

Orleans County Historical Association

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Daughter's of Charlotte: Catherine, Charlotte & Jane

The Great Depression.... father lost job at Hardware Store

The Fuller Brush Man: Sam Cooke

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Sect. with Citizens Comm. for Court & Constitution

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Penasack Machine Shop

volunteer Airplane observer during WW II, Albion

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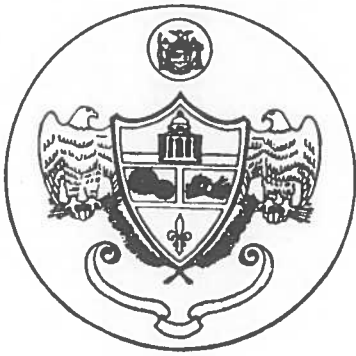
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Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Mrs. Marjorie Cooke Radzinski
574 Moore Street
Albion, New York

Marjorie C. Radzinski was born in 1916.

This interview is conducted by Helen McAllister of Medina.



Mrs. Marjorie Cooke Radzinski



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.

Margaret C. Radzynski
Signed
June 12, 1981
Date

Understood and agreed to:

Helen M. McAllister
INTERVIEWER

June 12, 1981
Date

For the Orleans County Historical Association, Helen McAllister of Medina, New York is interviewing Mrs. Marjorie Cook Radzinski of 574 Moore Street, Albion, New York. June 12, 1981.

- R I was born June 24, 1916, at home, which is at 180 State Street, Medina, New York. My father was Samuel Tripp Cook and my mother was Cora Estelle Loke; but she went by the name of Estelle, because her mother's name was the same. My aunt, Florence Wing, was the midwife and she was my father's sister. Dr. Emily Swett was my mother's doctor. I am the only daughter of four children. My three brothers are: Charles, Maurice and Herbert.
- Mc Would you tell us a little bit about your father? I can remember Sam Cook the traveling salesman, but he didn't come to Medina as a traveling salesman. Would you tell us where he came from? (Sam Cooke: Fuller Brush Man).
- R My father was born and brought up in Laurens, New York, which is about 30 miles from Cooperstown, New York. When he was in his 20's he didn't know what he intended to do as far as his occupation and he did go with his older sister down to New York City where she was teaching school. He hired out in a lumber store at that time and received a bit of experience there in the hardware business. For some reason or other he moved to Schenectady, New York and hired out in a hardware store there. While he was working as a salesman in the hardware store he saw an ad in the paper for a clerk in the Chase and Breed Hardware Store in Medina, New York. Being of an adventurous nature, he decided to answer the ad and very shortly after he answered the ad he received a reply and they asked him to come and be interviewed for the job. So he went by train to Medina and as his "Wanamaker" diary has stated that he stayed overnight, when he arrived by train in Medina, in a boarding house. The next morning he went down to the hardware store and John Chase interviewed him for the job and he was hired immediately.
- Mc Marge, this was in the year of 1907?
- R Yes.

Mc And he was about 27 years of age ?

R Yes he was.

Mc Tell me about the stores on Main Street at that time .
I think there was a Medina Drygoods Store next door and that eventually played quite a part in his life. Tell me about that.

R Yes there was. My dad has mentioned the fact that he used to trim the windows of the hardware store. For instance in the spring they trimmed their store with things pertaining to the yard. For instance, lawn mowers and garden tools. Next door to the hardware store was where Estelle Loke worked.

Mc What was her position in the Drygoods Store ?

R She was a cashier and book-keeper. They used to have money carriers on a wire and they would go up to her office and that was part of what she did.

Mc I can remember doing that! You'd give your money to the clerk, you'd buy your gloves, or whatever, and give your money to the clerk. She would put it in a little tube, like a nine or ten inch tube, stick it on a little wire trolley or whatever and it would go sailing off through the store up to the head office. Then she would make the right change and send it back and you'd get it. I suppose that made it safer for the clerks.

