

Orleans County Historical Association

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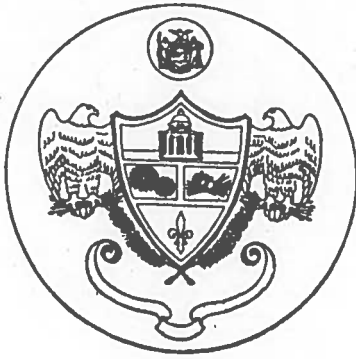
SUBJECTS

- ** Construction of present homestead
development of the land
- Girl Scouts in Medina
early activities / members, etc.
- Employment in early years:
S.A.Cook & Co., H.J.Heinz & Co., Bignall Co.
- ** First Baptist Church
Medina
Friendly Circle Class leader
activities of members, etc.
- Shelby Center Baptist Church
early piano lessons / out-of town teacher, etc.
- ** Fred Breitbeck, husband
first came to Medina
guard on Canal
National Guard
- wedding of Jessie and Fred
- gardening (especially flowers)
arranging flowers for weddings, church, etc.
Lowell & Marian Neal wedding
(during WW II, used "V" for Victory symbol)

NAMES

Frank W. Mallison, father
Estella Rowley, mother
Charles, Howard, Jessie and Edith (Mallison)
Fred Breitbeck, husband
Dorothy M. (Grapes), daughter .. wed: George Grapes
Robert Grapes and Barbara Grapes

plus many others.....



Orleans County Historical Association

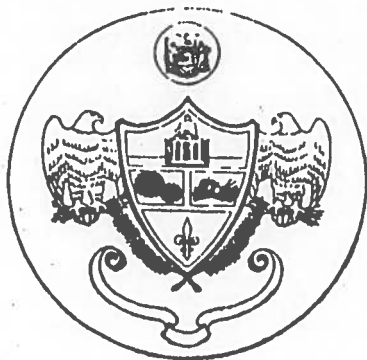
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW

Mrs. Jessie Mallison Breitbeck
1031 Gwinn Street
Medina, New York

Mrs. Jessie M. Breitbeck was born October 15, 1887
in Shelby Center, New York.
The interview was conducted by Helen McAllister of Medina.

B Breitbeck
Mc McAllister





Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to collect information about the historical development of Orleans County by means of tape-recorded conversations with people whose experiences reflect the county's growth.

These tapes and transcriptions will be preserved as educational resources and possible publication (all or in part).

I hereby release this tape and transcription to the Orleans County Historical Association.

Jessie M. Breitbeck.

Signed

May 8, 1980

Date

Understood and agreed to:

Helen M. McAllister

INTERVIEWER

May 8, 1980

Date

For the Orleans County Historical Association,
May 8, 1980, Helen McAllister of Medina, New York
is interviewing MRS. JESSIE MALLISON BREITBECK of
1031 Gwinn Street, Medina, New York.

Mc Jessie, thank you for letting me come over and talk to
you. I wonder if you would tell me what you remember
about going to school when you were a little girl ?

B Well, of course, I lived over here on 1204 West Avenue,
right next to the Lutheran Church. I could lay in bed
and hear the sermon. Just all I had to do was open a
window.

I was a little bit of girl. I was born Jessie Mable
Mallison, on October 15, 1887, in Shelby Center.

We decided that we would come to Medina because Father
did a lot of lumber work, see. He built half of Medina !

Mc He built a lot of houses, didn't he ?

B Oh, yes. He built loads of them.

Mc Your father was Frank William Mallison ?

B He was a wonderful person. I never heard him be cross
or anything. He always had a group of men to work with
him. Arthur Soucie was only a couple of houses beyond
us. He did that for a while.

Mc Your mother's name was Estella Rowley ?

B Yes. She was a Rowley. Lots of Rowleys.

Mc When you were a little girl, where did you go to school ?

B It's right down here, Oak Orchard School.

Mc Do you have any remembrances about that ?

