

OH2021.001  
Meagher, Judy  
01/05/2021  
Interview Log/Notes

Phone interview. Interviewed by Kayt Gochenaur

0:56 History in the area. Her dad (1904) was born here. (Paternal) Grandmother was Post Master at Wawbeek 1898 - 1910. (Paternal) Grandfather William Walter Meagher was caretaker at Birch island. 1910 started work for Graves on Eagle Island from 1910 - 1929. Her father took it over from 1929 - 1938 when Girl Scouts bought it.

3:43 William Walter Meagher was helped by John McKillip (caretaker at the place where the Young Life camp is.

5:36 1930 parents married. Mother Elizabeth "Betty" Toole (1909). Betty's sister had TB and cured in SL. They lived full time at Eagle Island. Raised kids Nancy and Luppy there. Betty and the kids would move back to Lake Street during spring and fall when ice was going in and out.

7:53 Not easy time living on island. Her great uncle was caretaker at Bartlett Carry. Lots of family on the lake

10 Stories of life on the island: Many boats. Saranac Inn annual boat race. Graves were a great family, very close to William and his father. Talks about "The Gwen" boat

12:55 treated caretaker like family. Sent the kids to private school

14:00 asked her dad what happened to all the stuff. They took some, but much of it was left to Girl Scouts

15:20 Graves never visited in winter. Story of cousin and car full of Christmas presents falling through the ice.

17:20 Lived above the infirmary

21:54 Uncle Rob Meagher had 9 kids. There was a school out at Bartlett carry (Jim and Chris Crane;s house.) they brought in a teacher. Father attended it. Maybe 10-20 kids.

25:17 Aunt Edythe Ryan Donovan (paternal aunt) visited before she passed away. Told lots of stories of the island.

28:00 Day in the life: buildings to fix, wood stacking for winter, trees. There were 2 boathouses at the time. Had a float plane.

33:30 Did father stay during spring/fall?: yes. talks about lake currents and how he would walk on the ice using a wood board, and the path he would take to get to shore.

38:30 kept car on property at Gilpin Bay rd.

39:30 Grandmother post master. Mail would go from TL to Corry's to Middle SL to Upper SL.

42:30 Storing boats for winter: old wood pulleys to pull boats out of water

46:10 Mom and dad would get groceries. Saranac Inn had a grocery store at the time

48:10 Mother's sister had TB. Discovered it when taking vows to be a nun. Maternal grandmother died of TB. Built one on Riverside Drive, but not sure if aunt Francis Toole cured at home or in a cure cottage

50:00 Was sick for 3-4 years.

52:00 no stigma that she could remember. Francis was grateful she was alive

54:20 Edythe was born on birch island

55:00 Grandparents lived in Mineville Essex County. Grandmother Ellie Meagher born in Troy. Moved up for caretaking

1:00:00 speaks about making masks with Gail Brill. Talks about silver lining of pandemic: reading and making quilts.