R Yes. So I assume that is how my father and my mother met because of their working side by side in the two stores.

Mc They were eventually married about two years later in 1909. Where were they married and by whom ?

R They were married in the Baptist Church. I don't know if they met in the church or in the store but I imagine that had a part in it. (They were married by Rev. Geo. Laughton)

Mc I believe you told me earlier that your mother was ill with diabetes. Would you tell us a little bit about this and how it has affected your life ?

R Yes. My mother became ill shortly after I was born. My very earliest recollection was when I was about 3½ years old and that was at Christmas time. I received a doll for my Christmas present and I recall very plainly dropping the doll and the head shattered. I believe the body of

the doll was sawdust or straw. When my doll shattered my mother took me by the hand and said, "don't cry Marjorie, I'll make it all better." She led me into the dining room to the buffet, the old oak buffet, and from one of the side doors - - - she opened it and she had these doll heads. At least there was one there but it seems there was more than one. She proceeded to fasten the doll head to the body of this doll. My doll's name was Jane.

MC Will you describe the doll's head ?

R The doll's head, I believe, was plaster of paris and the hair was painted on. It was raised a bit to look like a baby doll's head. The eyes were painted and the mouth was painted. It ended at the shoulders of the body of the doll. The nose was chipped so it wasn't a new head. That doll was my favorite.

MC But your mother was ill at about this time. You said that you had an uncle that came to visit ?

R Yes. My uncle Louis Loke lived in New Jersey and on his visit to see his mother and father and my mother, his sister.

..... He came to visit us and I remember sitting on his lap and my mother asked me if I would like to go home and live with Uncle Louis for awhile.

MC Now, your Uncle Louis was married and had two children ?

R Yes. I believe I was quite willing to go home with him. We went by train. I can even remember the trip. It stuck in my mind because we rode in a Pullman car. My uncle gave me the upper berth and he had the lower berth. He showed me a mesh hammock where I was to put my shoes. On the way down to stay at his home I recall him waking me and saying, "Marjorie, I want you to wake up and see New York City." It was at night and all I could see was a lot of lights.

MC You had said that you were very unhappy because you had left your doll behind and you were not happy again until they sent for it and got it ?

R Yes, I believe I must have put up quite a fuss and they did send back to Medina for my doll. I'm sure it came very quickly.

MC Then you stayed with your uncle and aunt for a number of years ?

- R I stayed with Uncle Louis and Aunt Harriet for one year. Their winter was spent in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, and their summer was spent at Atlantic City. They had a home in Atlantic City in the summertime. My older cousin was my baby-sitter. I went to school when I was there. I was five years old. I had my fifth birthday at their house. And while I was there I got chicken-pox and I couldn't go to kindergarten through I was very eager to do so. In fact they let me go back before I was over my chicken-pox and they sent me home. I remember running home crying because I couldn't go to school.
- Mc What brought you back to Medina ?
- R I was there just the one year and I enjoyed it at the seashore in Atlantic City. My father's sister, Blanche, was teaching in New Jersey and I imagine, due to my mother's illness, that she wanted to see me. My Aunt Blanche brought me by train back to Medina from New Jersey.
- Mc Had your mother had any special attention from medicine for her diabetes during this time ? You said that she had gone to a sanitarium.
- R I believe that was after I returned to Medina. When I walked in the house from coming home from New Jersey my mother was totally blind. In that one year. And I recall her feeling my features, my face, and saying, "my little girl." I didn't stay at my parent's home when I returned from New Jersey. I went to live with my mother's half sister, my Aunt Ida Snaith, on East Center Street. I lived with her for three years. With her and Uncle Frank Snaith.
- During this period of time my mother died and the funeral was at home.
- Mc You remember the funeral? I think you've told me that they did not allow you to stay downstairs and be a part of it; you were upstairs with your grandmother.
- R Yes. They had chairs set-up upstairs and the family were upstairs during the funeral service.
- Mc Not downstairs with the body ?
- R No. Oh maybe my dad was, I don't know. But I know I was upstairs with my grandmother. Maybe they figured

that we wouldn't be quiet.

