

Arlene Balcewicz: The date of this was May 31, 1980. It took place at 55 Atlantic Avenue in West Sayville. That was Mrs. Newhouse, Antje, A-N-T-J-E, and with her daughter, (Greta?) Newhouse, who married (Leon Zinderdine?), and done for the West Sayville Suffolk Marine Museum for their project on the history of West Sayville and the Dutch people. Was your father always a bayman, too?

Greta Newhouse: No. No.

AB: He was never a bayman?

GN: No. My dad was a – he was a carpenter at the time. He worked for – do you remember (Vanderbreek?), the builders?

AB: Yes.

GN: Wasn't that right, Mother?

Antje Newhouse: [inaudible]

AB: What is the first thing you remember about West Sayville when you came here from Holland? What is the first thing you remember when you came?

GN: What's the first thing you remember, Mom?

AB: What did you first think when you arrived? Were you happy about it, or were you adventurous?

AN: Well, I think I took it for granted because I wanted to go so bad.

AB: You took it for granted because you wanted to come here very much.

GN: My father was here already. He had been here for six months.

AN: He was here for six months. Was it six months right now?

GN: Maybe even longer. I have some of the papers.

AN: But I was glad to see him back.

AB: You were glad to see him. Yes.

GN: He went over first to try to get enough money to get us over, my mother and the four children.

AB: We had four children.

GN: I mean, the other three children. But four of us, I mean, my mother and the four of us.

AB: What were your sons' names?

AN: My sons?

GN: What was their name, Mom?

AN: Gary and John.

GN: You might have known – didn't you know John when I was in school?

AB: He married Elsie.

GN: That's right. That was my brother, John.

And then I had a younger brother, Garrett.

AB: Yes, Gary. He is married to (Adelaide?). Did he marry (Adelaide?)

AN: Yes, that [inaudible].

AB: You lost both your brothers, did you not? I lost my brother, too.

GN: Yes, I know. I remember Charlie very well. Yes, we were good friends.

AB: Oh, yeah. He spent a lot of time down here in West Sayville Dock. But then boy...

GN: Yes, that's right.

AB: Golly, we lost her, too.

GN: Yes, I know.

AB: It's sad when you look back all the young people.

GN: I know. She was very, very young when she passed away.

AB: What did you find hard in coming here to live in your new home? What did you find was hard in coming here?

AN: We [inaudible] in the dirty used and copper rooms next to the school.

AB: You lived in a small house then.

AN: Yes, I lived in a small. There was two bedrooms, two very small. I fixed three when it was

a living room and then I had three. [inaudible]

AB: Did you find it hard shopping? Was it different to go to the store here to find the things you wished to cook?

AN: No, I don't think so. No.

AB: No?

AN: I think it was easy within home. We had no car or nothing, and then most of the time, I went to Adrian in the car from downtown if we needed something.

AB: Everybody helped you.

AN: No doubt.

GN: What do you mean, like neighbors, Mom, took you shopping in the car with Dad, because Dad didn't have a car when he first came here?

AN: No, but we always had to – that was Sunday.

AB: Somebody must have helped.

AN: And then, of course, we were so used to buying what is every day.

GN: In Holland, they go to the stores every day, almost.

AB: You go shopping every day in Holland.

AN: And, of course, I did that in the beginning of the year, too. You picked up every day what you needed.

GN: Of course, in those days, you used to shop in Van Essendelft store.

AN: He came to the door.

GN: It was like Rollstone Avenue, that little country store.

AB: There was a country store, Van Essendelft is on Rollstone.

GN: That's right, just like (Sammy Greens?) on the corner here.

AB: I was not familiar with that. I did not come to West Sayville often enough when I was a girl. Was he one of the early country stores who readily charged everything when the bay was frozen over or when there wasn't any carpentry work because most of the stores did?

GN: He let you charge. When Dad didn't have work, he charged, didn't he? You could pay later. That was that store, wasn't it?

AN: Maybe he did, I don't know.

GN: Yes, because I know there were times when Dad was out of work and they'd let you get things just the same and pay later. I can remember that.

AB: Honestly, most of the stores did operate like that because so much of the work was seasonal.

GN: Van Essendelft was always very good. He and his family would let him have groceries.

AN: Of course, it takes time. My husband was a pretty good carpenter and everybody knew it. But in the beginning, nobody knew it. You come here, you can say, I'm good and good and I can do this, but—

AB: You have to prove yourself.

AN: You have to prove it first. After I saw him, they all say he's a pretty good carpenter. After that, he was here in Little Valley and never had trouble to get anywhere. But he always had to work.