- B Oh, yes. We all went to school; but when we went to High School, we'd go down as far as the railroad. And, they had an old place and a stove in there. In cold weather we'd hurry down there to get some of that heat; then we had to walk to High School. I never had a car or anything, or any of the girls I know had anything like that. They walked to school. Everyone walked to school.
- Mc You were born in 1887. So that means that it was quite a while before cars were around very much.
- B I used to run to the window here, to see a car go by. I would run to see who it was !
- Mc When you went to school, did you carry a doll, along with your lunch pail ?
- B I walked from Shelby Center down here hugging a doll.
- Mc Was it a special doll ?
- B I don't remember about it now. We moved onto Highland Avenue. Do you live there, Helen ?
- Mc Yes, we live on Highland Avenue.
- B I think that is where we came and lived. I went to school from there. (Note: Frank and Estella Mallison moved to Highland Avenue, Medina, then to West Avenue; owned land in rear extending to Gwinn Street, present home of Mrs. Breitbeck.)
- We had a little "te-te" building outside. Dad built it between that house and the other one. We had seats in it, and we would go out there and play games.
- Mc That would have been fun !
- B Yeah, and we sat in that. I don't know whatever become of it; it's gone. And then there was another house. Well, that was only just a little more like a playhouse, you know. Well, we'd sit there, you know, and love our dolls. Of course there was four of us, four kids.
- Mc Yes. The four kids were: Charles Henry, born in 1884; Howard, born in 1886; you, and Edith, born in 1891. That was nice.

Mc When you got out of school, Jessie, you went to work, didn't you ? Where did you work ?

B S.A. Cook.

Mc Was that located where the Post Office is now ?

B Yes, and there was a path we went down on the side.

Mc What do you mean, "path you went down" ?

B Well a road, you know. No cars went down there. You walked down there from the road. You walked quite a ways back, to S.A. Cook.

Mc What did you do there ?

B Well, I was in the office. I always worked in an office.

Mc Did you have a typewriter ?

B I used to do a lot of typing, afterwards, you know. But in those days I didn't have time and half the other girls that were in the office would go home and leave it for me to finish up.

Mc What kind of work did you do ?

B Typewriting and send the bills out. S.A. Cook sold furniture. My davenport is from S.A. Cook and Company. I picked it out myself; but that was after I was married, you see.

Mc Was the S.A. Cook Furniture Factory located where it is now ?

B No, that was way across Main Street. The office was right down where the Post Office is.

Mc How long did you work there ?

B I worked there several years. I found something else that I liked better.

Mc Where did you go after that ? Did you work at H.J. Heinz ?

B I worked at Heinz, yes.

Mc What did you do there ?

B Bookkeeping. I always would work in the office. Then I got so I could type. I didn't take any lessons on typing, I just did it, you know.

- Mc You didn't learn how to type when you were in school ?
- B No, by myself. It was a long time. They had a big machine. Because in the back of S.A. Cook and Company they had the candy. They had lots of candy ! Oh, they had a big place ! We'd all go in there and take a piece of candy and then they'd tell you: "You've got to get out of that !" (Laughter) Everybody was doing it. They had barrels of it; just barrels of candy. I'd be making out their orders and doing that. The rest would get out and go home early and I had to finish up to give to the office.
- Mc Did you walk to work ?
- B Always walked to work.
- Mc Do you remember when you were a young girl, playing the piano ?
- B Yes. I did that. I played the piano in church, for a long time.
- Mc Did you take piano lessons ?
- B Oh yes. I took lessons. A man who came to Medina; he was from Lockport. He came every so often and he gave lessons to people on my mother's piano. She had music all that day that he came.
- Mc Do you remember his name ?
- B No. I wouldn't remember that.
- Mc Did your brothers and sister take lessons, too ?
- B Yes.
- Mc Did you play the piano in church ?
- B Oh yes. I did. Downstairs in the church and sometimes upstairs. It depends. They didn't have too many people that played at those times, you know. But I played. I can't think of his name. It was sort of a short name. He came to Medina and our mother let him have our parlor out there to have his students come.
- Mc This was over here on West Avenue ?
- B Yes. I don't know whether he ever paid her for it or not. I don't remember that. But he was a nice person, a middle age man. He was very nice and we all liked him, anyway.

Mc When you were a young girl, most of your entertainment was at home, wasn't it ?

B Yes. Taffy Pulls. I've got a picture here. You see that's the house there, and on the side it was a great big old tree. They were having a party under the old tree. We'd always get together. It was a nice tree - - but, I don't remember when they cut it down.