MC How old were you at that time ?

R Seven.

MC Then you continued to live with the Snaiths ?

R Yes, I continued to live with the Snaiths. Of course - - I didn't realize it myself, perhaps, but my Aunt Ida was - - must have been ill, so I went to live with my mother's cousin, Jeanette Swett Tanner. She later married Horace Hendricks from Brockport.

MC And you lived there for three years ?

R I lived there for three years and I do believe that my years with, I called her "Aunt Jeanette," - - my years with Aunt Jeanette were some of the most impressive & constructive in my life because she was a good teacher. She was gentle and she helped me in many, many ways.

MC When my husband and I first came to Medina in 1947, we lived next door to her and I knew her as a friend and neighbor and as a piano teacher, of course she was in Tuesday Club and I was in Tuesday Club. She was very much of a lady. She was very tall and erect and an immaculate housekeeper. Very much of a lady.

R Yes. When I lived with Aunt Jeanette I took lessons from her, piano lessons, and I do recall my first piano recital which was in June 1927. There was a printed program which I can show you that I have with me. At the piano recital I was first in line to do my piano piece and she called my name out to play my number and I walked up and I sat down, and I couldn't do a thing. I just "froze." So she very graciously told me that I could go and sit down and she would call on me later. Then I was able to do my part. I knew it by heart but I just absolutely "froze" at the piano. I was really dressed up. I remember the outfit that I had on.

MC That's when little girls wore dresses.

P Yes.

MC You eventually went back to live with your father. You said that he had remarried ?

R My father remarried in 1928, I believe it was. He married Charlotte Jouett Maxon. She had three daughters and of course they all came to live in my dad's house at 180 State

Street.

MC What were the daughter's names ?

R The daughter's names are Charlotte, after her mother.

I should say Catherine first. Catherine was the oldest.

Catherine, Charlotte, and Jane.

MC Catherine is now Catherine Wilson, is that right ?

R Yes, Catherine Wilson. Charlotte is now Charlotte Coffey from Albion, and Jane is now Jane Wilkes from Kenmore, New York.

I used to spend Sunday after church at my dad's house after, and before, he was married. So one Sunday when I went to visit my dad, for Sunday dinner and Sunday afternoon, my dad's new wife asked me if I would now like to come home to live now that she was married to my father. I was really very pleased to do so because I believed that I was at the age, I was about 13 years old, and I was getting a little bit out of hand. A "Miss-Know-It-All" with my aunt and I was a little bit hard to put up with, I believe.

MC Now Marge, I don't believe that !

R I went home to live with my dad and my new mother and my new sisters. My oldest brother had already gone down to Rochester to go to school and live with his aunt.

MC Speaking of schooling, where did you go to school ? You eventually went to Medina. You had moved around to various places.

R Yes I did. I started school in Upper Montclair, New Jersey. Then I came back to Medina and I went to the Elizabeth Street School, which was right around the corner from my house. They built the new Ensign Avenue School and I went to school there in third grade. This was before my dad's marriage. My teacher, who I was very fond of, was Miss Dillon; Margaret Dillon. One day I went up to Miss Dillon and I asked her if she would marry my father and she laughed, (like you are doing) and she called another teacher in, a Miss Corbin, and told her. I knew she was telling her what I had said because they both started laughing. But I was very sincere because I think I was trying to be a match-maker for my father. I don't believe she ever intended

to marry. She never did.

Mc About this time, I believe, you said your father was married in what year ?

R 1928.

Mc Soon after that we had the Great Depression.

R That's right. My dad was working in the hardware store.

Mc Would you tell us what happened to him and to his job ?

