

Transcript of an interview with  
**SUSANNAH BUTLER nee McVEE**  
**b. 1892**

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INTERVIEWER: Annette Roberts  
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DURATION: 2 x 60 minute tapes [second, fifteen minutes]  
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[As the interview progressed Mrs. Butler's manner of speech became more relaxed and has been transcribed verbatim].

TAPE ONE SIDE A

BUTLER

SUSANNAH BUTLER

TAPE ONE SIDE A

[This interview is recorded with Mrs Susannah Butler at Moora on 14 May 1985.] The  
Interviewer is Mrs Annette Roberts

AR Mrs Butler, could you give me your full name.

**BUTLER** Susannah Butler. Oh, do you mean the name before, McVee that it was?

AR You were a McVee were you.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Have you ever had a nickname.

**BUTLER** No, only Susie. That's all. 'Course Sis sometimes.

AR And what is your address now.

**BUTLER** Moore Street, Moora. 38 Moore Street, Moora.

AR What is your date of birth.

**BUTLER** Tenth of December 1892.

AR Can you tell me where you were born.

**BUTLER** Yes. 'Rose Valley'.

AR At the property, 'Rose Valley'.

**BUTLER** Yes, out here, you know. Dandaragan.

AR In Dandaragan. Yes. Oh, were your parents living there at the time.

**BUTLER** They lived at 'Cataby'.

AR Yes. So how was it that you were born at 'Rose Valley'.

**BUTLER** Well, she was the midwife, Mrs. Charlie Cook. That's where everybody used to  
come [laughs] to have their baby.

AR I see. So your Mother stayed there for some time, did she.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Did she go there to have all of her babies.

**BUTLER** Yes, just about I think.

AR Did she. Mm. Could you give me the full names of your Mother and Father.

**BUTLER** Father's name was John Stanton Hugh McVee and Mother's name was Susannah – Susannah Larwood one time, well, before she was married.

AR And what were their dates of birth.

**BUTLER** Oh, I just don't know that [laughs] but their birthdays was in March, both of them. Mother's was on the second and Father's was on the seventeenth.

AR Do you know where they were born.

**BUTLER** Oh, somewhere around Perth but I couldn't say where.

AR They were both born in Western Australia.

**BUTLER** Oh yes.

AR Do you know where they were married.

**BUTLER** Gingin.

AR In the Gingin church.

**BUTLER** [laughs] Oh I suppose there was a church there them days.

AR Do you know when they were married. The date.

**BUTLER** No.

AR Can you give me the full names of your brothers and sisters.

**BUTLER** Yes. I had one Amy and another one was Edward, and then there's Jane, Louisa, Harriet, and there's some dead - I don't know why, nobody knows. And there was myself – Susanne - Sophie and .....[Ewen ?], Caroline.

AR Where did you come in that family. Were you one of the elder children or,

**BUTLER** Oh, I must've been the sixth or seventh one [laughs].

AR                   Where did your family live.

**BUTLER**        Oh, they used to live in Gingin early days, in Gingin, and then they come up to 'Yatheroo'.

AR                   Did they.

**BUTLER**        Yes.

AR                   When was that do you know.

**BUTLER**        No. I've never ever heard.

AR                   That was before you were born was it.

**BUTLER**        Oh yes!

AR                   Long before.

**BUTLER**        Then they, from there they went out to Cataby.

AR                   What sort of a home - what sort of a house did you have out there. Could you describe it to me.

**BUTLER**        Well, the last house they lived in was a bat house. It had five rooms, like straight, and then it had a verandah round and they made some of the verandah each end into two rooms.

AR                   How did they make a bat house. What was that made out of.

**BUTLER**        Oh, clay and sand I s'pose. That's what it looks like to me [laughs].

AR                   Mm. Do you know if it's still there.

**BUTLER**        No, it's not there these days.

AR                   What sort of a house did you live in before that one.

**BUTLER**        [pause] Oh, well

AR                   When you were growing up. As a little girl.

**BUTLER**        [pause] it was, that is to say it was made of split timber and plastered or somethin' like that.

AR                   Yes. How many rooms did that have. Can you remember.

**BUTLER** Oh, that only had about two to three.

AR Would that have had floor boards.

**BUTLER** No.

AR Or would it be a rammed earth floor.

**BUTLER** Yes. Just a clay floor I s'pose they'd call it, or gravel.

AR What about glass windows. Were there

**BUTLER** No. There's no glass windows.

AR So what would you have had – did you have windows.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, there was windows, back and front of the last house, but they had a calico sort of stuff put over 'em, and it'd been painted and it'd made it hard, made it like cement or somethin'.

AR Oh. Goodness. And what about a ceiling in that first house, when you were growing up.

**BUTLER** No, there was no ceilings in it.

AR So you just looked straight up to the roof.

**BUTLER** Straight up to the rafters or roof or something, to the tin.

AR Oh, it was iron was it.

**BUTLER** Yes. Iron. Iron roof.

Ar I guess you must have had a nice big fire place.

**BUTLER** Oh yes! A great big fire place! Then some years after they built a little kitchen, I couldn't say how - it wasn't small - but from the other part of the house.

AR It was separate was it.

**BUTLER** Yes, separate, just off the verandah, not far. Might've bin two or three feet off the verandah. [laughs] And they 'ad a stove in that and a big open fire. But that's still standing there they tell me.

AR The kitchen

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Is still there. Oh.

**BUTLER** I was only told oh a fortnight ago this Thursd'y comin'. My nephew'd bin there, Walter Bayliss, and 'e said that 'John McGee's room we called it'. I said 'that wasn't that! That was the kitchen!' 'Well' 'e said 'I've always thought it was John McGee's room" [laughs].

AR Who was John McGee.

**BUTLER** [laughs] oh, a man.

AR Did your Father have a farm there or

**BUTLER** Oh yes, a bit of a farm, but 'e used to work a good bit for Padbury.

AR Did he, at 'Yathroo'.

**BUTLER** Yes, 'Yathroo'.

AR What sort of work did he do.

**BUTLER** Oh, well 'e drove a bullock team. I can remember seein' the photo of the bullock team you know. As far as I can remember I don't know whether 'e 'ad six bullocks or eight, and it was a flat top sort of a wagon, but I didn't know whether it had sides or not, and 'e used to go down to Perth and get stores and take'em up to Yatheroo.

AR Mm.

**BUTLER** Then last goin' off 'e used to make the road – this road as it used to be years ago, from Dandaragan into Moora.

AR And he made that. He helped make that.

**BUTLER** 'E 'elped make that.

AR What, he carted all the

**BUTLER** Gravel and so forth and put on it, before it was bitumen. Just a gravel road. 'E used to go away, in the winter months mostly, and cart this gravel and make the road.