Mc You were active in the Baptist Church, Jessie ?

B Oh, I worked all the time. Fred would go down. Fred cleaned the church for years. When it came Saturday, I would hurry to do my Saturday work and go down there and help him.

Mc How did you meet Fred ? Did he come to the Armory ?

B Yes. I went to the Armory to a dance. I was a great dancer and I went to the dance. A bunch of us would all go. We'd go by ourselves and not always couples, you know.

Mc Did you wear anything special ?

B I don't remember now. I used to make my own clothes. I made Dorothy's and my mother's. I met Fred at the Armory, and he walked from Middleport. You know when the Armistice was signed, he went back to Oswego. He lived in Oswego and later he was transferred up along the canal. He went from just beyond Knowlesville. The Army put him out there, and he walked down from Lockport. They had a place there for a lot of them. There was a lot of men. I got all the picture of him.

Mc Did Fred come from Oswego to guard the canal ?

B Yes, to guard the canal. They sent so many men on the canal

Mc Why did the canal need to be guarded ? Were we at war ?

B Yes. World War I. There was trouble along the canal, and so they put some of the soldiers all along the way.

Mc Was he in the National Guard ?

B Yes, he was in the National Guard. I have lovely pictures of him.

Mc Did Fred sleep at the Armory with others also in the National Guard ?

B Yes. Yes, that is where he slept. He slept there for I don't know - - - whether it was a year. It was quite a long time, anyway.

Mc So you met him at the dance ?

B That's where I met him because we would have dances every week. Of course, I would be there, at every one of those dances ! (Laughter)

Mc What did they have for music ? Did they have an orchestra ?

B Well they had men that played. I don't remember now.

Mc You are showing me - - - It says: "The United States of America honors the memory of Frederick C. Breitbeck. This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the services of our country and to the Armed Forces of the United States. Jimmy Carter, President of the United States." Well that is lovely.

B He's done a lot for the country, and he did a lot for Medina. He was always ready, to do.

Mc Fred was a wonderful man.

B Oh, he was wonderful !

Mc You and Fred were married July 21, 1923.

B Yes. I was married over here, in the rose garden.

Mc You were married right over next to the Lutheran Church; right where the Vito Misiti family now live.

B We were married over there. My father and mother had a lovely rose garden. Oh, there were always roses ! We liked the roses, and we went out there and had that - - - we had our pictures taken there and was married there.

Mc Who was the minister, do you remember ?

B Yes. Rev. Allen of the First Baptist Church.

Mc Tell me about your wedding dress. Was it pretty ?

B It was very nice. Bessie Gayes, the dressmaker, that lives down on Highland Avenue over here; she helped me make it.

I wore it several times. I don't know what became of it now.

Mc Did you have other people in your wedding party ? Were other friends there ?

B No, only Addis Hart and Mildred Olds and my sister, Edith, of course.

Mc Did you have a honeymoon ?

B Yes, we did. We went to Oswego and from there we went up to the Thousand Islands and rented a cottage. We stayed in Oswego with his people a couple of days or so and then we went on. We went on a train. You see they had trains in those days. Then when we went to Oswego, we went on a train.

Mc Where was Fred working when you got married or was he still in the Army ?

B Yes. He was still in the Army. He had his uniform and all. I've got a nice picture of him. I'll bring it down and show it to you some day.

Mc He did work at Bignall's, later?

B Yes, he worked there 35 years.

Mc What did he do there ?

B He made drawings to make things that would be what they needed.

Mc He was always interested in gardening, wasn't he ?

B Always ! Always interested in gardening.

Mc Where did you and Fred live when you first got married ?

B After my folks found out that we were going to be married, you know, he started building this house. My father said we should have a house. This land was all forest at that time. This house wasn't here; but my father said: "I'll draw the plans." He drew the plans for us and everything and showed Fred how to do this and how to do that. It was inspected every night after he worked ! (Laughter) And, we came in here. We didn't have any floor. Only one floor. We could get up to the upstairs, see. And the floors - - he laid the floors. He laid all this and I worked. We'd

come in here and we'd do one more box, see. You know, my living room was full of wood; that was to be used. It took us five years to build our house.