R Yes. My dad was laid off. The reason given that he was the older clerk in the store, and perhaps my dad was slowing down. Anyway they kept the younger man and my father was laid off. With four children to raise and my mother's three girls, although they were working, the older girls were working - - but still in all he had quite a family. So somebody got him interested or asked him if he would like to sell Fuller Brushes. So he decided to try it and I do believe my father really enjoyed selling Fuller Brushes. He enjoyed his contacts with people. He loved people anyway and he was very interested in people and what they did, how they thought, and he really enjoyed visiting with people.

Mc Well this is how I knew Sam Cooke. He was The Fuller Brush Man ! He was very persistent, very pleasant, but very persistent and I can remember him coming to the door - - - walking all around, knocking on the door. With the Fuller Brush Man you always got a free sample; a small comb or a small toothbrush or something if you would let him come in and show you his satchel, his wares. He would come in and give you his little spiel, along with a free brush, and almost always you'd buy something. He was very good at it.

R Yes.

Mc How many years was he a Fuller Brush Man ?

R I don't recall. Let's see in 1928, just how old he was when he was married the second time, - - but he sold brushes until he was - - oh, past 70 I know. In fact he used to, with his automobile, he used to go to some of the back roads that nobody else would bother with for his customers. At first he had all of Orleans County. He could go anywhere in the county. And then his sales were

so good that the Fuller Brush Company started limiting his territory that he could cover. They wanted other salesmen in the other villages. And my father even helped some of the other Fuller Brushmen get started in these various areas.

Mc But he was able to provide for his family through the Depression by his efforts?

R I think his persistence was due to the fact that he needed to provide for his family.

Mc And all this time he was active in the First Baptist Church in Medina because that is where we first knew him.

Mc From the Ensign School, Marge, where did you go ?

R I went to the Central School on South Academy Street. In Dora Warne's classroom to begin with.

Mc Then eventually you went into the High School which is right next door, right ?

R Yes. That was seventh and eighth grade, I believe, over there.

Mc In your senior year I think you told me that you were ill and you got whooping cough and of course that put you out of school for a period of time. You were pretty sick.

R Yes, I whooped! I got it during Thanksgiving recess and I didn't go back to school till the following April. I was whooping so bad all that time.

Mc It's hard for us to appreciate today because I don't believe youngsters have whooping cough like that anymore. It was pretty serious.

So you graduated with the Class of 1936 ?

R Yes.

Mc After high school graduation I think you told me that you went to live with an aunt in Rochester for a brief period of time ?

R Yes, after high school graduation my Aunt Minerva Craggs asked me if I'd like to come down and stay with my aunt and uncle and look for work. Jobs were pretty scarce at that time, especially for the inexperienced. So the first job I took was with the Citizens Committee For Court and

Constitution. It was a secretarial job and that is what I felt I was qualified for because I took a business course in high school. So I went to work for this committee which had their headquarters at what was ^{THEN} called the Sagamore Hotel on East Avenue in Rochester. They had an apartment they rented there for this purpose. I was an assistant to the secretary.

MC You counted money, is that right ?

R Yes. The contributions that came in toward this cause - - it was my job to open the mail and record the money that was contributed. They also had quite a parade through Main Street and down East Avenue of Rochester in which their guest of honor was Burton Wheeler the Senator from - - ~~I'm not sure, but it was one of the western states. I'd like to say Kansas but I'm not sure. I should have checked on that.~~ (MONTANA).

MC You said that this ^{was} just a temporary job, and after that what did you do ?

R From then I took a job at the Riverside Bookbindery, which is located on Andrews Street just off Main Street, in Rochester. The work I did there I found very enjoyable. Their printed matter was put into book form and what we girls did was to walk around the table and pick up the page one and so on through. And then we did have some bookbinding that we did there. They had a frame that was threaded and we bound the backs of them by hand, some of the books, or the pamphlets.

MC You were there for about a year and then you came back to Medina and there was a new J.C. Penny's store opening up, and you were one of the first clerks ?