AB: Were you homesick when you first came?

AN: No. Just a little bit, not too much.

AB: Well, I guess you were so glad to see your husband. You had your children with you.

AN: My husband was so glad to see us. He hated Holland, so he ended up – I want to go to America, and I want to go – that was his only—

GN: Did he really hate Holland, Mother? He didn't like to stay in Holland. My father didn't want to go back.

AN: He said, in Holland, they take everything you have. Everything you have.

GN: Oh, you mean the taxes were so much higher than here, even in those days? I didn't realize that.

AB: What did you find very different here compared to living in Holland in keeping house and raising your family and being part of the village?

AN: I don't know. I never talked too much about it.

AB: I guess you have just adjusted very well.

GN: No, I think my mother ran sort of a Dutch household. I think she carried that along with her. My mother was never – well, later on, she joined – we've joined the church right away, but–

AB: Which church did you join?

GN: When we first came here, we went to the Christian Reformed Church. Then later, we switched over and went to the First Reformed Church. But first, it was the Christian Reformed Church. That's what we went to in Holland. They call it the Gereformeerde Kerken in Holland. So, we went to that for maybe a year or two and then we switched over.

AN: My husband, he belonged to that church. Now I belong to the Dutch Reformed.

GN: Which is like the First Reformed.

AN: And we went between the two churches. But he came here almost a half year before I came. I don't know if it was a half year.

GN: Yes, I think it was a half year, so between a half year to eight months.

AN: He went, of course, to that Jewish. Then I came there too and they gave me a whole dinner.

AB: Where did you come from in Holland?

AN: From the North Holum.

AB: How do you say that exactly?

GN: North Holum. We came from Ijmuiden.

AN: It's only a half hour from Ijmuiden.

AB: Half hour from Ijmuiden. What was the name of the village?

GN: The place we came from was Ijmuiden. Ijmuiden.

AB: Ijmuiden?

GN: Ijmuiden.

AB: Ijmuiden.

AN: Yep. I'm sure you didn't hear them – the name Ijmuiden is not some...

GN: It is not a well-known name?

AN: No. [inaudible] and all the make-play that...

GN: What was it known when we were there? What did they call it? You mean they gave that name in the later years, Ijmuiden?

AN: Oh, yeah, they could. Yeah.

GN: It's spelled I-J-U-I-D-E-N.

AB: Was the clothing much different when you came here? Did you have to get all new things to wear?

AN: Yeah. No, in the beginning it is not so easy. But Adrian was someone – he wanted to get to an English school. He was studying all the time.

AB: To learn English.

AN: And he wanted to learn English himself.

AB: Did you dress much differently at that time in Holland than in here? When you came here, did you feel you were dressed differently?

AN: I don't know. I never heard anything.

AB: Greta said the part of Holland you came from that you did not wear wooden shoes in that part.

AN: What do you mean by that?

AB: In your part of Holland, did you not say, Greta, that part they did not wear wooden shoes?

GN: Yes. Oh yes. We didn't wear wooden shoes. Did you, Mom, where we came from?

AN: Of course, that's much different from where I came from, a very small island on that end of that island.

GN: She born in a very island - on very small island.

AN: And there was maybe fifty or sixty people on that, living on that island, and it was all around with water.

AB: But it was not the custom of that island to wear wooden shoes.

AN: Yeah, it was...

GN: Did they wear wooden shoes on that island?

AN: Oh, yeah. They wore all of them, only sometimes outdated. Yeah, they'd go to the store. The store was about a half hour. I thought at that time, maybe it was not a half hour, but a half hour. I thought that took so long in Holland.

GN: But you did wear wooden shoes then? You did wear them when you were a little girl.

AN: Yes, when I was young I always have to do.

GN: When you were young, you always walked with wooden ones.

AN: Yeah, we always walked.

GN: On that little island, but not when we went to Ijmuiden then.

AN: The weather was very bad.

AB: According to the weather, just like...

AN: Yeah, the weather was very stormy and it was raining and pouring and it was muddy, and when the sailcreek come on—

AB: Did you save any wooden shoes? Do you have any?

AN: No, you take them off. When you go to school, you take off your wooden shoes.

AB: Do you have any now? Do you have any wooden shoes now? Did you save any?

AN: Oh, I think so. I think they never go out.

GN: No, do you have – my mother's a little hard of hearing. Do you have any of the wooden shoes that you wore when you were a young girl? Do you have them now?

AN: No, not for myself. I had from Gary and for John and from you then.

GN: Really?

AN: Nothing from myself.

GN: Do you have wooden shoes from us when we were little?

