



**The Three Water Supplies Historic Buildings at the HKU Centennial Campus
Heritage Project**

Synopsis

Interviewee:	Helen Rigby
Gender:	Female
Birth Date or Year:	1929
Birth Place:	Hong Kong
Date of Interview	June 7, 2009
Place of Interview	YWCA, Ho Ma Tin
Profession:	Retired
Interviewer:	Heronie Mok

Background:

Mrs. Helen Rigby is the daughter of Archivard Thompson who came to Hong Kong and joined the then Waterworks Department as Inspector of Works. Before the war, the Thompson family were accommodated in various Waterworks staff quarters, including Tai Tam Tuk and Bowen Road Filterbeds, and were frequent visitors of their friend, Arthur Glanville, who lived in the Elliot Senior Staff Quarters.

During the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong from 1941 to 1945, Helen retreated to Australia with her mother and brother, while her father remained in Hong Kong and was detained in camp in Stanley. After the war, the family returned to Hong Kong and moved into staff quarters in Piper's Hill in 1946 and then Elliot in 1947.

Helen got married with Eric Lonsdale, a Waterworks Inspector and colleague of her father, in 1948 and lived in the Elliot Senior Staff Quarters from 1948 to 1952. She subsequently moved to Stubbs Road and King's Park respectively.

Born and educated in Hong Kong, Helen regarded Hong Kong as her home. She migrated to Australia in 1980s and came back to Hong Kong occasionally to visit her friends and the city. In this interview, she shared her memories of Hong Kong and the historic buildings at the Elliot site.