R Yes I was. I was there when they hired some help to put the price tags on the merchandise and then I stayed on as a clerk for a short time.

MC One thing we forgot to say. When you were in high school you worked at Murphy's which was a "5 & 10".

R Oh yes.

MC And you worked on the candy counter.

R Yes I worked in the candy counter. Well, that wasn't my line of work really. I didn't care too much for that.

- MC I think you said at that time you weighed up the candy in paper bags ?
- R Yes. People would come in and ask - - for instance, for a half a pound candy and the scale was there and you weighed it up until it reached the right amount and balanced and then we poured it in a paper bag.
- MC I think that's changed now. I used to work on a candy counter at a 5 & 10, too, when I was in school. What did you do with your money for that job ?
- R I don't believe I earned much. It was a minute amount. I think I made 75¢ a week. I think it was Saturday nights when I worked in Murphy's and it was to go toward my class ring. My high school graduation ring. We bought our own rings and I believe that ring cost \$9.50.
- MC Do you still have it ?
- R No.
- MC They mean so much to us at one point in our lives.
- R I know.
- MC So you worked at J.C. Penny and somewhere ^{along} the line I think you met the man who became your husband. How did you happen to meet Ed; who introduced you ? (Edwin Radzinski)
- R I met my husband - - - I was introduced to my husband by Inez Perry Metz and it was on my 16th birthday. She said, "Eddy, I would like you to meet my friend, Marjorie. It's her 16th birthday today." And I said, "Yes, sweet 16 and never been kissed."
- MC And he took care of that no doubt?
- R He took care of it right away! I lost track of him for a couple of years. I just met him the one time, and then we met later on and I started having dates with him.
- MC Then you were finally married ?
- R We got married on September 23, 1939, the first day of Fall. We didn't have a large wedding. We were married in the St. Mary's Church Rectory in Albion. I just wore a purple velvet fall dress and I had a purple hat to match. It was sort of a Dubonnet velvet color.
- MC Later on in your married life I think you and your husband decided that you really would love to have a child in the home and since time had passed and you weren't having any

of your own, you decided to find somebody else's child.
Would you tell us about that ?

R When I became aware I couldn't have any children of my own, I figured that I would like to adopt a child or have a foster child. So my doctor suggested that I take a child from the Welfare Department. I believe that was it. So in inquiring about a child they told me that they had one child that needed a home.

Mc I believe you worked with Mrs. Wilkinson ? (Wife of the Episcopal minister)

R Yes. Mrs. Wilkinson was the head of the Welfare Department at that time. She wanted to place this little boy who was 15 months old and she told us that we'd have to have a special room for him, A separate room for him, And the crib and necessary high chair and like that. My brother's children had grown up so we got the baby furniture from him. So that is how Ján David Radzinski came to live with us.

Mc Ján is the Polish name for John?

R Yes. Really it's Ján. (Marge pronounces it correctly.) It's a soft pronunciation.

Mc You didn't adopt him right away through ?

R We were able to adopt him when he was three years old. So when we told Jan we were going to adopt him, he had a three wheel chain drive bike and he rode that downtown, and we went to Mr. Church's office. As we were walking down, my husband and I, he said, "Mommy and Daddy, will it hurt ?" Would the adoption hurt ? Because it seems in order to adopt a child they have to go through a series of their inoculations and different immunities and tests. So he'd been through quite a bit and he was just checking. He wondered if this was going to hurt.

Mc Did he immediately adopt your name, Radzinski, or did you change it at that time ?

R We changed his name when we adopted him.

Mc Let's talk briefly about your employment out of the home. Before you were married, you've told me off tape, you worked at the Heinz Company in Medina. After you were married and you lived in Albion with your husband - - this is before you adopted the little baby - - - you worked at the Read Bag

Factory which later became the Bemis Bag Factory.

R Well they built a new plant up on the Avenue. The F.A. ReAd Bag Factory was down by the railroad track at the end of Liberty Street.