AN: Yes, in the back of the attic.

GN: Oh, really. Our wooden shoes? Oh, that's marvelous, marvelous.

AB: I will have to look and see.

GN: Yes. I didn't know that. We'll have to look for those someday.

AN: I don't think much different.

GN: But you have our wooden shoes when we were children up in the attic?

AN: No, if we don't [inaudible].

GN: I didn't know. Were the people all pretty friendly when we came here, Mom? You said that they had a big dinner for you when we first came?

AN: Oh, yeah, that was good times.

GN: Was this mostly the church people, people from the church or...

AB: You had no relatives here when your husband came?

AN: I had nobody here. It was just [inaudible].

AB: How come you chose to come to West Sayville rather than some other place in the United States?

AN: No, West Sayville, of course, there was our friends who came. I don't know where they came from.

AB: You heard about West Sayville over in Holland.

AN: My friends, yeah.

GN: But, Mother, weren't we first going to go to Grand Rapids, Michigan? Weren't we thinking about, or Dad thought about Grand Rapids, Michigan, and then there were friends here that had settled in West Sayville who they knew in the Netherlands, the (Houtwippers?), and then they said, why don't you stay right here? Dad found work, and wasn't that the way it went?

AN: No, I think Pop never did that.

GN: Oh, I thought I heard at one time that that's where you were thinking of going, to Grand Rapids.

AN: There was some place I thought was here on the end of the island or something.

GN: I had heard Grand Rapids, but – yes.

AN: I want to live more than the end of the island.

GN: But then he found work here and friends here, said, "Why don't you stay right here?" I think that's how you settled here.

AB: Have you been back to visit? Have you been back to visit your homeland?

AN: Yes, I was there twice.

GN: Yes, one time when your mother was very ill. Then the second time you went with Dad. You took a trip with him. I just went back for the first time about three weeks ago, four weeks ago.

AB: Well, that was the first time you went back.

GN: It was wonderful.

AB: Sometimes I just took it for granted you have been before. I do not know why.

GN: No, never. It was my first trip back, so it was a wonderful reception from my aunts and uncles. It was very nice, and cousins. It was so hospitable.

AB: Were you there a week or two weeks?

GN: Two weeks. I stayed with cousins who had been here to visit. It was really nice. I went to my home where I was born; had my picture taken where I was born, and it really was nice. I still have my mother and father's passport, and there was a paper there, too. In order for Dad to get my mother and us here, an affidavit had to be signed that he had enough money to take care of us, I guess, so that we wouldn't become ward's estate. I thought that was interesting. I think the amount was something like \$300 that he had. Can you imagine allowing a wife and three children with \$200? So, \$200 must have been a lot in those days.

AB: Yes, for heaven's sakes.

GN: But I thought that was rather interesting that he could have gotten us here with that little amount of money.

AB: You have the passport?

GN: I have some of the old papers, yeah, which I thought you might be interested in. Yes, this is a declaration of intention to become a citizen. My mother always used to call me, so instead of signing her name, Antje Newhouse, it was always Mrs. Adrian Newhouse. It was always Mrs. Adrian Newhouse. I guess she always signed it that way. They ask here, if you use another name, what is the name? She put down Mrs. Adrian Newhouse. Then I used that name because it was more simple. She always thought of herself, I think, as Mrs. Adrian Newhouse.

AB: How do you spell your mother's name?

GN: Well, her Dutch name is A-N-T-J-E.

AB: Is it Antje?

AN: Antje.

AB: Antje.

GN: Antje. Our Dutch name was Nieuwenhuizen, which was switched over to Newhouse, which really means Newhouse.

AB: How do you spell that?

GN: That's N-I-E-U-W-E-N-H-U-I-Z-E-N. No, that was our last name in Dutch, Nieuwenhuizen.

AN: Oh, the bank? It's much longer.

GN: Mother, it says here the last place of foreign residence was Velsen, Netherlands. Is that what Ijmuiden was named, Velsen? Or Ijmuiden was a small town in like the township of Velsen. Wasn't that correct? Ijmuiden was in Velsen, V-E-L-S-E-N.

AB: That was the township?

GN: Yeah. That was like the township. It was explained to me—

AB: And what was the village?

GN: It was I-J-M-U-I-D-E-N. We came on the Rotterdam, on the Steamship Rotterdam. Wilhelmina was then Queen of the Netherlands.

AB: How long did it take then to sail on the Rotterdam?

GN: I don't know. Mother, how long did it take to get here on the Rotterdam? How many days?

AN: It was around eleven days.

AB: Eleven days? How was the ship fitted out the Rotterdam? Was it the same as today's steamships with different decks?