Mc This house is, right across from the entrance to the Wise Junior High School on Gwinn Street, and that was all orchard.

B Yes. It was all orchard and they gradually pulled out the trees.

Mc Who owned that land ?

B Montgomerys owned that.

Mc George and John Montgomery owned that ?

B George lived here and John lived in the next house. It was just wilderness. I used to take Dorothy, my daughter, out to go over there. We'd go through around in to the woods, you know. They had beautiful violets over there. Oh, if they only had more violets ! They were beautiful. Great long stems, you know, wild, you know. They were lovely ! We would bring those home to our parents.

Mc Dorothy was born in 1927, about four years after you were married. She must have been born about a year before the house was done ?

B Oh yes. It was a long time, you know; I didn't have things. My folks were awfully good to us.

Mc You can look out of this dining room window and look right over to the Lutheran Church and to the house next door. That's where you were married ? So your father must have owned this land right straight across from West Avenue to Gwinn Street ?

B He owned way back even where the school is now. He bought the whole thing, the whole lot.

Mc So you used to take Dorothy over to the orchard ?

B Yes, I used to.

B I helped form the Girl Scouts. (Note: See Ann Richards transcript for History of Medina Girl Scouts.) Julia Rosenkrans lived over on West Avenue, just across over here.

If Dorothy didn't go there, Julia would come here.

Mc Julia was the daughter of Mildred and Ed Rosenkrans ?

B Yes. I bought a book on Girl Scouts; I don't know what become of it.

Mc In your first Girl Scout Troop there was your daughter, Dorothy, and Julia Rosenkrans, and wasn't there a Swett girl ? And Hilda Meland ?

B I don't remember.

Mc What did you do ? Did you help teach about the flowers ?

B Well I talked to them. I'd put up a little lunch and we would go over in the woods and, Oh, we just had wonderful times. The girls were lovely. I've got their names down somewhere.

Mc When you went over to the woods, did the girls have to wear Girl Scout Uniforms ?

B No, they didn't. But I made them all an apron. I've got one around here somewheres, yet, I guess. They would go out and take a lunch. They would go out carrying it in a basket, you know, with a sandwich or something like that. We would go over there and I went with them.

Mc When would they wear their aprons ?

B When they set down to eat, in the woods. In the woods they set to eat on the ground. You see, we didn't have anything over there.

Mc That was a lot of fun, wasn't it ?

B Oh, I tell you. I had a good time with those girls and they just loved me ! They couldn't wait until they got here, you know.

Mc Did they come every week ?

B Yes. There wasn't so many, I figure, that had got out of their class. But they all got married, eventually. And then they withdrew from Girl Scouts and so I didn't have them for very long. Now they've got another Girl Scout Troop started.

Mc Oh, yes. They've got a lot of Girl Scout Troops now !

Mc Jessie, you mentioned earlier that you were very active in the church. Did your father and mother go to the Baptist Church, too ?

B Well, yes. We went to Shelby Center, you see. I don't know what house that I lived in while in Shelby Center, but it was near where Edith Colman lives. (Note: See Edith Colman transcript.) It was about that section.

Mc A beautiful large house that sets back in.

B Edith don't know too much about the house, you know, until after years, you know.

Mc You went to the Shelby Center Baptist Church ?

B Yes. My mother always let us go to church. Then we walked, after we moved down here. We lived in a house over here on Highland Avenue.

Mc You and Fred have kept up being active in the church. In 1941 I think that you were the first advisor and teacher of the Friendly Circle Class.

B Yes, I was. I formed that too.

Mc What can you remember about that ?

B Well, we just loved each other. They would let us meet down in the basement; but then some of the boys would come and they would be racing around upstairs. I have to tell you one. Fred always went to church and cleaned the upsta: and I used to help him, too. I enjoyed it, and he would too. Some of the kids, Caver's kids, I've forgotten who it was now; they would race around up on the platform, and jump off and run up and down. Fred went after them one day and he says: "No, you can't do that. You mustn't. You can't do that." They didn't like it, but he got them so they would calm down, you see. And I says: "Well, that's right." I says: "I can't do all this dusting when they are chasing around, you know." But that's the way they were.

Mc Little rascals !