Mc Then during part of the time during World War II, you worked for the Albion Novelty Shop. I think that's interesting, the work that you did and the effect it had on you and on your health and others. Would you tell us about that ?

R Yes. Abe Sussman from Albion was the manager or boss and upstairs and downstairs of the Novelty Shop which was located at the corner of North Main and Caroline Street in Albion. It was a two story brick building. That is where we worked. We made Army ponchos, raincoats, and I don't know what else - - oh, I imagine tents too, or some type of lean-tos.

Mc You said you had to paint the seams together and roll them together ?

R They were cemented. There was a cement used that we applied to different seams of the poncho, for instance, and then we rolled the edges with this hand roller. We rolled the seams to adhere the material.

Mc And this bothered your eyes you said ?

R It was piece work and after a while we began to notice that our eyes would smart and these hot tears would form. Some girls could hardly open their eyes, their eyes were so swollen. They were trying to figure out what it was that was causing it, they didn't know if it was rozen or the powder that was used in the rubberized material or if it was the adhesive or what it was. But anyway there were quite a few of the workers that were bothered with this condition.

Mc When you went to the doctor you had to pay for your own bill ?

R Oh yes. He would prescribe Argeral for the irritation.

Mc And this still bothers you today at times ?

R Yes. Our eyes were so irritated that when I would get up in the morning I couldn't open my eyes right away to

bright light. The lights had to be dim. I haven't heard of anybody having any eye-sight trouble because of it but it was so irritating.

Mc It must have caused some damage.

Was it during this period of time that in the evenings you took a course at the Albion High School for Machine Shop ?

R Yes. There was an adult education course given at the high school for machine shop and some other girls and I decided that it was an interesting thing to get into. We had no idea what it was about. They gave us a course in learning to operate a hand lathe or a small lathe, the milling machine, the punch press.

Mc From all of this, you were able to get a job ?

R Yes. Steve Penasack had a machine shop down on Beaver Alley in Albion and he hired quite a few men there and he hired us girls to work at the machine shop. It was really interesting work. Of course the men would set up the machines for us, get them all set up, and all we had to do was sit there and move the little wheels now and then. They told us just exactly what to do. One of the other jobs there was filing these castings that were brought in and we sat around this long table and with our files and filed the rough edges off from these castings.

Mc Did you have to wear a mask across your face ?

R No, no protection. I believe we wore some sort of overalls or something like that when we worked there.

Mc You didn't worry about breathing in any shavings ?

R We never thought of such a thing.

Mc Also at this time, it being war time, I think you said you were a volunteer at least twice a week spotting air planes at Bullard Park ?

R Yes. We were Air Plane Observers. We would go by twos and our job was to stay for a certain period of time at the air plane spotting booth. We would call in a Greenfield number, out of Buffalo I think it was - - we had this number we would call and tell them we were reporting for duty and then any planes that went overheard

we were to tell them the shape of the plane, which direction they were flying and from what direction.

Mc Things have changed today.

R And the elevation. We did have a little briefing on how to do this.

Mc Do you remember the end of the war ? Was there any kind of celebration in Albion ? Of course we had the first part of the war ending in May when the Germans surrendered and then later the Japanese, but was there any kind of celebration you can remember ?

R I don't recall any celebrations but I'm sure there must have been parades and plenty of celebration.

Mc I neglected to ask you about your husband's work. I think you said that Ed worked in the Albion Cold Storage for awhile.

R Yes he did. He worked in the Albion Cold Storage when I first met him and for a few years afterward, and then he went to work on construction in the city that paid a lot more. That was in Rochester.

Mc You said he worked in Rochester for about 27 years ?

R Yes.

Mc He's a big fellow, right; he could handle it.

In 1949 you adopted your son and you didn't work for awhile, except on a part-time basis, is that right ?

R That's right.

Mc Then you worked in the Arnold Gregory Hospital ?