AN: No, they had some, but not so high. Now with the kids, I never go look at the kids. I was the stewardess. So, I watched the kids at night. So, I never come calling them [inaudible]. They never lay all close with me.

GN: You mean we weren't all in the same stateroom?

AN: No, not to sleep, but to bed sometimes. I don't know about that. I never talk too much about it.

AB: So, often that you will hear of ships being crowded, but that was way back in the earlier days before.

AN: See, in the Maritime Tunnel, quite some people came here. We are not one of the first one.

AB: No. You did not come in that way when there were so many coming and the ships were crowded.

GN: This was the affidavit of support that I was telling you about, which I think is interesting. (Tonus Locker?) was one of the witnesses to this, as was (Albert van Hessendelf?). I see he was a carpenter. His regular occupation was carpenter. His average weekly earnings amounted to \$44.

AB: That was probably the top earnings.

GN: Wasn't that something? But can you imagine? He possesses property to the value of – and then it says \$200. That was his sole. When you think about this, it doesn't seem like very much money, does it?

AB: No.

GN: Even though I have three of these, you might even enjoy. To me, that was interesting.

AB: It would have been much and actual personal things.

GN: That's what you were saying. That's why I was looking through some things. You had mentioned like things from the Netherlands. The only thing that my mother had is maybe a hat from her mother, she said. Maybe that little lace cap you still have from your mother, but that wouldn't have anything to do with my mother. Oh, I thought you said it was upstairs. Last night, we were talking about it. How about the shawl of your mother's? You said she wore some kind of a black shawl or something over her head or around her shoulders?

AB: If it is of the family, that is perfectly all right, too. In fact, it is nice to have something from the ancestors or from Holland itself. I do not think we have any clothing, whatsoever.

GN: You don't have any clothing, whatsoever?

AB: No, no. You hear rumors. Someone will tell you, I know Mrs. So-and-so has something. But usually, you know, you cannot blame people if they would like to keep it. It has to come from someone who was really cleaning out or moving away.

AN: No, it is not too good at [inaudible].

GN: You said your mother had sort of a black shawl that she wore over her head or something like that.

AN: Yeah, someone smelled it like it woody.

GN: You didn't even bring that much from Holland, did you, when we first came?

AB: I am just looking to see if there is anything here you are interesting.

GN: This is my dad. I thought that was cute when we first came. This was his passport picture.

AB: For goodness sakes. He is a nice-looking man.

AN: Oh, yes.

GN: Yes. But that is how he looked when he came over here.

AB: What was your father's first name?

GN: His name was Adrian, but his Dutch name was Adrianus. I guess it's on there as Adrian. It would probably be in the beginning.

AB: Adrianus. I guess your passport book is here in your box. I thought I had that in here too but I do not, your original passport because that was a cute picture, too.

GN: Yes. I think kind of in this.

AB: Your mother sounds so calm about having come here, and yet it was such an adventure to leave here where you had always lived, get on a huge ship, come across an ocean to a strange place. It must have been hard.

AN: No, in the beginning it is. I never was too crazy about to have company. I don't want to listen to it.

AB: Well, I guess it was hard having company because you could not speak English at first.

AN: I didn't have a lot to do with that. I didn't know what they were –

AB: What they were saying.

AN: – saying to me. That bothered me and you felt so stupid that you couldn't.

AB: How did you learn English? Did you go to a school or did you learn it just as you went along?

AN: Yeah, there's always the papers, and I just said, no, I never went to school, not that I'm so good in reading.

AB: Well, just by listening you learned English.

AN: But I can't read the paper at night, and the letters and [inaudible].

AB: I think perhaps that is a better way to learn a language than going to school.

GN: Well, dad went to school when he first came here. He went to night classes and learned English. But my mother, of course, had the three small children, and of course dad was a carpenter, and he had to get out into the world. My mother was always a home person. She loved her home and her children, and this was my mother's whole life, really. I don't even know whether dad encouraged you to go take English lessons, did he? Did dad think much about it? Did you ever talk to him about going to take lessons?

AN: No. He went to somebody for a lesson for a month.

GN: Oh, dad did. But why didn't you ever go?

AN: No, I never went for the lesson. Papa always said you don't need it. You can live. I can't live, and he had to pay for him. He had to pay so much for a lesson that he thought he could meet, and I don't have to pay again.

AB: He passed the information on to you, you mean from school. He taught her.

GN: Yes. That's how it went. I wondered about that, why you never took English lessons. But I know my mother mostly was home with the preschool.

AN: Maybe for sure I never was going to take the lesson. But maybe it's better to do better.