B That was fun. (Laughter)

Mc Yes. I can remember when I used to go to the Baptist Church and belong to the Friendly Circle Class. We would

have - - - it would be bazaars, and you made all these aprons ! We would sell them all, and you would rush home and make up some more. Remember ?

B Oh, I made a lot. I did a lot of sewing. Well, I have had this thing - - this is my sewing machine - - yes. I haven't done too much lately. But I've made lots of things. And, I said to them, one day, I says: "If you will bring me some material," I didn't have the money, you see. I didn't have extra money to spend for it. I was a kid. I didn't have any. So they'd bring me yard goods, remnants, and I'd make some things out of it. I've always loved to sew, I always have. I sew more in the winter than in the summer because I like to go outdoors then. We didn't have all this land. All we had was just enough for our house, and then Fred decided: "Well, I'm going to buy some more land." Because it all belonged to Dad, right straight through, see. And Fred said: "I will get some more land !" There were three different times we've added eight or ten more feet on, or something like that.

Mc Now you garden extends over quite a ways ?

B Yes, quite a ways now. You can see. It's over there to that hedge or that row. (Points it out.) That all belongs to Vito Misiti. I think Misiti has the whole thing now. He don't have too much of a garden out here, but he has some there. They plow this; but we didn't use to plow it. Fred had this little hand plow, you know. Until it all got too big and then we had a man come and he does it. That other side over there, they've just got that finished. The night before last, I think, Bill was there and he sowed it to grass, the whole thing. He did night before yesterday.

Mc That is going to be a change.

B Yes. Well, I am satisfied but not this part of the garden where he hasn't done anything to it yet. They came and dragged it, you know.

Mc It takes time.

B But you can see when you go by that he has got it flat. And he has planted that seed in there. No one should go on that

because they don't want it trampled. It's all going to be grass.

Mc Well you and Fred always have had a beautiful garden, I can remember.

Other people have told me that during the years when different girls in town got married, you would fix their flowers for their weddings.

B Oh, yes. I did a lot of that ! I just loved them.

Mc Then you would help arrange the wedding dresses as they would go down the aisle ?

B Yes, the wedding dresses ! Marian Neal, she was from Shelby. Marian and Lowell. They came and lived in that house on West Center Street and now they've gone.

Mc Oh dear, yes. You helped with their wedding, did you ? And you arranged flowers for the church many times, too.

B Oh, I've done it. Fred would go first as he run the church, you know. If it was cold, he looked after the heat, you see. He'd do that, and he liked it. He liked the church ! He'd get up early in the morning and go down and it was always ni there.

Mc Fred died severals years ago, in 1977, and the church, I believe, gave a memorial to him. Was it that ramp, the entrance way up, with the railing ?

B Yes. That railing is in memory of Fred. They wanted to do something for Fred and I said: "All they have is just stairs going up and down, you know." So they decided, and people gave money toward it, and so they got it. I think it is very nice.

Mc One side of the entrance has regular steps and the other side is the ramp.

B Well, we sometimes have two or three that go in with the wheel-chair. The ministers have been very good to all the people. I've got the names of the ministers in here.

Mc All the ministers you have had ?

(NOTE: At this time, Mrs. Breitbeck displays several mementos, photographs, and artifacts.)

Mc You have a lot of pictures there.

B Oh, I've got loads of them.

Mc I think this is your Eastern Star. You were active in Eastern Star, weren't you ?

B Yes. Oh, yes !

That is the Baptist Church in 1932.

This is at home.

These are my Sunday School classes. Oh, this is Rev. J.J. Allen. He was a good minister. Yes, I got all these. These are my Sunday School class.

I always had lots of memories.

"Stunt" at Keuka College. Well, we went on to Keuka Lake, lots of times. People from our church. We'd get a bunch to go. There's another bunch.

This is Fred.

Mc Look ! A lady playing a harp !

B Oh, they did everything. They did stunts. There's my Class in 1919.

Mc This is a picture of Fred in his soldier's uniform.

B I generally write on the back of them and I am glad I did now. I found a few that I haven't written the year, and I don't know what year they are.

Mc This says: "Fred, on guard, 1916."

B Well, that's when he came out, when the Armistice was signed. I just got lots of stuff ! So many pictures !