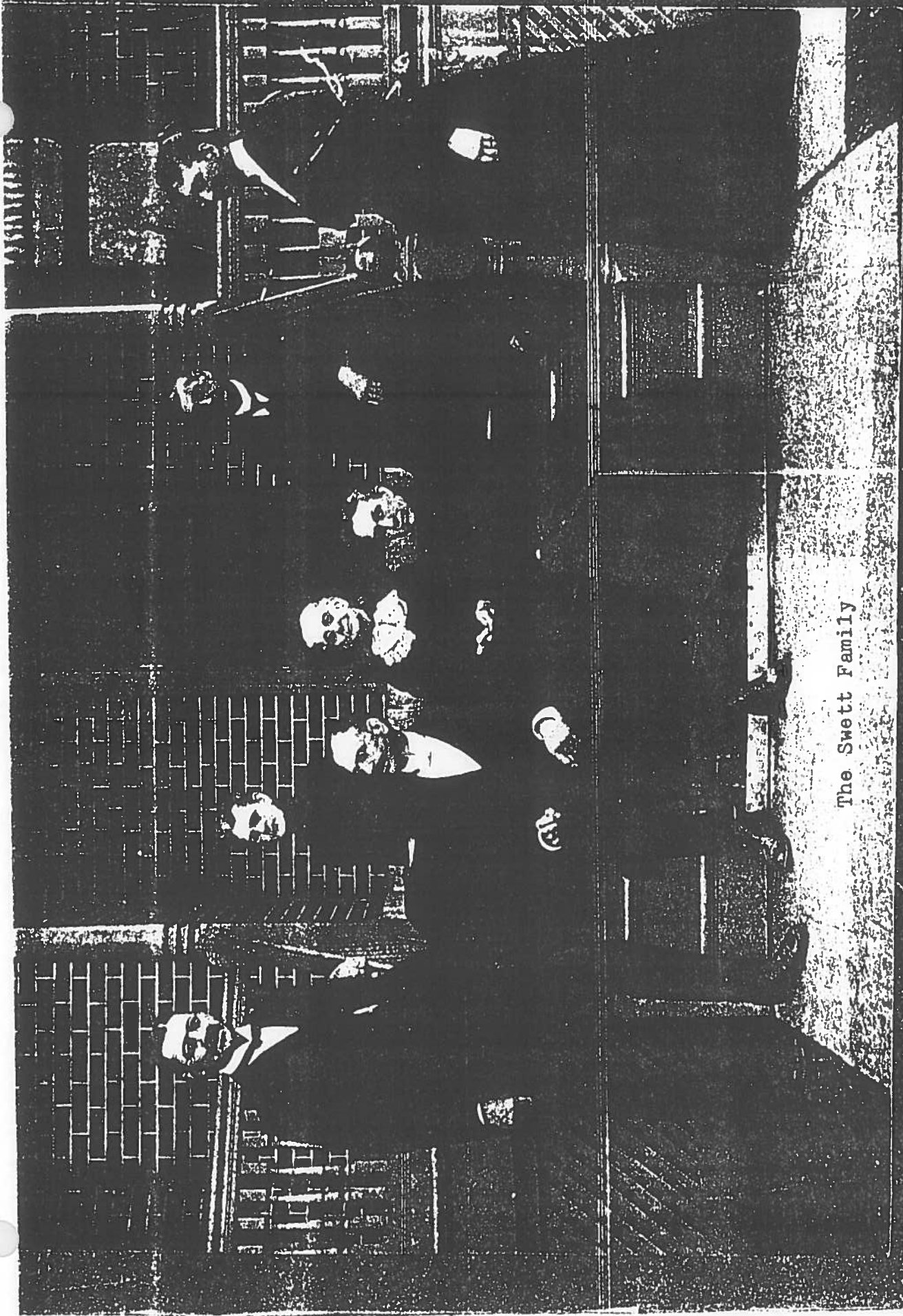
R Yes, I worked there as a nurse's aide for approximately a year. Then I worked in Pagel's Nursing Home and Hughson's Nursing Home, for a short time in each place.