AR Did he have people to help him with that.

**BUTLER** Yes, 'e 'ad men with 'im.

AR He woud've p'raps been employed by the Road Board for that would he.

**BUTLER** Yes, I s'pose 'e was. They put out this so many chain I think they used to call it, of gravel, or re-gravellin' or somethink like that, and 'e'd do that.

AR Do you know where he got the gravel from.

**BUTLER** Oh [laughs] somewhere along out 'ere, 'Kolburn'. I s'pose there's gravel pits – there used to be along the road. I s'pose they are now.

AR So your Father must've worked at 'Yathroo' for quite a long time.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, 'e used to do for years.

AR And he'd be away from home quite a bit.

**BUTLER** Quite a bit, yes.

AR That must've given your Mother a lot of work. So many children.

**BUTLER** Oh well [laughs] I s'pose it did.

AR She had lots of children to be able to help her.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Did your Father ever tell you any stories about when he worked at "Yathroo". Any incidents that happened.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, 'e used to tell us things about that, but I just don't remember it.

AR Did you children ever go with him at all when he was working. Did you sometimes go with the bullock team.

**BUTLER** Oh well, the elder ones did but I don't ever remember goin', but the ones that was older than me used to go with 'im sometimes. But then when they went to Perth for stores they'd 'ave to camp out p'raps, they'd be a week or more!

AR So did they sleep with tents of a night or

**BUTLER** Under the wagon I s'pose. Just make your bed under the wagon [laughs] and sleep there.

AR Yes, of course. And he would have gone down through Gingin would he.

**BUTLER** Yes. Er, through New Norcia.

AR Through New Norcia.

**BUTLER** Yes, I used to remember hearing talk about things at New Norcia, down through that way.

AR How old were you when you started going to school.

**BUTLER** Oh I just don't remember [laughs].

Ar Where did you go to school.

**BUTLER** Dandaragan, in the church, that's the only place, and that's the place some of my children went to school – the two boys - they all went to school at Dandaragan, in the church you know. 'Course it is now. It was a school an' a church an' a everythink them days. It was used for everythink.

AR And you told me that your Father had helped to cart the stone.

**BUTLER** Yes. I've 'eard 'em say that, that Dad carted the stone to build the church.

AR Do you know who actually built it.

**BUTLER** No I don't. No I don't know that. But then I can remember, oh, it'd be some years after we'd been goin' to school an', just home on holidays I s'pose, and Dad went away to put a new top on the well - that's at the church - and clean it out before the winter comes, but I couldn't say what month it was really.

AR Whereabouts was the well.

**BUTLER** Isn't there a well?

AR There's no well there now.

**BUTLER** Isn't there?

AR Was that out the back.

**BUTLER** Yes. You know the church is built that way along [facing east/west] and just there, the well used to be.

AR Out the back behind the schoolmaster's residence.

**BUTLER** Yes. Just at the end. But I thought it was there – we went out some years ago there, just one Sunday, to have a look. My granddaughter took me – Bev Nenke – and I thought the well was there then. Must be –

AR Well maybe it's just covered now with grasses.

**BUTLER** ..... [wood ?]

AR Yes. I've never seen it.

**BUTLER** 'Aven't you?

AR NO.

**BUTLER** 'Course the last time I went to Dandaragan I went to Ellen Short's [nee Cook] funeral. Well, we only just went to the front of the church and that's all, we waited there.

AR Can you remember any of your teachers' names from school.

**BUTLER** Yes, Mr. Clark was the first teacher we had, then we

AR What sort of a teacher was he.

**BUTLER** Well I thought 'e was a good teacher, and 'e taught some of my children.

AR He was there a long time.

**BUTLER** Oh no, 'e went away and, only 'ad two children when 'e taught me, but 'e went away and 'e come back. When 'e taught my children 'e 'ad six boys.

AR Mm. Goodness.

**BUTLER** You don't remember Leo?

AR Yes.

**BUTLER** Do you?

AR Yes. He was at 'Yathroo' wasn't he.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Yes. And he was a son of your Mr. Clark.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Was Mr. Clark very strict. What sort discipline was there in the class.

**BUTLER** I thought 'e was, well in some place 'e, some types of times 'e'd be pretty strict and other times 'e'd be quite a happy sort of man. And o'course 'e only 'ad one arm you know.

AR Did he.

**BUTLER** Mm.

AR Do you know how that had happened.

**BUTLER** 'E was thrown off a horse or so they tell me, I don't really know 'cause 'e wasn't livin' at Dandaragan them days. Thrown off a horse and got dragged, something happened to 'is arm. The first time ever I remember seein' 'im 'e only 'ad the one arm.

AR Was he married then.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR And living out behind the school.

**BUTLER** No, 'e was livin' at Moore River, at a place called The Junction. 'E was teachin' there, and my brother and I went down to a auntie and a uncle used to live there, and that's where I first saw 'im.

AR And then later he came to Dandaragan to teach.

**BUTLER** Came to Dandaragan.

AR How did you get to school. If you were living at 'Cataby'.

**BUTLER** Well there was a sister married and she lived at – Amy Dodd – she lived at a place called 'Everton' [?] that way I think, and we walked from there up to school.

AR How far would that have been.

**BUTLER** Oh, I s'pose it was two mile or more.

AR Long walk.

**BUTLER** [laughs] Walkin' was no distance them days. Either walked or stayed home.

AR What about when it was raining. How did you manage then.

**BUTLER** Oh, have a coat!

AR Mm. Did any of the children ride horses to school, or buggies.

**BUTLER** No. None of us children.

AR But any of the other children in the school.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, some of the other children used to drive a buggy. There was the Burnetts used to come from 'Yatheroo' – Aubrey Burnett, d'you know 'im?

AR Yes.

**BUTLER** Well 'is Mother and Father used to be at 'Yatheroo' and they used to drive them there.

AR The parents used to drive them to school.

**BUTLER** No, the eldest son drove.

AR Can you remember any of the names of the other pupils when you were at school.

**BUTLER** Yes, there was the Burnetts and Cooks, Bowerses and Joneses and us McVees and the Butlers – that's my husband's family. That's all used to come. Wasn't many families lived there them days [laughs]. Not even when we came 'ere. When we lived out there 'course they were Cooks there, Robertses there and Cooks there and Joneses there, and Cooks again – there was a lot of Cooks you know, and Bowerses, Joneses - that's all there was them's few names about there.

AR Where did the Butlers live.

**BUTLER** You know where Butler's 'ill is?

AR Yes. [Butler's Paddock, 'Kayanaba', on the northern corner of the junction of Kayanaba Road].