Mc This picture looks like May Day. That's a little May Pole, and these little boys and girls are holding some pretty ribbons around a May Pole. It says: "May Day, 1932"

B Yes. Oh, they were the nicest children. I had awful nice children.

Mc " Paul Mason, Gerald Morris, George Brege, Dorothy Breitbeck, Allie Lou Cromwell, Janel Lund, and Bobby Montgomery. May

Day in Beginners Department, Baptist Church 1932. Mildred Olds and Jessie Breitbeck were the Teachers."

B We'd take them out and we'd do things for them, you know.

Mc Little boys and girls both wore long white stockings, didn't they? I can remember them falling down, and getting my knees grass stained.

B Now this one is of Fred. He was on duty. I think that was taken in 1916. "Fred, on guard"

Mc Jessie, you were active in the Eastern Star. Was Fred active in the Masons?

B Yes. He went through everything.

Mc My mother was in Eastern Star, in San Antonio, Texas.

B Oh, was she!

Mc And, you have belonged to the Medina Study Club?

B Oh, yes. I was busy with everything.

Mc And, you were active in the Rebeccas?

B Yes, been through all the offices.

Mc You have been active in the Daughters of the American Colonists?

B Yes. That I got through Washington. I joined it, and they were very particular, so they came to see me before they decided to allow me to become a member.

Mc It is still quite an active group, isn't it?

B Yes.

Now this is a picture of the May Pole. Mildred Olds and I had charge of it, in the Beginners Department.

Mc That's your daughter, Dorothy, I think. That's when she was a little girl.

B She was a nice girl.

Mc Oh yes. She still is. Dorothy is married to George Grapes and lives right across from the Baptist Church in Shelby, doesn't she?

B Yes. A lovely home. She used to go over to the church and play piano for them; because she was a nice player. But, whether she does now or not, I doubt it. I think she has had too much to do.

- Mc Probably so. She has a son, Robert, and a daughter, Barbara. So you have two grandchildren ?
- B Just two. They're lovely. Both of them are lovely people.
- Mc I think you are very fortunate.
- Mc You belong to the Senior Citizens in Medina. And you ride on their bus ? They call it the CATS Bus ? (Note: The Community Action Transportation System)
- B Mini Bus, I call it. I know I use it quite often.
- Mc How does that work ?
- B Well, I call them. I got his name down. I haven't been in two weeks, three weeks, I guess, now. I've got enough. I don't need to, you know. I go out to eat.
- Mc You call a CATS Bus and then they come and take you to go shopping ?
- B Yes. They let you off at Bells, the grocery store, and then they come back in a couple of hours, or so. You can do all your shopping if it is just groceries, you see. I do that and they are very nice. The driver is an awful nice fellow. I call him, and I say: "Will you pick me up ?" And he comes in and he comes to the door to pick me up. And then when you come home, he comes back and carries my stuff and puts it on the shelf for me.
- Mc That's wonderful.
- B Well, I have to bring my bags. I don't bring them in. He brings them in; because I have to have my cane.
- Mc How long since you used a cane ?
- B Well, it's been about a year now.
- Mc I guess when you are a little bit over 90, I guess you have a right to use a cane.
- B Well, the doctor did it. She cast the bottom of my foot. It's thick and then there are some bunions in the middle of it. Of course, my foot don't look very good.
- Mc It probably hurts.
- B Well yes, it hurts and I have to favor it. Boils on it.