AB: Do you have the opportunity to speak Dutch with any friends yet? Do you have the opportunity yet to speak it?

AN: Yeah, I still have some Dutch friends. Yeah. I always keep them somehow.

AB: Did you learn the language, Greta?

GN: Well, I went to kindergarten as soon as I came here. All my friends teased me about this, and they said I'm the only one that flunked kindergarten because they kept me back another year. I was in kindergarten for two years because all I could speak was Dutch when I first came here. I probably came maybe in the middle of the year, in the middle of the school year. I'm sure we didn't get here in September. I don't know. I'd have to check. But I had to repeat kindergarten.

AB: But you can speak Dutch fluently today?

GN: Oh, I can speak some Dutch, yes. I won't say fluently.

AN: Oh, she can hear everything that we talk. If we talk all Dutch, she'll know what we're talking about.

GN: I managed to. I had no problems at all in the Netherlands when I went there to this a couple of weeks ago. I was able to understand part of it. Not all of it, because my vocabulary isn't as expanded as some of my cousins are.

AN: I like to see the language carried on, but so often you want to be so American that you don't keep on speaking it.

GN: Well, we speak Dutch to each other once in a while, don't we?

AN: Yeah. When we came here, we had, what was it, about three or some four friends or so, they all came at the same time. We had some friends that we came that helped a lot.

GN: Who were the friends, Mom?

AN: Mothers, they came later, the mothers.

GN: Oh, they came a little later after us.

AN: Maybe a yeah.

AB: Who were these families?

GN: The name was (Nellie van Putten?). Her father's name was (John van Putten?). She and I became close friends. She married (Tony Russo?). Do you remember Tony Russo?

AN: I remember that name.

GN: The Russo family?

AN: Yes, yes.

GN: She married Tony later on, my friend Nellie. But her mother and father came here a little after we did, and so did the DeMars family. We were here before the DeMars family came here, weren't we? The DeMars?

Over to Mrs. DeMars when she had her babies, you acted as midwife.

AN: She had her babies. She didn't want anybody to take care of them.

GN: Yeah, my mother acted as midwife for Mrs. DeMars. I don't know the name of the DeMars family. They have...

AB: They are again names of people, but you do not necessarily know all of them.

GN: (Adrian DeMars?), who was about my age, and (Jake DeMars?).

AB: I remember the name, the family name.

GN: But as my mother said, they had no one to help them. They were a Dutch family that came here to Los Angeles. When she was going to have her babies, my mother would go over, and she would be with her. Didn't she have a doctor, Mrs. DeMars, at that time?

AN: [inaudible] They came and picked me up.

GN: Her husband came and picked my mother up, and my mother would help her have her baby.

AB: Most of the time, did you have your babies by yourself rather than with the doctor?

AN: It was always by myself. She never went to [inaudible]. She was so afraid because they had to pay something. They were so poor, and so poor.

AB: Oh, for goodness sakes.

AN: [inaudible]

AB: But there never was a doctor who settled right here in West Sayville, was there?

GN: I don't think so. Now that you mention it, because we had Dr. (Oxon Ruth?) – could I heat up your coffee? We had Dr. (Oxon?). Remember? That was the first doctor that I remember. Did we have another doctor?

AN: We're always meant to die. I don't know how we ever came with Dr. (Oxon?). He never was a very real doctor. That was our doctor, Dr. (Oxon?), in the beginning.

AB: You did not find it hard going to school then, Greta, because there were other Dutch children going to school, too.

GN: Yeah. Well, no, I think at the time when I went to school, I was the only Dutch girl in kindergarten. My teacher would always – no, I didn't mind it at all because I remember I was quite a novelty. So, they would always ask me to sing little Dutch songs, and if they had a program, it would be to sing a little Dutch song. So, no, I don't think that the adjustment was that hard. Now it seemed to be–

AB: Can you sing a Dutch song now?

GN: We do once in a while. I do to my granddaughter.

AB: That would be nice if you put it on the tape. Lately, we've gotten some nice photographs at the museum.

GN: Have you?

AB: Someone came in the other day from the Brouwer family. It says Grandpa the Brouwer. I do not know the first name, just which Grandpa Brouwer was. But he is in a dark suit. (Peggy Holson?), who is in charge of this, she was in ecstasy. He had his wooden shoes on. She has not been able to find any, but we found a picture. Then there is one of another ladies. I think she was Grandma Brouwer. I am not certain, but I just glanced at them. This must be a very old picture, now looking at the photograph, but it is not faded at all. It is very well preserved. She had a flowered skirt on. She was a big woman. There is something on her – a cap on her head, and some kind of a stick she was holding. Real thick sticks. I do not know whether it was a cane or to beat somebody off. I do not know. Then there was another photograph of a pretty young lady. I do not know whether she was with the Brouwer family or not. This is all on tape. I should not record them. She had the small white cap on. Then the one that came out in the back for one, I understand. You went to church that you've tacked on in the back of the small one. Is that right?