**BUTLER** Well, a little place on that side. Is there a well or anythink there.

AR Yes, there are the ruins of an old cottage.

**BUTLER** Well that's where they used to live.

AR Were they working on 'Kayanaba' or did they

**BUTLER** No, they used to work, well I s'pose 'e did work at 'Kayanaba' one time, at Drummonds's – 'Yere Yere'.

AR Yes. If you think about the school as it was when you were going there, could you describe to me what it was like inside the classroom. Can you give me a picture of what it was like.

**BUTLER** Yes, well it was just with the desks and

AR Did you have little chairs or forms.

**BUTLER** No, we 'ad forms. Desks they used to call it, big desks like that where you put your books and things on, and then it's a sort of a seat out the back was made with bits of iron and went right along from end to end like that, and we'd all, three or four or five, whatever could get in that class, and if there's too many for the class well they had to go further back.

AR And there were all ages of children in together weren't there.

**BUTLER** Yes, they all had the one room.

AR Were there floor boards in there.

**BUTLER** Yes. All the floor boards.

AR Was there a big blackboard.

**BUTLER** Yes, two blackboards. There was one that side and that side of the school.

AR Were they fixed on the wall.

**BUTLER** No, they're on a stand.

AR What sort of lessons were you taught. What subjects.

**BUTLER** Oh, we used to 'ave reading and arithmetic; then sometimes ..... minister or whichever one was out that way always called on the school and some children wouldn't take any scripture or anything from the minister – well that was the catholics I was always told. They could git up and go out, and Mr. Clark was a catholic, 'e used to just stand at the blackboard and just [laughs] look at the, 'e usedn't to

AR Usedn't to listen very much.

**BUTLER** Well he used to listen I s'pose but 'e didn't take any notice.

AR What about – was there a piano there.

**BUTLER** Yes. They used to use that for the dances.

AR Who used to play it.

**BUTLER** Mrs Drummond.

AR From 'Yere Yere'.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR And who played it during class time. Did you have singing.

**BUTLER** Didn't have anyone to play it them days.

AR You didn't.

**BUTLER** No.

AR No. Did you girls learn sewing and that sort of thing.

**BUTLER** Yes. Whoever was the, when we went to school the teacher's wife, she taught.

AR Mrs. Clark.

**BUTLER** Mrs. Clark.

AR Anything else that she taught you.

**BUTLER** No, only sewing. Then in years to come if that teacher went away and a new one come, well the next teacher's wife'd take the sewing.

AR What sort of sewing did she teach you. Was it making clothes or embroidery.

**BUTLER** Oh, just plain sewing, learning to sew – top sewing, hemming. We might make a pinafore or a pair of pants or somethin' like that [laughs] for ourselves.

AR Did Mr. Clark teach you the whole time you were at school there.

**BUTLER** Yes. Oh, 'e was there for a good many years then 'e went away and another man come by the name of Walker, then there was a Green.

AR That wouldn't have been any relation to Sam Green [of Ballamarra].

**BUTLER** No, no relation at all. Just came from somewhere else.

AR Can you remember what time you started school of a day, and what time you finished.

**BUTLER** Nine o'clock, quarter past three [laughs] we went into school. We'd 'ave to be there before nine, but at nine o'clock that's the time you went to school, until eleven – we 'ad five minutes' play that time – and then twelve o'clock we came out for lunch, and quarter past three you came out to go 'ome.

AR How long did you have for lunch.

**BUTLER** Oh, one o'clock we 'ad to go back.

AR What sort of things did you have to eat for lunch in those days.

**BUTLER** Oh well just p'raps some meat sandwiches and some cake or biscuit – it was all 'ome made stuff them days. That's what we'd 'ave. Whatever fruit there was, we'd 'ave some of that.

AR Did they have any fruit trees at the school there.

**BUTLER** They 'ad four fig trees – two on the boys' side [pause] that side was the boys, they 'ad two fig trees three there, and two fig trees on the girls' side.

AR So the girls sat on the right hand side as you went into the classroom.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR And the boys always sat on the left.

**BUTLER** On the left. We wasn't supposed to go on the boys' side and wasn't supposed to go on the girls' side [laughs] – the boys wasn't.

AR Where in the classroom did the littlest children sit.

**BUTLER** At the back.

AR And the oldest ones were up the front were they.

**BUTLER** Up the front. And then they changed it, they put younger ones to the front and the elder ones to the back.

AR They'd do that every now and then would they.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR to change things around.

**BUTLER** Change things around.

AR Do you remember ever a superintendent coming to the school.

**BUTLER** Yes, there used to be a inspector we called 'im them days [chuckles]. He used to come once a year and 'e'd take all the classes. That's when we had the exams they used to call that, whether you was good enough to go up to the next first, second and third they called it them days.

AR There were three classes were there.

**BUTLER** No, I think there must've been more than that.

AR So what was it like doing exams with the inspector.

**BUTLER** Oh, we'd just 'ave sums and we'd 'ave reading and spelling and that sort of – wasn't too hard then. 'E didn't give us too 'ard because the inspector used to have to come by train to Moora then where we used to stop – John Dodd's – well 'e used to have the Dandaragan mail [run] and 'e'd come in and pick 'im up off the train today like, and Mrs. John Cook always used to put them up where Roderick [Cook] lives there.

AR At 'Noondel'.

**BUTLER** Yes. And then the next morning – I don't know whether Cooks fetched 'im to the school or whether 'e walked [laughs]..... [probably walked as it is so close] and then by a certain time in the afternoon 'e'd be finished, the inspector, and John Dodd'd be waiting there for 'im with a buggy, pick 'im up and takes 'im to catch the train back to Perth.

AR What sort of games did you play there at school, in the lunch hour or before school.

**BUTLER** Oh, rounders or things like that. Tennis we used to play. Mostly rounders and tennis. Just run around you know [chuckles].

AR There was no tennis court there was there.

**BUTLER** Oh no, just play in the, anywhere round the ground.

AR What about if it was raining. What did you do then.

**BUTLER** Stop under the verandah.

AR Where were the verandahs.

**BUTLER** Well the school. Aren't they there now?

AR No. [the side verandahs were removed c. early 1960s and replaced c. 2006]

**BUTLER** Oh there was a verandah that side right up you know, the [school master's] quarters comes along like that – well there was a verandah right up that side and a verandah right up this side. That was the girls' [on the right] and that was the boys' [on the left].

AR So that when you were playing you also were segregated. It was girls one side and boys the other.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Were you allowed to play together outside.

**BUTLER** Oh yes. That's just, we had to sit under the verandah and 'ave your lunch, but if you wanted to play and run around the ground, well you could run and squeal and shout [laughs] whatever you like.