- Mc You were telling me that you belong to a Bridge Club and play Bridge (cards) every week. Who are some of the friends you play Bridge with ?
- B Well, Gladys Walters, down here, and Ada Olds, up here, and Ethel Helmkamp. That's the three, and I'm the fourth. (Laughter) Well, lots of times someone don't come, you know. Gladys was down in Florida for a while. So we get a sub.
- Mc Who did you get to substitute ?
- B Alma Ramming, up here. She is awfully nice. We get together about once a week, on Monday.
- Mc You said they were coming here next time ?
- B They are coming here Monday.
- Mc I hope you meet out here in the dining room. It is so beautiful with the yellow Forsythia outside of the window.
- B I never saw such as that. It's just beautiful ! Just been beautiful !
- Mc You have Blue Glass collectables in the window, and with the yellow Forsythia in the background it is just beautiful !
- B Beautiful. Why this orange thing - - - Alma is making a lot of those.
- Mc Those are paper roses, aren't they ?
- B Yes. We were having a party somewhere and they used to have always something pretty at the tables.
- Mc They look almost real.
- B Yes, they do. I change things. I get rid of some things and bring in something else to put on the buffet.
- Mc You have collected a lot of beautiful things for your home. You should show them off.
- B Oh, I've got lots of stuff.
- Mc Jessie is showing me a beautiful picture taken of her husband Fred Breitbeck. "In 1916 he was in the New York State Guard
In 1917 he was in the United States Army"
He was a young man with a little mustache.
- B His mustache never amounted to anything.

Mc I'd call it a little "cookie duster".

B Yes. (Laughter)

Mc This is a picture of the Human Liberty Bell taken at Camp Dix, New Jersey.

Jessie and I are looking at some old photographs, and this is a picture of the Mallison home on 1204 West Avenue, the Misiti home now. This was taken in 1902. This is very much like it looks right now. And this is the picture of the kitchen sink.

B This is the living room. There's the fireplace. Our piano was in there against the wall.

Mc Oh, that is lovely, and here's a picture of the dining room with the round table and the straight chairs and one of these lamps. Was that a kerosene lamp hanging from the ceiling ?

B There are some figures up there, but they don't show.

Mc Yes. And an old clock on the mantle, and a calander on the wall. And, this is a picture of the parlor. We don't have parlors any more. Look at that !

B Oh, yes. But we were very careful with the parlor. We only went in there on special occasions.

Mc Well, Jessie, aside from your home and your immediate family, have you noticed a lot of changes in the world, and especial in Medina ?

B Oh, yes !

Mc What have you noticed the most ?

B Well, I think the people were anxious to build. They wanted to build houses that they could live in. Some people were living in almost tents, you know.

Mc We have more people now than we used to have, and different kinds of people are coming to Medina and to Orleans County.

B Well, I have letters from people all over. You just wonder you know, what they think about it. We had one man come - - he was a traveling man. He was very nice and he said: "I think of it so much, I want to get back to Medina."

Mc Well, Medina is a good place to live.

B I think so too. The people are all so nice. They are always doing things.

Mc Jessie, don't you think a lot of it is because you have been friendly ?

B Yes, I think so, too. I love people.

Mc Yes, you do.

B I have a boy down here on the next block, Paul White. He mows my lawn. He was here and I says: "Now if I am not here and I can't get out and call you, you come. You know it's time to mow." So he came just the other day.

Mc Yes. In the springtime the grass grows quickly.

B I know it. We had rain on it, too. Well I've put in quite a lot out back with the woods around it. I put rows of seed in, but I don't seem to find the seed.

Mc It'll come.

B It's going to come someday, maybe.

Mc You are still a gardener!

B I went and bought some seeds and I just finished them up yesterday. Well, you know you go and buy this little box. The seeds are in boxes and all they've got there is four plants. So I finished what I got. Dorothy says: "Mother, you shouldn't be doing it." And I says: "Well, I take my cane and it's easy to do." So I put flowers out there. Tho Daffodils came up this year.

Mc They are beautiful. There are so many !

Mc Well, Jessie, I want to thank you for all the people who might be reading your transcript or listening to this tape.

B I don't think I have done it very good.

Mc You have done a fine job.

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Original Transcription by Luther P. Burroughs, Albion, New York.
Edited by Helen McAllister, Medina, New York.
Final Typing by Lysbeth Hoffman, Lakeside, New York.

FRED BREITBECK

With the death of Frederick Breitbeck during the past week Medina has been deprived of one of its more substantial citizens. While not a native of the village, he spent the greater part of his life here. In addition to the time which he so generously devoted to his family and occupation, Fred found hours to be a year-around contributor to his special interests which included his church.

Breitbeck was the type of an individual who once he established his roots in an avocation, he never deserted his interest. In addition to his continued devotion to his political party, which he generously served over the years and his fraternal associations, his Gwinn Street gardens reflected the thoroughness of his application to an interest.