AN: Yes.

AB: That is the only photograph we found of someone in a real Dutch cap. This did not have any lace on it. It was plain, the white one. There was like a halo around the back.

GN: Well, that sounds pretty. I thought you might be interested in my mother's mother and father. This is my mother's mother and father in Holland.

AB: Oh, for goodness sake.

GN: But that's the little white hat and the little fashion black dresses. But I thought you still had a little hat like that, Mom, upstairs someplace.

AN: A new hat?

GN: No, a little hat like your mother wore there.

AN: Well, maybe I told you that.

GN: You don't think you have it anymore?

AN: I was not too much with the Dutch stuff.

GN: They were coming to America to be Americans. That was it.

AB: Well, that is true. You come here to make a new life and you do not want to hang on to the

old. That is the right attitude and the way to make a new life.

GN: I thought it's kind of cute.

AB: If I were you, I would put the name on the back of them. We are haunted by pictures without names, put up the full name.

GN: You mean my mother?

AB: For your own family. Oh, that would be very [inaudible]. They're nice pictures.

GN: I think they are, too.

AB: Let me write the full name down.

GN: Mom, what was your mother's full name? I think I have it on one of these papers.

AN: Like your name, Grietje.

GN: My mother's maiden name was—

AB: You are named after her. G-R-I-E-T-J-E.

GN: Brouwer, B-R-O-U-W-E-R. Well, now that was my mother's — her maiden name. Now, her married name would have been—

AB: What was your grandfather's name? We will do it that way.

GN: What was your father's name, Mother, his first name?

AN: Wuis.

GN: Yeah, his last name was Wuis, but what was his first name, your father's first name?

AN: Yan.

GN: Yan. How does it - Yan, like a Y-O-N?

AN: A-N, Yan.

GN: Oh, Y-A-N.

AN: And Wuis is W-U-I-S.

AB: And how do you spell the last name?

GN: W-U-I-S.

AB: W-U-I-S.

GN: Of course, that would have been my grandmother's name too then after she was married. But that was her maiden name, and Brouwer was...

AB: This is Greta's grandparents. The Americanization would have been Greta and John?

GN: Well, we became citizens through my dad. So, our names, I don't think, were ever officially changed because I became a citizen.

AB: I am going back a generation. That is all right. No, this [inaudible] because they stayed in Holland. Again, the generation is mixed up.

GN: No. These people stayed in Holland. My mother has a passport too but I think it's in another box. That was Dad when he first came over here.

AB: Then if you found your mother's, I could put them together.

GN: Okay. I'll have to look. Excuse me, I found Dad's passport, but I have yours when you made a second trip to Holland.

AN: Did you take it over?

GN: I'm going to have to check.

AB: Do you cook the same things here that you did when you were in Holland? You cook the same things?

AN: Yeah. Maybe a little bit more cabbage and more string beans and more – maybe more.

AB: What are some of the favorite meals you like to cook?

AN: In Holland, the most are all vegetables and potatoes. That is the main thing.

AB: All kinds of vegetables, potatoes. You did not need as much meat in Holland?

AN: And maybe stew.

AB: Stew?

AN: And you use the stew to cook the vegetables. So, when they dry, then you put them in the potatoes, mashed potatoes. You mash them all together.

AB: What desserts did you like to make?

AN: Sometimes you have some leftover from the last night or something, some gravy and a couple pieces of meat. I think you make fresh meat. Just put it over.

AB: What were your favorite desserts to make?

AN: I don't know. I loved (oliebollen?).

AB: Like what?

AN: (Oliebollen?).

AB: Oh yeah, that is a perennial favorite. Did you like to bake?

AN: No, not so much than I used to do it.

AB: When you had the children a little.

AN: I like to bake for my [inaudible].

AB: Did you bake your own bread? Did you make your own bread years ago?

AN: I did that too for a while. That goes all over.

AB: Yes, it is much easier to buy it. Is it not?

AN: And now the kids, after a while, they don't want the homemade stuff anymore, the bread and everything. No.

AB: No?

AN: No. They like better, what you bought.

AB: Did you do much sewing for your children?

AN: No. I used to, yeah, but not lately.

AB: When they were small, you did sewing.