AR Did any of you ever help the school master.

**BUTLER** Teach? Yes, there was a few ones used to take the smaller classes.

AR And write things up on the blackboard?

**BUTLER** No, only just mostly readin' or doin' arithmetic or something like that.

AR Did many children play truant in those days.

**BUTLER** No [laughs].

AR They were all pretty good were they.

**BUTLER** Mm.

AR Was it bush around the school then.

**BUTLER** Oh there was a few little bushes - there was none in the yard you know, where it was fenced, down that way, and at the back, and then at the front up towards the road. Not in the yard. Across the road there was a bit of bush I think in that.

AR And the avenue of trees coming down to the school.

**BUTLER** Oh, well they must've planted them after my time at school.

AR Oh, they weren't there then.

**BUTLER** No, there was none there. There was only, when I went to school there there was a few trees along that side [indicating right].

AR on the right hand side going down [from the road].

**BUTLER** The right hand side. But they must be pepper trees or wattle trees.

AR Oh, we thought those trees must have been planted a long time ago.

**BUTLER** They planted those big gum trees just about, oh, when my children went to school. And right in front of the door – I don't know who done it – they 'ad a little ....., they used to, girls used to make a flower garden there.

AR Did the boys have a garden anywhere.

**BUTLER** No, they never had no garden, they too busy cricket an' those sort of things [laughs].

AR They weren't interested.

**BUTLER** No.

AR What about holidays, school holidays.

**BUTLER** Well, each one went home, and the teacher used to go away to Perth I s'pose or somewhere 'e used to go away.

AR Can remember what holidays you had. How long you had.

**BUTLER** Oh well, Christmas time was the longest, about three weeks or so like that, but for Easter and mid winter holidays, we only ever had a week.

AR Was there a holiday in the Spring.

**BUTLER** [pause] No. No, I don't remember. We only 'ad the Easter break and then the winter – mid winter I think they called – winter break. Only a week them days, not the holidays they have these days [laughs].

AR Did the girls and boys have different lessons at all, or did you all learn the same things.

**BUTLER** Oh no, they'd 'ave p'raps or scripture or reading, arithmetic, spelling – they'd 'ave to write spelling – all those sort of. They'd 'ave drawing, they 'ad different classes to fit at a different time. Oh the teacher was busy them days – it wasn't just one lesson for a teacher; he 'ad the 'ole lot.

AR But say all the ten year old girls and boys, were they taught the same things.

**BUTLER** Yes, at the same time.

AR Did the school ever have special days. Did they ever put on little concerts –

**BUTLER** No. At Christmas time they had a break-up concert and that was all there were.

AR And that was held in the school.

**BUTLER** Well it used to be at the school until they got the hall. Once they got the hall built [1904] it used to be up there.

AR What sort of things did they do in the school break-up.

**BUTLER** Oh, they'd sing or just have little acts and things like that they'd put on.

AR And was there ever supper afterwards or

**BUTLER** Yes, oh there'd be supper.

AR Was that a daytime function.

**BUTLER** No, night.

END OF SIDE A - TAPE ONE

SIDE B - TAPE ONE

[First question missing: the interviewer (myself) had asked where they served supper]

**BUTLER** Well when it was in the school people sort of stayed or somethin' in the school, you know, like the top, there'd be a stage – I don't know 'ow it was made because [laughs] we were never allowed to see, or never went to see, but when it was in the hall they'd just sit around the hall. But when it was in the school well they just have forms and sit across the

AR They sat on your school forms did they.

**BUTLER** I suppose they did.

AR And where was supper.

**BUTLER** They'd all carry it around.

AR That was brought into the school room was it.

**BUTLER** Into the school room. At the school they'd hand it through the window there. There'd be some outside – I s'pose they 'ad a copper outside or somethin' makin' tea or coffee or whatever you're goin' to get – and they'd hand it through the window and then someone else'd fetch it around you. Of course once they started having those in the hall they had every convenience there for it.

AR All the facilities.

**BUTLER** Mm.

AR Do you know about any of the other schools in the district, the small private schools.

**BUTLER** Oh well, other than Moora there was only the one. Oh they might've had a governess at some of the 'omesteads but I don't remember. They might've 'ad, no, I think the Yatheroo children all went away to [boarding] school, all but the men that worked on there, like, they drove to school, they come to

AR Into the Dandaragan school.

**BUTLER** Into the Dandaragan school.

AR            How many rooms were in the schoolmaster's house at the back of the church when you were there.

**BUTLER**    There's four, four big rooms. There was a lounge and then the kitchen, the children's room and master's room, that's all there was.

AR            So how did people - they didn't have bathrooms did they, so how did people wash and bath in those days.

**BUTLER**    Well I just don't know! I s'pose they just made a bath and you had it in a wash.

AR            Mm. Perhaps had a big tub in front the fire in the kitchen.

**BUTLER**    Well p'raps that's how they did. Well one of my daughters worked there when Mrs Hutton was there, she was havin' another baby and she went and was there with 'er for months. I don't know how she 'ad a bath [laughs]. I never ever thought to ask. I just thought there must've been a bathroom on the end of the verandah or somethin' or other.

AR            Your daughter you say was helping at the school house.

**BUTLER**    Yes, my second daughter, she worked for Mrs Hutton. Oh, a good many years after we come in 'ere [Moora] she was there.

AR            Can you remember when that would have been.

**BUTLER**    Oh well, we come in 'ere in '36 and she was with 'er then.

AR            What year did you marry.

**BUTLER**    Oh, must've been 1910 I think.

AR            And what did your husband do.

**BUTLER**    Oh well 'e used to do anything! And then at last we went with Hemsley I think, lookin' after cattle out at 'Fatfield'.

AR           Whereabouts was that.

**BUTLER**     Oh, somewhere out, close to Jurien Bay. Not far.

AR           Out to the coast.

**BUTLER**     Then we went away to Gingin for a few months but ‘e came back to ‘Fatfield’ and ‘e was there for years with Bowers ..... yes, I know ‘e did, and from there we come in - and we lived at ‘Rose Valley’ [Dandaragan] for a long time. ‘E worked for Drummonds and Drummonds sold it to the New Zealand Australia Land Company, then we went to ‘Yere Yere’ [Dandaragan] and I was there for years.

AR           And then you came into Moora in about 1936.

**BUTLER**     Mm, then ‘e went away north then.

AR           Oh, and you stayed here while he was working up north.

**BUTLER**     Oh, I stayed ‘ere, yes.

AR           And where did you live when you were first married.

**BUTLER**     Well we lived at Dandaragan for a while.

AR           Mm, but whereabouts in Dandaragan.

