

*Excerpted from a 1998 interview with Gertrude Lepine, Morristown, VT conducted by Jane Beck.*

**Gertrude Lepine: Family Farm**

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So then we moved up into Stirling with my uncle and dad was slowly recuperating and those were, we were up there eight years. We were, I think my uncle, we were with him for about a year, I guess. Then he moved on. He was a logger, basically, that's what, his life was in the woods. So he went on and dad stayed up there. And he farmed as a tenant farmer on halves. There's a fellow down the street here, Francis Clark. His father was one of those big land barons, you know, in the, probably around the turn of the century, when these, some of these families acquired so much land. They were mostly timber people. You know, they bought land and they cut off the lumber. And then they well, they held on to it until they figured there was no, nothing left to gain from it and then sell it. So we were there eight years, farming on behalf of this man and then, well, we get high school age, and my oldest sister, she stayed down the street through her four years, you know, worked for a board and went to school. And I did it for two years. But, you know, we were really, didn't like it at all. I mean, we wanted to be home and going to school and all this. So, well, Pa decided it was time to look, get down a little bit closer because we still were just with horse and buggy, so we still had...My dad never learned how to drive. So finally he decided, he started looking around and finally ended up with this place. This place was small. It was cheap. And it was something that he could, you know, afford to put a down payment on. And so, he had an auction up there and dad ended up with a team of horses and a few cows. Three or four cows. And a few pigs. Few bread sables and few sheep and \$900 for his eight years work. So he put 900 on this farm. I think this farm was selling for 1200. So he had it, you know, pretty well, bought.