AN: When they were small, yes. It was for Greta. I always sewed everything for Greta. I loved to sew when I was younger. I did a lot of embroidery and everything, yes, but not lately, I didn't do too much.

GN: No, I can't find it right now. I may have it home, though.

AN: Can you hear what she's saying?

AB: Yes. She cannot find your passport now. She said she might have it at home.

AN: Yes, she took some stuff from home.

AB: When you are looking around, Greta, have you come across any other interesting photographs?

GN: I will. I have the documents that you wanted.

AB: Like, for instance, your father at his carpentry work, or the truck he used, or anything like that.

GN: Not when he first came here because he worked for someone else. He didn't go into business for himself. How long had Dad been in business for himself, Mother? Do you remember exactly when he started? But at that time, when he worked for someone else; he didn't have his own truck.

AB: Because in a project of this kind, it is nice to note that not everybody worked on the bay. You had to have other people at other occupations in order to balance the community.

GN: With Dad, I do have some pictures of my father with the first crew that he worked with, with Mr. (Vanderbreek?). We were looking through pictures the other night, and yes, and then we saw a picture of Dad, and I said, "Who are those men with him?" And you said, "Well, that's Mr. (Vanderbreek?)."

AB: That would be nice.

GN: So, I'll get that picture together for you.

AB: We have some of the boatyards with the crews. So, that would be nice to have some other occupations, too.

GN: But you did have pictures of Dad and Mr. (Vanderbreek?). So, I'll look through some of those and see. I wasn't sure exactly what you would want and what you would be interested in. But now that I know, I know we have something like that.

AB: That would be nice.

GN: They did keep a lot of their papers. I will say that. I can also copy papers on the machine too and anything that you like.

AB: That would be interesting, because now that shows a story, the affidavit of support and anything about coming here and what the procedure you will go through to emigrate.

GN: Emigrate. I don't know what else was required. That was the only thing I really found. I

guess that was the important thing that you have enough money to support your family. But I thought it was interesting that \$200 would do it.

AB: At that time, \$200 did go through.

GN: Not really. A wife and three children on \$200. He had a place for us to stay. That was important, too. It was a double house that we lived in. It was an apartment, really, because Mr. (Vanderborg?) lived upstairs.

It's so funny. I lived next to the school on the right-hand side, which is now the maintenance building in West Sayville. It used to be the West Sayville School when we moved here.

AB: Where you lived is a maintenance building now?

GN: Now. It used to be a school when we first came here. When we came here, we lived on the left-hand side of the school where the (Cowans?) live. That's the house we lived in.

AB: But what is the number of it now?

GN: I don't know what the number of it is. But that's where we lived, and the man that owned it was Mr. (Vanderborg?). He lived upstairs, and we lived downstairs. There were no toilet facilities then. You had the little back houses in the backyard. We had a two-seater, I think, was it, Mom? We had a double-seater back there. My mother said, that was strange because she says, when I was in Holland, she had – you had an inside toilet, didn't you, in Holland?

AN: Yeah.

GN: And coming here, she said, that was a little–

AN: I said that is something. You come here and then you have an outside toilet here. My mother said, "Oh, you come in America; you see all the things here. Oh, so much more than here." And that was the first thing I saw, an outside toilet.

GN: And we had a well.

AB: You had a well?

GN: We had a well. We had to draw our own water. That was another thing we had to–

AB: What year was this?

AN: Now, of course, (Casey?) lived in as an old – (Casey Vanderborg?) maybe used to have a list to the old family. There was three or four of the (Vanderborgs?), all living there in [inaudible].

GN: (Case Vanderborg?) was the name of the man who owned this house.

AB: But what year was this when you came?

GN: What year was it? It must have been around – was it [19]25?

AB: It must be on here somewhere.

GN: That's when my dad – right.

AB: April 31, 1926.

GN: That's when my father came over here.

AB: That is when your father came. He came about six months before you did.

GN: We came later. But I would have that on my mother's passport. That would be sometime-- but I'll find that.

AB: 1925 is when that you and your mother, brothers came.

GN: Yes, because it has to look something like that. I'll have to look home.

AN: Greta, [inaudible].

GN: I'm looking for your passport, Mom, with your pictures, and then our pictures were in there, too.

That picture that you have in your room of the three of us, was that taken in Holland, or was that taken here? The three children together. Was that picture taken in Holland? I think so. It was taken here?

AN: I guess.

GN: I thought I'd come across your passport, but I have to look for it. Then I'll find a picture too of my dad with his first crew that he worked with.

AB: That would be nice. How many children do you have, Greta, besides the daughter I met? You have two daughters?