**BUTLER**     Well, there was a little cottage where the, Road Board’s got it now I s’pose, all that, like more at the back, we was there.

AR           Can you tell me whereabouts in the town of Dandaragan the Road Board building was. There was an iron

**BUTLER**     Well, it was up somewhere against – they used to do, mostly the Road Board work at Yatheroo, first, and then there was a man come there, Mr Bowmar, you’ve ‘eard of ‘him?

AR           yes.

**BUTLER**     Well ‘e used to have a house somewhere up this way. I don’t know who used to live there, ‘e built it I think, just a little two roomed or three roomed cottage you know, and ‘e had it there for years, then when they’d hold their meetings they used to go to the Warren home [?].

AR           I thought I’d heard that there was a little one or two roomed corrugated iron

**BUTLER** Yes, I s'pose that's what it would be.

**AR** Building that they used to have their meetings in before the hall was built.

**BUTLER** Yes well I s'pose so. And then they went to the hall and 'ad their – and then they'd bring, right in front of the hall they'd get two rooms or somethin', the Road Board like had that. That's where they used to 'ave it for years until they – for many years I s'pose, and now they've built those other quarters they got.

**AR** So can you remember where that corrugated iron little one or two roomed building was. Was it anywhere near where the hall is now.

**BUTLER** No, it was up this way that Mr Bowmar 'ad.

**AR** It was further away from the post office and the church [heading north through the town].

**BUTLER** Oh yes.

**AR** Maybe up towards where the present school is.

**BUTLER** Well I s'pose, yes, well I haven't been out that way much these years [laughs]. I s'pose the school's there and it was more back down that way. I couldn't say whose –

**AR** On the same side as where the church and post office are.

**BUTLER** Yes, on the same side, oh yes.

**AR** But just a bit further up.

**BUTLER** Yes.

**AR** you mentioned that they held dances in the school.

**BUTLER** Yes, well they had to use it for everythink one time. In early years they had it, you know. They used to have a race meeting at Dandaragan and they 'ad a race I don't know whether they called it a dance or a ball or what, but they'd 'ave it in the school.

**AR** Could you children go to that as well or was it just grown ups.

**BUTLER** Oh we always, we went with Mother and Father but, I can remember seein' them dancin' there, but whether we went into the dance or not I don't know [laughs]. I can't remember.

AR Did people get very dressed up for it.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, they used to get dressed up.

AR Did they decorate the school room at all.

**BUTLER** Oh, they might 'ave a few palms or bush things you know, stuck around in places. That's all.

AR And Mrs Drummond playing the piano.

**BUTLER** Mrs Drummond always played, or Maud Cook – Mrs Edwards she was in 'er last going off I think, she used to play it – but it was mostly Mrs Drummond.

AR What sort of dances did people dance then.

**BUTLER** Oh, waltzes and mazurkas and the lancers and sets they used to call 'em – square dancin', barn dance, that's all they used to dance them days.

AR Did they ever have anyone playing the piano accordion.

**BUTLER** Oh, the last goin' off they did, but that was up in the hall. I don't remember 'em playin' it at the other, the church.

AR The school. Mm. When you say they had people playing concertinas [piano accordions] at the last dance, do you mean the very last dance after the races, after the last races [meeting].

**BUTLER** No, it was always piano them days. Mrs Drummond used to play.

AR And did you go to the races during the day.

**BUTLER** Oh, we used to go as little kids. Oh it was the only thing to go to, or p'raps Boxin' Day 'ad something like that, or couple of days after Christmas they'd 'ave some foot runnin' and things like that. Well we used to go to that.

AR Where did they do that.

**BUTLER** On the flat down from the church, like that big flat them days. There was only

AR Where the races were held. The same place.

**BUTLER** No, no, the races were held somewhere up towards 'Kayanabie' [the old pronunciation of 'Kayanaba'] way.

AR That's right, yes.

**BUTLER** And they'd 'ave these foot races and other cricket and things down, just down from the school like, on that flat.

AR Perhaps it was down near 'Noondel' was it.

**BUTLER** No, it was near 'Kayanabie'.

AR Still on 'Kayanaba'. [on 'the flat' now part of the 'Windmill Paddock' opposite the entrance to 'Noondel'].

**BUTLER** Yes. Out across the school it was. It was out down that way [south].

AR And I guess they must have had supper when they had the dances.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, they 'ad to 'ave supper [laughs].

AR Yes, probably pretty grand. People really worked hard.

**BUTLER** Oh well I s'pose, if I can remember, they used to 'ave, you'd just 'ave 'ad a plate or somethin' the same as you did now, but they usen't to fetch it on a plate them days. They used to 'ave a whatever in a great big tin I can remember fetchin' it round [laughs]. Cakes and scones and sandwiches was all mixed in together.

AR And did they have wine or that sort of drink there as well as tea and coffee.

**BUTLER** Oh, well I don't know. I s'pose. They used to have it but I don't know whether it was on sale or, but whether it was only just the people 'ad it.

AR Brought their own.

**BUTLER** Mm.

AR Church services were still held in the school building while you were going to school there.

**BUTLER** Oh yes. We used to go to Sunday School there.

**AR** So how did it – did you have Sunday School on a different day from the church day did you, or was that after church.

**BUTLER** No, it was only like once a month there'd only be church there one time, and if we wasn't goin' to school, it was holiday time, well Mother went one time to church and Father went the next time. And some of us kids would 'ave to stay 'ome and help at 'ome, well we 'ad to stay 'ome this time and the next time you could go. That's how it used to be [chuckles].

**AR** So how did they teach Sunday School. When was that taught.

**BUTLER** Sunday afternoon.

**AR** Sunday afternoon. Were the services also in the afternoon. Church services.

**BUTLER** Yes. 'Course they used to 'ave to drive in a buggy those days you know. They [the clergyman] used to mostly stayed at 'Yatheroo' I think.

**AR** And did people sit on your forms then for the church service.

**BUTLER** Just the same as the school. The desks and things was in there. You just 'ad to sit in there and

**AR** You just sat at the desks.

**BUTLER** yes. When you'd 'ave to pray you'd just lean over the desks this way [laughs], you know, you didn't get down on you knees or anythink'.

**AR** And did they have communion services there or

**BUTLER** No, not them days.

**AR** It was just a

**BUTLER** Just a

**AR** Just an ordinary service.

**BUTLER** Prayers, that's all.

**AR** Yes, and a few hymns.

**BUTLER** That's all I think it could've been.

AR Did the preachers give long sermons.

**BUTLER** Oh, sometimes you'd be a long time. Sometimes it wouldn't. It all depends how time was goin' I think.

AR Can you remember any of the names of some of the ministers who came.

