

C-HIST
KAP

Kappauf, Madeline A.

Interview with Madeline A. Kappauf / interviewed by
Helen Dowdeswell. - Valley Stream Historical Society,
June 5, 1987.

1 cassette.

NOTE: Miss Kappauf reminisced about Valley Stream
before World War I and in the 1920's, covering topics
such as schools, family life, trolley, home life, church
activities, Curtiss Airport, Sinner's Hope Chapel,
Brooklyn Avenue School, high school, etc.

1. Kappauf, Madeline A. 2. Valley Stream (N.Y.) -
History. I. Valley Stream Historical Society. II.
Dowdeswell, Helen.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

1. Outline of Interview - Prepared by Helen Dowdeswell.
2. Photograph of Madeline A. Kappauf, seated at her home. *
3. "Mini-Memoirs of Valley Stream" - Prepared by Madeline A. Kappauf.
4. "Down Memory Lane" article - Prepared by Madeline A. Kappauf.

*Original photograph is filed in the Valley Stream Historical
Photograph Collection.

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

OF MADELINE A. KAPPAUF 6/5/87

SIDE 1 MEMORIES PRIOR TO WORLD WAR I

- 1-5 Blank
- 5-14 Introduction
- 14-19 Blank
- 19-40 Family statistics - Father, restaurant worker - Home, Clear Stream
- 40-60 Schooling - #13
- 60-65 Other families at West End.
- 65-71 Infantile paralysis epidemic - 1916
- 72-82 Teachers - Clearstream Ave and Wheeler Ave.
- 82-90 District #30 - first school
- 90-123 Subjects studied - 8th grade Regents
- 123-145 Family Life - German, first language
- 145-150 Weekends - Sunday - Methodist Church
- 150-165 Christmas Eve
- 165-171 Trolley from Brooklyn
- 180- 190 Summers
- 195-218 Home life - Mother to work Grandparents at home
- 218-240 Kitchen, other rooms
- 240-255 Piano, victrola
- 259-286 Church activities
- 299-319 Most influential person - sister
- 324-354 Curtiss Airport
- 355-365 World War I
- 370-389 Other relatives
- 392-416 Pumping Stations in WWI
- 416-430 Incident of Willis Heller's little brother Bert
- 434- Correction of 218-240 - oil not electric stove

440-457 Sinner's Hope Chapel

457-470 Nearest hospital - Undertsker's ambulance service

471-512 Brooklyn Ave School nearer but West End children sent to
Wheeler Ave.

Outhouses for boys and girls

512 End

SIDE 2

1-6 Blank

6-30 High School 1925-1929

31-48 Working career

50-85 Transportation to work

86-128 Incident of man killed by train

Accident with firetruck - Alonzo Mills and Harold Kearsch
injured.

128 End



MADELINE A. KAPPAUF, SEATED AT HER HOME.

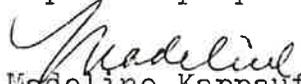
June 8, 1987

Dear Helen,

Here are the copies of various "Memoirs" that I promised to send you. I prepared a "rider" to be inserted on page 1 of the article entitled "Mini-Memoirs of Valley Stream" because I think it might be of some interest. I had forgotten it previously.

These are rather "rough" copies, and if at any time you might like to have the articles consolidated and re-typed, I would be very glad to do it. I didn't feel like taking the time right now. But don't hesitate to ask.

I enjoyed our session the other day. Also, it was nice to spend the time with you, and I hope our proposed trip to Vermont materializes.


Madeline Kappauf

MINI-MEMOIRS OF VALLEY STREAM

At our October meeting, Bert Keller said as he introduced his panel, that their talks would be mostly biographical. Each one of the people presented a most interesting aspect of life in Valley Stream since the 1920's right up through 1975. I've been around rather a long time, and my Mini-Memoirs are necessarily part of my own life and experience.

Our family came to Valley Stream from Brooklyn when I was only a year old...I recall how annoyed I was some years ago when my mother told someone that we have lived in Valley Stream for fifty years - Madeline was only a year old when we came out! We came to the West End, a section known as Clear Stream, and our house was one of two houses on Louise Place - the only houses within nearly a mile radius, until two more home were built about eight years later. We were surrounded by "Woods" which provided wonderful places to play and explore.

RIDER →
Louise Place was (and still is) a one-block street that ran parallel with the famous Trolley Tracks - and we were only a short block north of the tracks. To the West was Clear Stream Avenue, a narrow dirt lane that lead up to Merrick Road; directly behind our house was Valley Stream Boulevard, another narrow dirt road that was barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass.

The Long Island Railroad was on the other side of the Trolley Tracks, and between them ran the "Pipeline" which provided an excellent "belly-whopping" hill. (The Pipeline was at the approximate location of Sunrise Highway. Under this pipeline ran the water from the reservoir to the City. There was a pumping station right across the tracks (we called it the Water Works), and my sister Clara recalls that during World War I, when she and my brother Carl were little tots, the

RIDER

I neglected to mention that down where we lived we had no "running" water and the only way we could have water was by manual hand-pump. This pump stood in the kitchen, and I can still recall my grandfather every evening pumping water for at least a half hour or longer so that the water tank in the attic would be filled. In that way we had sufficient water to last for the next day. This was the procedure until probably sometime in the early twenties when we were able to have an electric pump installed, which made things much easier, until the pipes were laid and water was available without any pumping, but I don't recall just when this convenience took place.