GN: I also have a son who lives in Toronto, Canada.

AB: And your daughter is Donna?

GN: Yes, her name is Donna.

AB: What's her marriage name?

GN: Dove, D-O-V –

AB: D-O-V-E.

GN: Her husband is a teacher.

AB: And what is his name?

GN: He's Thomas Dove.

AB: Thomas.

GN: In fact, I think he's a member of the museum. He's very interested in the little museum.

AB: Oh, he is? Yes, somehow.

GN: I think so. I didn't know he was.

AB: And they have children. Kristen Lee?

GN: Kristen Leeann. That's K-R-I-S-T-E-N, Leeanne, L-E-A-N-N-E.

AB: They have one child.

GN: Yes, they just one child.

AB: What is your other daughter's name?

GN: No, I have a son.

AB: Oh, son.

GN: John Roger Zinderdine.

AB: Do you have any children?

GN: Yes, he has one son.

AB: What is his name?

GN: His name is Jeffrey.

AB: I think it is Jeffrey Michael, is it not?

GN: No, Jeffrey Kenneth, I'm sorry. I've been thinking of my father-in-law, John Michael

Zinderdine, and it's Jeffrey Kenneth.

AB: You have two children, a boy and a girl.

GN: Should I hang on to this until I find the other one, Ruth?

AB: Yes, let us do them both together.

GN: Okay, all right, then I'll hang on to this.

AB: I have been asking all the questions. Anything you would like to add that I have not touched upon?

GN: Do you remember, Mother, where we came in? Was it in Hoboken? Did our boat dock in Hoboken? Because it seemed to me that I can remember when I was a little girl coming on the Rotterdam that we saw the Statue of Liberty. Do you remember that?

AN: On both sides, it looked like to me. I can remember the street in the middle on both sides of the water.

GN: That's what it looked like to you, the Statue of Liberty? It looked like a street in the middle?

AN: Yeah.

AB: Did you say everybody came up on deck?

GN: Yeah. I can remember the people coming out on deck and everybody hurrying. They saw the Statue of Liberty, or we were – we cited America. I can remember that when I was a little girl.

Do you remember that?

AN: Not too much.

GN: No.

AB: Did you have to go through Ellis Island?

AN: No.

AB: No?

AN: We didn't have to go on through. I was so happy that most of us could go [inaudible].

AB: Because there has been a lot in the paper lately about Ellis Island. They are doing it over.

AN: I don't think we came in there.

AB: Some of the stories that are coming out that it was not very pleasant for most immigrants. Some of them were taken advantage of, given wrong change, and it was not an easy thing to go through.

AN: [inaudible] how they don't trust, and they thought something was going on or something between them.

GN: But that wasn't when we came over. There was no problem at all for us to get through.

AN: No, no, not at all.

AB: That is good. I guess that is all we can think of.

GN: Maybe more things we'll—

AB: Yes.

GN: My mom will mention different things.

AB: Just jot down anything related to that, and we can always add.

GN: And you wanted to have some pictures made. He came to ask you if you wanted some pictures made. You gave him a picture, I think, of your mother and father when you got married, and the picture that's hanging in your bedroom of us. He told you it would only be a little amount of money, remember? Then he came to deliver the pictures and said it would be something like how much money? Remember when he came to deliver those pictures and how much was he going to charge you?

AN: Yeah, it was over \$50.

GN: It was over \$50, and my mother said, "But you told me it was much less than that." But I think it was the communication problem that they had.

AN: I picked that the three of them were all \$45. It was on one side.

GN: And he was charging for each person on the portrait \$5.

AN: Oh, what do you know?

GN: So, when he came, I think she said she didn't have the money, right? Then what was he going to do?

AN: I don't know what happened.

AB: But you have the picture?

GN: We have the pictures now. I think that he was trying to take my mother over. She didn't understand the language. He could say any amount. Then I think Dad finally straightened it out, didn't he, with him? I think he was going to sue my mother and what he wasn't going to do.

AN: I gave him some money in the beginning. He had them very cheap, [inaudible] can't buy so many for a couple of dollars, [inaudible] or something.

GN: But then when he came to actually collect, he told her much more now. Because he thought she doesn't understand, I think. So, that was...

AB: I guess it was a traveling photographer who would come around because of some of the old photographs we have. There was a New York photographer and someone from New Jersey. Some have no mark on them at all because I always try to give credit to a photographer if possible.

GN: Well, they all aren't marked.

AB: Well, this one would be. Some of these pictures would be marked. I think that that is one of the pictures, Mom, that he did.

[end of transcript]