**BUTLER** Oh well the Church of England one was Mr Pritchard, that's only one I can really remember [laughs].

AR Which families went to worship in the church there.

**BUTLER** Well some come from everywhere, you know. Robertses and Cooks and Drummonds – well Mrs Drummond always used to play the organ, er, piano – and the Joneses. Everyone like that. P'raps two or three of this one and a couple of those and some of the others.

AR So it must have been quite full.

**BUTLER** Oh, well sometimes there was a good crowd and sometimes there wasn't.

AR Can you tell me what you would think was your happiest memory from your childhood. The happiest time or the happiest thing that ever happened to you.

**BUTLER** Oh well [laughs] I think Christmas time was about the happiest time.

AR How did your family celebrate Christmas.

**BUTLER** Oh well, one thing us kids always looked - Father used to call it snap dragon – they'd put raisins a a big plate, a big meat dish you know, and they'd pour some brandy over 'em and set 'em alight. And us kids used to 'ave to grab 'em from that and put 'em out, you're supposed to eat 'em but we usedn't to [laughs].

AR you had to grab them while they were still burning.

**BUTLER** While they were still burning!

AR And was that on Christmas Day.

**BUTLER** that was Christmas Night. We always looked for that.

AR And I guess did Father Christmas call in those days.

**BUTLER** Oh sometimes 'e come and sometimes 'e didn't [laughs]. Not like it is now.

AR Did you give each other Christmas presents.

**BUTLER** No.

AR Did you have a special meal.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, Dad used to go duck shootin'. 'E used to 'ave ducks, we used to 'ave, and Mum always made a plum pudding – not as we 'ad it, didn't have it any other time [laughs], 'course that's the usual, you'd 'ave very often a pudding made out of raisins or currants or sultanas or somethin' like that - but there was always a plum pudding and she put some brandy on it them days for it. ....

AR Did you decorate the house at all.

**BUTLER** Oh, sometimes we got flowers from the garden or round about, but Mum always put flowers when there was no fire in the lounge room – always had a lot of flowers or bush flowers or somethin' in the fire place.

AR That would be any time during the year, in the summer time.

**BUTLER** In the summer time. Not in the winter 'cause there was a great fire there [laughs].

AR Did you have a nice garden at home.

**BUTLER** Oh yes! Used to be good garden.

AR your Mother was a keen gardener was she.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Did you children help there.

**BUTLER** Oh, sometimes.

AR What about bread. How did you get bread.

**BUTLER** Baked it!

AR You made your own bread.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Did you have a special bread oven or you just baked it in the stove.

**BUTLER** No, at 'Cataby' they had a hole made outside.

AR And would your Mother have made bread every day.

**BUTLER** Oh no, she only used to bake p'raps two to three times a week.

AR What about meat. How did the family get their meat.

**BUTLER** Oh well, used to generally get a bullock off of Robertses like and corn that down somehow or another. Never 'ad much mutton in them days.

AR Would that have been the Roberts at 'Yathroo' or the Roberts at 'Kayanaba'.

**BUTLER** Yes, no, at 'Yatheroo'.

AR Yathroo. Did you go down there to get your stores. Did you buy your stores from 'Yathroo'.

**BUTLER** Oh well, one time, and then the ladies 'ere, they used to come into Moora and get them.

AR Can you remember any stories your parents ever told you about little incidents that had happened in the district.

**BUTLER** Oh yes [laughs].

AR Can you remember any of them now.

**BUTLER** Oh well I s'pose like it's all muddled up somehow [laughs] that I wouldn't like to tell you. [laughs]

AR What sort of a person do you think Edward Roberts was.

**BUTLER** Well I always found 'im very good.

AR How would you describe him.

**BUTLER** Well 'e was a big man and 'e 'ad whiskers.

AR He was tall was he.

**BUTLER** Yes 'e was very tall. 'E was big with it you know – 'e wasn't a fat man but 'e was just a big man. I don't know whether there's any men around 'ere I could tell you like it. 'E

was much bigger than any of 'is sons, without it was Ted Roberts – 'e was a big fella – but the others wasn't so big.

AR           What was his personality like.

**BUTLER**     Oh well, sometimes he was a nice man and other times I s'pose something'd just upset 'im and 'e wouldn't be so good [laughs]. But 'e used to be away from home a lot, 'e usedn't to be much around 'Yatheroo', not as I could remember. He might've been in the early days.

AR           Do you know where he might've been.

**BUTLER**     Well I s'pose he'd go away, p'raps seein' about buyin' cattle or somethink like that.

AR           What was his wife like. Do you remember her.

**BUTLER**     Yes, Mrs Roberts. Oh sometimes she was a nice woman [laughs] and sometimes she'd be very kind of – I s'pose all depends on what went on in the kitchen wasn't good.

AR           She was quite a small person wasn't she.

**BUTLER**     Yes, she wasn't too big. Oh well, might've been not quite as tall as you [5' 9"] but about the same build.

AR           What was life at 'Yatheroo' like. Do you know very much about how many people they had working there, the sorts of work they did there.

**BUTLER**     Oh well, early days there was one, two, there was three cottages, so I s'pose there was them three families worked there.

AR           Can you remember if they were stone or brick cottages.

**BUTLER**     I suppose they'd be stone cottages. I s'pose they would be.

AR           Were they up near the main homestead.

**BUTLER**     No, the main 'omestead was like there and they – oh, they'd be nearly as far as it is to the [Moora] bridge from there.

AR           So it would be a couple of hundred yards away.

**BUTLER** Yes, I s'pose it would be.

**AR** Going down the hill p'raps.

**BUTLER** No, 'ere, and then they seemed to come up that way as I can remember them.

**AR** Oh, they went back up the hill a bit.

**BUTLER** Yes.

**AR** When you were looking at the homestead, were they on the right of the homestead, or the left.

**BUTLER** On the left.

**AR** The left hand side.

**BUTLER** Mm.

**AR** They had a lot of old stone buildings there didn't they.

**BUTLER** Oh yes! Round the homestead there was all the stables, there was them, and cow sheds and dairy and all that was just built around like in a clump.

**AR** Did you go there very often.

**BUTLER** Oh, once in a while. Well we'd 'ave to go, we used to go when they ever went there to get any stores we'd just go sometimes, and they used to, they 'ad a mill – I think they used to grind flour there, make the flour.

**AR** And people from all the district came to buy their flour there did they.

**BUTLER** They took their wheat there and I don't know how it, they'd grind it into flour and there'd be bran and there'd be pollard and you know, whatever, 'ow it come out of the wheat or somethin', I don't know the

**AR** Mm. And do you remember, can you remember where the stores were kept, where you had to go to buy stores.

**BUTLER** Oh well, the house [homestead] was built and there was a verandah – I think it must've been right round the 'house – and it was, one end was made into a store, you know, into a store room.