Mc Now you are one of the Lipton Lady ^{Retirees.} You must have gone in to work at the Lipton Plant in Albion - - for a long time.

R Yes. I applied for a job at Lipton's and they asked me to come to work that afternoon if I had a white uniform which I happened to have. So I went to work at Lipton's and I worked there for 20 years. Five years out in production, and the rest of the time I worked in the Quality Control Department at Lipton's.

Mc The interview that you did with Mr. ^{R.} Burroughs^{he} describes a lot of the Lipton work.

R Yes, of course he wasn't in Quality Control and I was. I



The Swett Family

Albert *Cora* *Mother* *Joel* *Dr. Emily Swett*

worked in Statistics for awhile for David Johnson and that was very interesting. Then I went into the Bacteria Department. There we checked all the raw material for staph and E-coli in the different products.

Mc By staph do you mean staph infection ?

R Yes. We checked everything. That was the process. For each product it took about a week before we had the results. The material wasn't allowed to circulate to be used in the production until we O-K'd each of the raw materials.

Mc You worked at Lipton's, I believe, until they closed or almost until then ?

R No. I was having trouble with my hands. In fact I had to have an operation on my hands. So I decided to take an early retirement and I didn't quite make it till the closing of Lipton's. Within a couple of years of the closing.

Mc You belong to a group of ladies called The Lipton Ladies and you get together once in awhile ? (Lipton Lady Retirees).

R Oh yes, The Lipton Lady Retirees and we meet at the Albion Firehall once a month and we all bring a dish to pass and we play Bingo and have a business meeting. That's been going on for quite a few years.

Mc About how many ladies belong to that ?

R At first there were so few that they used to let people that never worked at Lipton's come in to it, but at this time there's about 60 women enrolled in Lipton Lady Retirees.

Mc Did Lipton's have any kind of a pension or retirement benefit ?

R Oh yes. Some people felt as though it wasn't adequate to meet their retirement needs if they didn't have any other source of income, but it was something, those that worked until the plant shut down received a very good severance pay which was very good for those who had worked there for quite a few years.

Mc I believe you have told me that knowing you were going to be adopting the little baby, you joined the United Methodist Church in Albion in 1948 and you have belonged there for approximately 33 years and still you are very active in the church ?

R Yes.

Mc I know you are very active in the Orleans County Historical Association and you have done a number of very good interviews

through people that you know, and with some who you don't know too well, or haven't known, too well. You have done interviews for this Oral History Project and I certainly appreciate it and I know a lot of other people do, or will eventually.

I believe in 1978 you joined the DAR which is headquartered in Albion and I believe to join DAR you have to know your background pretty well. (DAR=Daughters of American Revolution).

R Yes.

Mc I think you have a very fascinating background as well as a present life. Your background, besides your father, and of course I knew your father who was a salesman. I think your background centers on the Swett Family and I think your Uncle Marshall Loke, whom you interviewed, played a big part in your life. How does the DAR help you? How does it encourage you to look into your past?

R In order to join the DAR in the first place you have to have a Patriot— A soldier who fought in the American Revolution. Fortunately for me my Great-aunt Emily Swett, who was a doctor in Medina, had joined the DAR back quite a few years ago. Not only did she join through the Swett heritage but she also looked up her "Supplementals" which are to say that other Revolutionary Soldiers who were descended from her family, you could trace back your heritage and find out quite a bit about different ancestors. (NOTE: see transcript of Loke, & Radzinski 2

Mc So this really lays the groundwork for the interview that you and I are going to do at another time concerning the Swett background because the Swett family played such a predominant role in this whole area.

R Yes it did.

Mc Thank you so much for this interview. I certainly appreciate your spending the time and share it with us.

R It was my pleasure.

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Transcribed by Lysbeth Hoffman of Waterport, N.Y.
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