It is on the likes of the Fred Breitbecks which solid community life is permitted to exist. It would seem that during their lifetime that their contributions could never be replaced. While such are hard to come by, fortunately others inspired by their devotion to civic needs enter the scene. The community thanks go to the long service to Fred Breitbeck, and those like him, whose work while among us will long be remembered.

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SHENANDOAH JOURNAL-REGISTER
Tuesday, September 6, 1977

Surviving are his widow, Jessie M. Mallison Breitbeck; a daughter, Mrs. William (Dorothy) Grapes of Shelby Center; two grandchildren, Robert J. Grapes of Ann Arbor, Mich., and Miss Barbara J. Grapes of Medina; five sisters, Mrs. Pauline Miller, Mrs. Hilda Turkinton and Mrs. Esther Fenicki all of Oswego, Mrs. Irene LiCourt of New Haven and Mrs. Ethel Clark of Pittsford; a brother, Henry Breitbeck of Oswego; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Burial was in Boxwood Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested by the family to the First Baptist Church of Medina.



Frederick Breitbeck

Mr. Breitbeck 85, Former Shelby Official

Frederick C. Breitbeck, 85, 1031 Gwinn St., died Friday at the Medina Memorial Hospital following a long illness.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. today at the Bar Tuttle Funeral Home, 236 F St., with the Rev. H. B. Entekin of the First Baptist Church officiating.

Mr. Breitbeck was born in Oswego Nov. 15, 1891, the son of Henry and Matilda Schreyer Breitbeck. He was a graduate of Oswego High School, and a veteran of World War I. He married Jessie M. Mallison in 1923.

He worked for the Signal Corps at Medina for over 25 years before his retirement. He was a 61-year member of the Medina Lodge F&AM No. 336, and a past master of the Medina Chapter Order of the Eastern Star No. 381.

Mr. Breitbeck was a member of the First Baptist Church of Medina, and was a past deacon and great worker in the church.

He was a member of the Republican Committee for many years, a member of the Shelby town board, and a clerk in Albion for many years.

A member of the American Legion and the Senior Citizens of Western Orleans Inc., at his retirement he enjoyed fishing, bowling and traveling. Since his retirement his hobbies included his flower and vegetable gardens.

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



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FRANK W. MALLISON 1860-1943

During his active life Frank Mallison designed and supervised the construction of many industrial structures, public buildings and residences in Medina and other parts of Western New York. He was born in New York City and came to Knowlesville at the age of 16 in 1876. Then moving to West Barre he married Estella Rowley on Christmas Day 1879. He moved to Medina in 1889 and a little while afterward went to Albion where he became associated for a decade with William V.M. Barlow, an accomplished architect. In 1900 he began his architectural practice in Medina entering into partnership with Arthur Soucie under the firm name of Mallison & Soucie.

While he was engaged in the contracting business, together with that of architecture, he designed and built ten cold storages in Western New York. Among them were three Medina Cold Storages plus cold storages at Barker, Brockport, Lyndonville, and Williamson. He designed and supervised the construction of the Catholic Church at Clinton, N.Y. and the Universalist Church parish hall in Middleport. Other Medina buildings attributed to his skill are the State Armory, the former N.Y.C. Depot, City Hall, Medina Memorial Hospital, the Masonic Temple, East Avenue plant of S.A. Cook, the Cook Building and the former Odd Fellows Building. He was also the supervising architect for Medina High School.

He designed homes in Medina for Dr. T.C. Corliss, J.C. Posson, Milton J. Whedon, Carl Wirth, Irving Bowen, George A. Bowen, Edward Slack, John W. Lindke, Alonzo L. Waters, Mrs. Irving Rowley, B.C. Dice and Fred Breitbeck where Mrs. Fred Breitbeck (Mallison's daughter) still resides.

Mr. Mallison was also a well-known fraternal leader in Medina, being active in the Medina Lodge of Masons as well as the Odd Fellows. He attained high positions in each order being Master, High Priest and District Deputy 1922-23 for the Masons. In the Odd Fellows he was Past Noble Grand, Past Patriarch and Grand Patriarch of the State Encampment in 1918.

The fact that most of Frank Mallison's work still stands is living testimony to his skill as a talented architect who selected fine materials and joined them securely.