AR One end of the verandah was made into a store room.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Would that have been on the right hand end as you were looking at the house.

**BUTLER** No I s'pose it'd be on the left end.

AR The other end. Was the house an L shape then, as it is now.

**BUTLER** Yes. Oh, I don't think so, oh I don't know these days, I don't think they've had any alteration done to the house. Might've 'ad it done up different times. But the kitchen was away from the 'ouse. It was another place, another house like I s'pose - there was two 'ouses [side by side, L shaped] Might've been the first 'ouse ever they had there.

AR Perhaps they joined them together.

**BUTLER** They might've done [yes, later owners did so].

AR Did they have a very big garden there.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, a big garden!

AR What sort of things did they have in the garden. Was it all flowers, or vegetables.

**BUTLER** Oh well, they 'ad a flower garden round the 'ouse, then they 'ad another big vegetable garden away from the house. They always used to keep a Chinaman there as a gardener, yes.

AR Did they.

**BUTLER** Always there. Had a fairly big staff of people.

AR The Chinese are supposed to be good gardeners aren't they.

**BUTLER** Oh well I can remember goin' in, 'cause I was with Mrs Maitland [Roberts] one time, 'elpin 'er, and she used to send me down to get vegetables, but of course you had to ask, go and see the old Chinaman and 'e wouldn't let, couldn't get 'em from the house you know, you 'ad to go and ask 'im. He was the boss of the garden.

AR What was his name

**BUTLER** [pause] Oh, I can't think of it. Ah Sing or somethin', the kids used to call 'im that, or How-Are-You, or some name somethink like that, but I did ..... 'is name 'cause one Chinaman that was there, a gardener, got shot you know on the place.

AR How did that happen.

**BUTLER** Oh, went away shootin', I don't know, up the creek. I don't know what, 'cause 'e must've done it!

AR And he was killed.

**BUTLER** Dead! Yes.

AR Gracious. Would the police have had to come then. Were there any policemen in Dandaragan or Moora.

**BUTLER** Oh none in Dandaragan. I s'pose one'd 'ave to come. I s'pose there was one in Moora. [pause] I don't know what e'd go – 'e went up the creek. I was not very big but I can remember that 'e went up the creek shooting or something. I don't know whether there was any rabbits about them days. I couldn't say. [laughs] Just went up there for a walk with a gun and got shot.

AR How did people cope with illness and accidents in those days because there was no doctor in the district, was there.

**BUTLER** No. There was no doctor in Moora till 1905. Well I'd 'eard Mum and Dad say, used to 'ave to go to New Norcia. That was the closest stop.

AR A long way.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR They must've been very good at first aid.

**BUTLER** They must 'a done. Just look after yourself.

AR yes, used their initiative.

**BUTLER** But mostly all us children was born at 'Rose Valley'. Mrs Cook was – she was an Irish woman – she was the midwife [laughs].

AR And did her husband work for Mr Drummond.

**BUTLER** No, 'e owned it. 'Rose Valley', I don't know.

AR Oh sorry, I was thinking of 'Yere Yere'. Yes, 'Rose Valley'.

**BUTLER** No. 'E 'ad 'Rose Valley'.

AR Yes. What was her husband's name, that Mrs Cook.

**BUTLER** Charlie Cook.

AR Charlie Cook.

**BUTLER** They wasn't very tall people, but they were big you know.

AR Solid build.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR So when people were going to have their babies they just went and stayed with Mrs Cook until the baby was born.

**BUTLER** Until the baby was born.

AR And then go home.

**BUTLER** Or she went to your place for, you know, if it happened soon, if it didn't, but they mostly used to go to 'er place so she could do 'er own work and look after 'er own family.

AR Was she trained as a midwife.

**BUTLER** Well I don't know that or not.

AR What about Aborigines in the district. Were there very many living there when you were growing up.

**BUTLER** Oh, there was a few there, just a few used to work on the place like.

AR Can you remember any of the family names.

**BUTLER** Oh well, I think there was Warrell and another bloke by the name of Nettle, then there was Nabbit. No, that's all I know.

AR Whereabouts did they work.

END OF SIDE B - TAPE ONE

TAPE TWO SIDE A

BUTLER

SUSANNAH BUTLER

SIDE A - TAPE TWO

**BUTLER** One time they had races at Dandaragan and 'e [talking about Charles Roberts, Edward's eldest son] won every race [laughs].

AR Must have had some good horses [and he was an excellent rider]

**BUTLER** Well 'e must 'a done. No one else got any. I s'pose they'd 'ave five or six races and 'e won the whole lot!

AR He was not a very tall man.

**BUTLER** No, 'e wasn't too tall. 'E's just a ordinary man you know. But Ted Roberts was a big fella, and Maitland Roberts was fairly tall. Jack [Roberts] was just a ordinary man but 'e was a bit stout.

AR The others were just normal were they. Slim.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Would Ted have been over six feet tall.

**BUTLER** Oh I s'pose 'e was six feet! But Maitland's only the one I really remember much about.

AR What sort of a person was he – to meet him.

**BUTLER** Well, 'e was a sort of a jolly sort of a person you know.

AR A happy sort of fellow was he.

**BUTLER** Yes, he was happy.

AR What about some of Edward Roberts' daughters – Clara or

**BUTLER** Oh, Clara was a nurse. After she done 'er training she must 'a came home and if anyone [was] a bit a sick they just went to 'er for everything [laughs]. There was Lucy. May was the eldest, then I s'pose Clara'd be the next one, then there was Elsie and Lucy.

AR And what were they like. Can you remember much about them.

**BUTLER** Well I don't remember much about May Roberts but I remember Clara Roberts a good bit.

AR What sort of a person was she.

**BUTLER** She was just a ordinary sort of woman, like any other nurse. She was on the plump sort of a side. This was in their 'ome over 'ere I think, after she got married [she lived in Moora], this big 'ouse at the back, after she married Rutherford or something.

AR That's right. Just in behind your house here.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR What street is that that her house was in.

**BUTLER** Oh, Dix Street I think they must call it. I think Rutherford must'a had it built.

AR Can you remember anything at all about 'Kayanaba'. Did you ever go there, apart from the races.

**BUTLER** [pause] No, I don't remember anythink about it, only the house was here like and the sheds was up there, then there was two or three cottages.

AR Along the front [of the dam].

**BUTLER** No, I wouldn't think – would it be the front? Up towards Cook's way like, to where Edna [Cook] used to be. Edna Dolton.

AR Yes, that's right. They're still there.

