

156 A - 158 A

Newcastle on Tyne talk on
Christmas customs in Scotland

No Sis No

Where the of eates Bells are
Blooming (not fall)

Talk on Procession - other
customs

The Bra' Lad. Bra' Lass etc.

Begining of story of St. Roch
told by Staff Sergeant Loren,
R.C.M.P.

REEL 43A

7249A -

7249B -

7250A -

7250B -

7251A -

156A. Christmas Customs. Cont'd 156B.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

March 21, 1944.

At my home, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

The talk is given by E.R.A. Robert Donaldson, R.N. native of Mussleburgh, Scotland; questions asked by Ord. Tel. Vincent McGuckin and Ldg. Ck. Peter Burns. This carries on the idea begun on record No. 125.

156B. cont'd from 156A and folk-song.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

March 21, 1944.

At my home, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

1. Talk on Christmas Customs.
2. O No John.

On yonder hill there stands a creature,
Who she is I do not know.

Mr. Burns sang this from the words in a collection of English Folk-Songs by Cecil Sharp. Unfortunately he sang the last verse in the middle of the song, and didn't realize he had made a mistake.

157A. Scotch Song and talk.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

March 21, 1944.

At my home, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Informant; E.R.A. Robert Donaldson, Mussleburgh, Scotland; now one minesweeper belonging to the Royal Navy.

1. Grannie's Hieland Home.
2. Talk about Infirmary Day in Edinburgh.

158 A & B. cont'd ~~159.~~ North-West Passage.

Recorded by Helen Creighton.

March 22, 1944.

At my home, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Informant; Staff Sergeant Larsen, P.M. (Polar Medal). (He never uses these letters after his name, but he wears the medal which, I believe, had only been won by one other Canadian before the historic trip of the St. Roch.) He is master of the St. Roch, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police boat; middle aged; native of Norway, but has lived in Vancouver for over 20 yrs.

You may recall the trip made through the North-West Passage by the St. Roch which was the first west to east trip ever made by any ship. It was in the nature of a routine trip, with R.C.M.P. patrols made over the northern country. The Staff Sergeant is an extremely modest man and thinks his story uninteresting because it is so familiar to him. But the R.C.M.P. is an organization with a very proud name, and he admitted to me in conversation that once he had been assigned this route he could not possibly fail, meaning, of course, for the honor of the Force. His ship was ice bound for eleven months as he tells in a later record, and when they finally got through and came to Halifax the crew members, all of whom belonged to the Force, were given the Polar Medal. The trip was from Vancouver north to Halifax.

In order to get permission for these records to be made, I had to 'phone his colonel and then put my request in writing. Letters followed and even after permission had been given, I was called upon by an Inspector. When it was finally understood that I wanted the story for historic reasons and the customs of the people for folk-lore, they were quite happy to have me proceed and, indeed, pleased that I was going to record a member with such a fund of knowledge of the north. I felt that I should record as long as he was willing to talk, as anything he says may be referred to as authentic. I tried to do the whole thing as a conversation, but he had a bad case of mike fright in our first attempt, and we had to give it ~~up~~. The part about the actual trip he wrote out and read, but when that was done he was used to recording, and talked readily. I feel that these are particularly valuable records.

158 B2. Talk on Eskimo and Tunits.