

Kendal Oral History Group Interview R0074
Male DOB not known
Recorded by Radio Cumbria in July 1997

Summary Sheet R0074

P.1 Began work at 14 in gardens at Helme Lodge.
Playing billiards in Kendal.
Father and mother came with Col. and Mrs Crewdson when he inherited Helme Lodge.
Crewdsons built houses for chauffeur (Respondent's father) and coachman in Natland Mill Beck Lane.
Father allowed to use car for family outings - drove Belsize two-seater and then bigger car with folding hood.
Horse and trap; dog cart.

P.2 Catching trout and crayfish.
Farmers brought proven to water mill.
Butler vanishes.
Coming-out balls with marquees on the lawn.
Coal provided for "living out" staff during strike.

P.3 Staff reduced in 1931.
Mowing the law; cultivating.
Showing dahlias; growing grapes and peaches.
Mrs Crewdson interested in alpines; seeds brought from Nepal; blue Tibetan poppy.

P.4 Primula Gessicana from Oregon. Crossing poppies to get hybrids.
Mrs Crewdson wrote articles for Gardening Chronicle.
Col. Crewdson interested in farming; was Col. of Border Regiment territorial brigade.
Joining the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Called up 2.9.39.

P.5 Went to Uxbridge with RAF, then Aden. Came home via Suez Canal.
Could have delayed joining RAF as he was an horticulturalist.

P.6 Coltsfoot had taken over garden by the end of the war.
Run-down of crops in greenhouses.
Agricultural Act increased wages. Vegetables and fruit from the garden for free.
Changes in shopping.

P.7 Fire at Helme Lodge in 1912.
Building houses at Helme Lodge in 1990s.
200-year old camellia.