**BUTLER** Well Jimmy Cook used to live in one.

AR Which one did he live in.

**BUTLER** The first one, and then the second one, Tom Roberts lived in that. That was a brother to Ted Roberts [Edward Roberts]. Well we used to go to school with some of the Roberts children.

AR Some of Tom Roberts' children.

**BUTLER** Mm, and I went to school with – that's where all the Cook children, there was only Henry and Erny, Ada and Gladys.

AR Can you remember the names of the Roberts children.

**BUTLER** Well there was Kate and Sid – Sid got, I don't know whether killed or died of wounds in the First World War. [pause] There were two girls in the Robertses, there was Kate was the eldest one and the next one I can't seem to remember that. There was a Frank Roberts. Then there was some smaller ones. Well I don't ever remember their names. [laughs]

AR They were much younger than you.

**BUTLER** Oh yes.

AR What was it like growing up in Dandaragan in those days.

**BUTLER** [laughs] Well it seemed all right to me them days! Didn't seem much more difference than what you see 'ere now only you see more people, here and Moora. There wasn't many about. We only ever saw anyone when the parsons come to your home [laughs] or p'raps there's a hawker used to come around you know.

AR Oh yes. What sort of things did he sell.

**BUTLER** Oh, materials and cottons and buttons. They used to have it tied in a big white sheet and carry it on their backs somehow or other.

AR They walked.

**BUTLER** They walked! Yes, they couldn't carry much you know. But that's how they'd come. Walked.

AR And would the hawker have been an Australian man or would he have been a foreigner.

**BUTLER** No, Indians or somethin'. They used to wear big turbans, you know. One used to come – he used to have a brown turban fixed around 'is 'ead somehow or another, and other ones used to come used to 'ave a white one.

AR And they all brought materials and

**BUTLER** Materials and cottons and buttons and needles and them sort of things. Combs, and sometimes they'd 'ave dresses.

AR Where would they have stayed of a night.

**BUTLER** Well they just carried their food with'em I s'pose, and eat anywhere.

AR Remarkable.

**BUTLER** And then the last goin' off they used to have a cart horse, covered in van, and a 'orse.

AR That was later on.

**BUTLER** Yes later in the years.

AR Can you remember when that might've been, whether that would have been when you were in your twenties or so, or

**BUTLER** Oh, that was before then, I was only a young girl then [laughs].

AR Before then, so it was – I mean, when they had the covered wagon you were still a girl then.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR So you must have been very small when they were walking.

**BUTLER** Oh yes, I was only like this [indicated a small child]

AR Mm, five or six or round about that age.

**BUTLER** Mm.

AR My goodness.

**BUTLER** There used to be a Carosene and a Natasene [phonetic spelling of names] and a Robert Dean used to come, and then there was another one but I think 'e was in with the Saleebas - Anthony - I think 'e was in with the Saleebas 'ere.

AR You mean related to them.

**BUTLER** No, 'e was

AR Or working with them.

**BUTLER** Used to work in with 'em I think.

AR What did the Saleebas do.

**BUTLER** They 'ad a shop 'ere one time. [pause] They 'ad where Tom's [supermarket] is got now - you know, on the corner there.

AR Yes, on the corner of what's that street - Gardiner Street and, can't think of the name of that street.

**BUTLER** Well Armstrongs and the butcher.

AR Just as you come over the railway line, it's right in front of you.

**BUTLER** Yes, I was talkin' to oh, I can't think, got the butcher shop - Richards. Richards' Meats [laughs] I know the bag he has his meat in.

AR Do you know when Moora was started.

**BUTLER** No, I don't remember.

AR Can you tell me your husband's full name.

**BUTLER** Mm, Thomas Henry.

AR Thomas Henry Butler.

**BUTLER** Mm.

AR And when was he born.

**BUTLER** 'E was born on second March.

AR In which year.

**BUTLER** Oh, eighteen something [laughs]. I can't say when. He was about nine years or more older than I am. I believe 'e said it was 1981 when 'e was born.

AR 1881.

**BUTLER** 1818. Yes, not 19. [laughs]

AR Can you give me the names of your children – their full names – and p'raps when you give me the name, give me the date they were born as well, at the same time. You start at number one.

**BUTLER** Yes. Oh well that was Florence, she was borned in October, first of October 1910 I think, and then there was Violet, she was born on third of May 1911, then there was Dorothy, twenty second of July 1914, there was Daphne, that's the one next door 'ere, she was born on the sixteenth of March 1916, and Iris, that's the next one from 'ere, 'e was born on the thirtieth of June 1918, then there was Jock – Albert - 'e was born third of November 1923, and Keith, that's the youngest one, 'e was born on the twenty second of April 1926. Well Violet's not alive, she's dead – that's Mrs Willis – but all the others is livin'.

AR And did you go to hospital to have them as babies, or did you have them at home.

**BUTLER** The girls was all borned at home but the boys were borned over 'ere.

AR In hospital here in Moora.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR The last two was it.

**BUTLER** Yes.

AR Mm. Quite a family!

**BUTLER** Yes, [laughs] quite a family! Oh, Flo lives in Perth, she's Mrs Myles – she's been married twice, the first husband dying, and then she married again - and Keith works in the Printin' Office in Perth, that's the youngest boy, and the others are all around Moora. Jock's – or Albert – 'e works on the Dandaragan Shire. 'E's been there about thirty five years. I s'pose 'e's near about, 'e'll be finished workin' soon I s'pose.

AR            yes, be retiring.

**BUTLER**        But 'e reckons 'e's not. 'E said 'I'm going to stay until I have to .....' sixty five. 'E's sixty two this year. 'E reckons 'e's well and whilst 'e can work 'e's gonna work, 'e's not givin' it away. 'Course they've got a little 'ome, it's only forty or fifty acres or somethin', down the Barberton Road, that's where they live.

AR            When did your husband die.

**BUTLER**        Oh, eleventh of December – 'e's been dead fifteen years this year, this December.

AR            He must have lived to a good age.

**BUTLER**        Yes. 'E was eighty nine. 'E wanted to live till 'e was ninety 'e reckoned [laughs]. 'Oh' I said 'I don't want to live that long! Soon as I can't do for meself I want to die.' And here I am, I'll soon be ninety three.

AR            Marvellous. [and still living at home] How did you meet your husband.

**BUTLER**        Oh well I s'pose it's goin' to these races and seen 'im there and those sort'a things [laughs]. I don't know.

AR            Yes, well of course he lived in the district didn't he so

**BUTLER**        Yes.

AR            I guess you would've been seeing him off and on as you were growing up.

**BUTLER**        Oh, different times.

END OF INTERVIEW