Water Works were fenced off and were continuously guarded by soldiers carrying rifles. It was part of Clara's and Carl's duties to pick berries on the pipeline where the most luscious blackberries and huckleberries grew. On one occasion when they tried to enter the fenced-in section, the soldiers stopped them. Clara was always a persuasive talker and managed to convince them that all they wanted was to pick berries. So they finally let the little potential saboteurs over the fence to fill the berry pails, with the proviso that they would not blow up the water works. Mom baked an extra blackberry pie and Clara and Carl took it over to the soldiers to show our good will.

The only schools in Valley Stream at that time were District 24 on Brooklyn Avenue and School 13 on Wheeler Avenue. For some unexplainable reason, we were in the School 13 District - a mere two miles away. I had had infantile paralysis when I was only four and was not able to start school until I was seven, and the only way I could get to school was by small express wagon - drawn by my sister with an occasional assist from big brother Carl. Imagine - now kids have to have school buses to go four blocks! I couldn't go to school for the three severest months in each Winter, and so had a wonderful vacation. We really had heavy snows during those early years. I recall one particular time when it snowed all day, turned to rain during the night, and then froze. When I looked out of my bedroom window the next morning, the sun shining on all the trees and bushes laden with snow and ice, made it a veritable fairyland, and the glorious sight still remains in my memory.

I mentioned above that Valley Stream Boulevard was a narrow dirt road from the West End to Rockaway Avenue. In due course my father bought a Model T Ford, and my brother Carl immediately took it over. Clara also became a proficient driver at the age of fourteen (before driver's licenses were required) - and I remember how she used

to "drag race" up Valley Stream Boulevard with any boy who would challenge her to a race. Carl was always a more conservative driver. None of us ever wanted to ride with Pop because he always took both hands off the wheel to wave to friends.

We bought our groceries from Pflug's Grocery Store - Harry Schmidt (Norman's Uncle) used to take our order and deliver it by horse and wagon. Loew's Butcher Store provided the same service, and Ed Bock would come every Saturday with our order. And always teased me and pulled my pigtails. A bit later on, a grocery store (I believe Bohack) opened on the corner of Central Avenue and Merrick, where the Rivoli TV Store now stands. My friend and I would go each Saturday morning with our trusty little wagon and get the groceries.

I remember Watts Blacksmith Shop (later Golder's), on the south side of Merrick Road between Central Avenue and where Boening's Florist now stands. And the lovely brook and "Big Pond" which later became the State Park. And Foster's house on Corona and Merrick; Keller's homestead where the hitching post remained until the mid-fifties; the Hall home; the Schmidts' homes on either side of Corona Avenue. And all the lovely wide-open spaces, with trees and bushes and farms.

Helen Dowdeswell spoke of the "out house" at the old School #13, but she didn't say how awful it was when it rained and you had to walk way out back to go to the john!!! Not to mention how frightened little kids could be when they saw a strange man. I stayed in #13 until School #30 was built on Clear Stream Avenue, and was able to enjoy this luxury for only two years. I remember a small, old, white "churchy" looking structure right near School #13, which I realize now was the old Sinner's Hope Chapel.

I recall a lovely Spring Day, during recess, when Willis Keller brought his little brother Bertram to school so the girls could babysit - and the little monster almost choked on a lolly-pop.

And then after grammar school graduation, back it was to School 13 to attend high school - and again the two-mile traveling problem. Wouldn't you know? Mine was the last graduating class out of the old Wheeler Avenue school, in June 1929 - and in September, the new building on Fletcher Avenue was opened.

I remember when we used to know almost everyone in the Village, and now - most of the street names aren't even familiar!

But I still love Valley Stream, and am happy to note an upsurge in the life of Rockaway Avenue. Hope it continues to grow and renew.

...MADELINE A. KAPPAUF

November, 1975

P.S. BERT KELLER HAS RECENTLY RETIRED
AS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF VALLEY
STREAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL!

JUNE 1987

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Our family came to Valley Stream when we were small children, and settled in the West End, the section known as "Clearstream". Our home was one of two on Louise Place, the only houses within nearly a mile radius. Two more homes were built about eight years later.

Louise Place was (and still is) a one-block street that ran parallel with the famous "Trolley Tracks", and we were only a short block north of the tracks. To the west was Clearstream Avenue, a narrow dirt lane leading to Merrick Road; directly behind our house was Valley Stream Boulevard, another narrow dirt road barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass. The Long Island Railroad was south of the Trolley Tracks, and between them ran the "Pipeline", ~~which~~ ^{27th St} Under the Pipeline flowed the water from the Reservoir to New York City, and a pumping station (at about the Green Acres site) controlled the flow of water. During World War I, the Pumping Station was a very important facility and was fenced off and continuously guarded by soldiers carrying rifles.

When my brother Carl and sister Clara were little tota, our Mother sent them over to the Pipeline to pick blackberries for pies. On one occasion when they tried to enter the enclosed area, they were stopped by the soldiers. My sister and brother convinced the soldiers that they were not planning to sabotage the water works, and so were allowed to gather berries. Mother baked an extra blackberry pie and the next day it was delivered to the soldiers to show our good will..

.....MADELINE A. KAPPAUF