

Elizabeth Poole (nee Appleton)

I didn't have all my schooling, but I learnt a lot myself. I had to go with my dad on the boat to help with the work, mainly Seddon's and my mum stopped at home.

I had to steer the boat and sometimes walk with the horse to give my dad a break, it's about a three hour journey I should think to Anderton.

We also went to the potteries to get coal for Seddon's works; they used to throw it under the salt pans. Sometimes we'd take the salt to Weston Point, straight to the ship; they'd have men with big cranes to lift the bags in the hold. If we were there for a few days I'd go to the local school.

Sometimes I'd leave school for a week with him, sometimes a day and go back again when we finished.

When they didn't want any salt taking to Liverpool I stayed in school. Seddon's had two blokes and one of us, apart from their own boats. Dad kept the horse going on the dole money, if there was no work they didn't pay him.

My husband had all his schooling though, his parents had a cottage at Turn Pike they worked for Cowburn and Cowper and had two older daughters that stopped at home. One of them worked for Seddon's and they sent my husband John and his brother George to school, so they had all their schooling before going on the boats.