS Yeah.

WRM Did they run up on Ingleborough?

JS No, ours didn't like, but there were some on like.

WRM Whereabouts?

JS Well, yer know where Crina Bottom House is?

WRM Yes.

JS There were a woman from either Leeds or... well, over that way, durin' war lived there, you know?

WRM Was there?

JS She'd a pony an' trap wi' goats.

WRM Did she?

JS Yeah, for t'milk.

WRM What, during the last war?

JS Yeah.

WRM What, the '40s?

JS Yeah.

WRM What would they call her?

JS I've no idea. I know she left them, like.

WRM She left the goats?

JS On top of Ingleborough, or they went. They'd go into Bradford for t'Pakistanis like, I don't know when they went like.

WRM So when she left Crina Bottom she just left the goats on the hill did she?

JS Yeah.

WRM And they soon vanished?

JS Aye, I know where they went like. I knew who took 'em.

WRM Eh?

JS I knew who took 'em, an' all!

WRM Yeah? It wasn't Rabbity Dick, was it?

JS No, no... oh, you knew Rabbity Dick? There were some drowned an' all weren't there, at Wenning?

WRM Yeah.

JS He were a rum lad, wa'n't he?

WRM He was. *[Laughs]* You had to laugh at Rabbity Dick. Anyway, Rob Herd used to go and chase goats over to Trough Gill there, but he was told to go and fetch them just before lambing time.

JS Yeah.

WRM That's what he kept them for.

JS Yeah, they were alright.

WRM Yeah; they could be a bit smelly, couldn't they?

JS No, billy's could. Tiny goats were alright.

WRM You'd got to have wind in your face, hadn't you? *[Laughs]*

JS No, billy's could smell a bit but t'old goats were alright.

WRM It's not a bad fell for sheep then, is it?

JS No, Ingleborough's alright. It's been stocked too hard, that's t'trouble. Too many on, like.

WRM Yeah. Is there enough water for 'em?

JS Aye. Well, there's folk took water off Ingleborough, an' it should never 'ave been done. Down to High Leys, you know, and that spoilt it a bit for t'sheep.

WRM Which is High Leys?

JS Above Cold Cotes.

WRM Ah, yes.

JS They took one of the main springs for t'watter for t'farm, like.

WRM Ah, I see. There were one or two little cuts weren't there up there, sykes and

things?

JS Yeah.

WRM An' it rains up there now an' again, doesn't it?

JS It can do. But one thing, it runs off, dunnit? *[Laughs]*

WRM Yeah. Any other tales about Ingleborough?

JS No, I don't know that I 'ave.

WRM Well, that was lovely anyway, thanks very much. It was very kind of you.

[End of interview - 00:46:04]