



City of Port Phillip Living Heritage Project
Edited transcript – Dorothy “Dot” Elsum
Interviewee: Dorothy “Dot” Elsum
Interviewer: Sarah Rood, Way Back When Consulting Historian
8 September 2017

Please note that the interviewee has reviewed this transcript. Words in italics have been added at the request of the interviewee. Only material in this final transcript may be cited or used for publication or exhibition.

C H Anderson Baker

16:38

SR: How did he come to be in South Melbourne, what do you know about that?

DE: I know nothing about it except it was Uncle Harry's business. Good old Uncle Harry.

SR: So he'd been in Preston helping Aunty Eliza and then he moved to South Melbourne?

DE: Yes. When I was about four I'd say.

SR: Uncle Harry's long gone?

DE: Yes he was out of the *picture*.

SR: So why do you think he moved to South Melbourne?

DE: Dad? Well I don't know. Who owned it then?

SR: I don't know. Did Harry leave behind a spouse?

DE: No ... he never married. No I don't know how we came to be there. The only thing is that I can think of, there was an old lady that lived in Albert Park or South Melbourne perhaps, she was a Mrs Waterson and she owned the bakehouse - digressing back to North Melbourne - and there's no reason why she wouldn't have owned the one in *South* because those days when you owned a place you owned several places. I just think it was something that she may have said to Dad, will you go into bakehouse? I don't know. It still had the - no it didn't, that's only in the photo long before my time.

SR: When you moved there did it have Anderson written on it?

DE: I wouldn't know that. I was saying to you it had the H. Anderson but of course the photo's in the 1900s not 1929.

SR: So we don't know anything about why C H set the bakery up in South Melbourne, we don't know anything about that.

DE: No not at all.

18:40

SR: And we don't know who owned it before your mum and dad moved there.

DE: No.

SR: **Did they own it then?**

DE: No they were never that well off. According to Dad's ledger books - which my mum didn't want, that went into the rubbish bin - that would have told the whole story because it was a huge - about that big - old-fashioned thing. *A lot* of South Melbourne owed us money, that's all I know.

SR: **Tell me about how the work was divided up in the bakehouse ...**

DE: It was just a Mum and Dad business.

SR: **Did he do the baking?**

DE: Yes he did the baking and Mum did the shop.

SR: **Talk to me about the physical - how was it set up? Was the baking done behind?**

DE: As you know I've seen the bakehouse since because I thought the guy would like the photos, I didn't think anything else about it. What happened was that from where I saw the facade of the bakehouse is still there, and the new chap, Chris, has built up behind it. I could be wrong, because I was so young, but we had the shop and then a long passageway, then there was what they called the front room, not a lounge room in those days, and then there were two bedrooms. Behind the shop was a room that we ate in, like a dining room-cum-kitchen I suppose, then behind that was a bathroom. When I saw it when I was a little girl I thought it was so big, huge, and when I was 92 I thought, oh my God, isn't this small (laughs) because I'm living at Parkdale and all the homes are three or four bedrooms. So there we are.

SR: **Was the house that you lived in the same as the bakehouse?**

DE: Yes, vaguely I remember - oh I remember the shop very well.

21:07

SR: **Tell me about the shop and how that fed into the house space-wise. Was it next to the house?**

DE: No it was a passageway - I'm doing the actions - there was a passageway and then there was three rooms one side and three rooms the other. And then the bakehouse sort of took the whole area at the back of it.

SR: **So on the side that you lived in there was the front room which was the fancy room for guests, then there was bedrooms and the eating area?**

DE: The eating area was behind the shop and the living area was behind the front room.

SR: **So the front room on the bakehouse side is where the shop was?**

DE: Yes.