

9/21/2019 – KEVIN J. WATERS

KG – Kayt Gochenaur

KW – Kevin Waters

KG – This is Kayt Gochenaur. I'm interviewing Kevin Waters. Today is September 20. I keep wanting to say 21<sup>st</sup> and I know it's going to be wrong.

KW – No, you're right. It is the 21<sup>st</sup>. I'm sorry.

KG – Is it? September 21, 2019. I think I may have written the 20<sup>th</sup> on the interview that I did this morning so between the two of them, one of these should be right. Ok, let's just start. When and where were you born?

KW – I was born in Saranac Lake, NY on July 12, 1951 at Saranac Lake General Hospital.

KG – Now tell me about your parents.

KW – Both my parents were tuberculosis patients at Ray Brook State Sanatorium. My father was first there. He was the first one of the two of them as a patient. He went from Bellevue Hospital in New York straight to Ray Brook. My mother then followed to Ray Brook with tuberculosis. She is about seven years younger so she was a fairly young woman when she was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Completed the program at Ray Brook - prior to discharge... I'm not exactly certain but somewhere between 1947 and 1949. Were married and chose to live here like... A lot of doctors recommended that people that were successful in the treatment of tuberculosis might want to consider staying in the area, especially at that time in the country that going back to New York City where they were from might not be beneficial to their health. So they chose to stay here. My father was able to get... to continue a job that was given to him when the disease was arrested at the sanatorium. They put people that were under medical supervision as they were tracking their health to work, exercise. He had a job in housekeeping and he was able to keep it and be hired by the state to work at Ray Brook as a housekeeper. So they stayed in Saranac Lake and rented a house in Saranac Lake and in 1951 I was born.

KG – Now, just to get the dates again. Do you know what year your father came up to Ray Brook?

KW – I believe and that's part of what I was trying to do in this visit to Saranac Lake, was to pinpoint it a little bit better. He has since passed away so I have information that I hadn't seen. I believe he came to Ray Brook in the early Fall of 1943.

KG – Ok. And then your mother came a little after that?

KW – She came in the early summer of 1944.

KG – So do you know roughly how old she was then when she came up?

KW – Oh gosh. My mother was very young. Somewhere between 19 and 21.

KG – Wow. So your father would have been...

KW – My father was 30.

KG – So he worked as a housekeeper at the Ray Brook state hospital?

KW – Yes.

KG – How many years did he do that for?

KW – He worked at the hospital at Ray Brook up through the housekeeping department until early 1965. In 1962 there were rumors that started to float around frequently because of the downturn in the number of tuberculin patients and the use of sulfur drugs and another medicine that I'm not sure of, HNI, I believe, (and it was a big campus hospital) that they were going to start closing the hospital. People that were working there were starting to get nervous, especially people that had worked after they had gone through treatment. Had a very close friend that successfully treated for tuberculosis and who had his own business in New York. Would visit on occasion and tried to push my father a little bit: for the sake of the family, and it's a small town in Saranac Lake, and that it didn't seem like there was a lot of opportunities for a young family. He had his own business. "Why don't you come work for me?" He would always leave that up. In '63 the rumors got bad, in '64 they closed a couple of buildings and he came back and made a solid offer to my father who started to look at it seriously. In early '65, in the Spring, he went down to New York to a cosmetic company called xxxarden, women's cosmetics. He interviewed for a job there as a night manager, housekeeping manager, building manager and it was offered to him. Then at which case he had to figure out what to do. The family in Saranac Lake and an offer of a completely new life in New York with the benefits that he thought may not be available. I was going to be a freshman in high school the following year, which was a huge concern for opportunities, academic and otherwise. Things turned out through many discussions that he would take the job.

So, my mother, myself, and my two younger siblings stayed here through the late Fall, late summer of 1965 and my father went to New York and started his job and his sister who was close by started looking for a place for everyone to live. Things just fell into place and in September of 1965 I joined the rest of the family in Queens and I went off to a huge parochial school, riding the subway with an index card and directions of how to get there and who to see. It took me a long time but I kind of look at it now as I was lucky that I had the opportunity to grow up in two different kinds of environment. Up here in Saranac Lake until I was 16 - 15 and 16 - active in the Boy Scouts, a lot of hiking, did a lot of country things, lived on Riverside Drive for a long, long time. Then grew up again in Queens. The neighborhood – I don't want to

bemoan any neighborhood but it was at that time in 1965, it was very much a two-story, two-family neighborhood. Very similar to an Archie Bunker's neighborhood: white, Irish, Catholic, policemen, construction workers, firemen, working people. All of the opportunities that New York could offer were there for the benefit of myself and my two younger sisters and my father, moving in a much better economic circle. Came back to Saranac Lake to visit a few times in that course of time.

There were conversations in the house about tuberculosis but not a lot. It was almost as if it was a bit stigmatized – not shameful but stigmatized. Weren't about to shout it out the window or anything like that. When I was here in Saranac Lake, I had to go for testing for many years back to Ray Brook, just to make sure that there weren't any problems. I met people that he had cured with that came for dinner and socialization, and in high school I started to learn about biology and other things. I learned about communicable diseases and some of them that were slowly being eradicated and then I started to learn more about the history of the town that I was born in. Just out of curiosity. I came up a couple of times by myself and stayed with friends and I learned about Dr. Trudeau and that sparked a little curiosity at why he was so popular, and the name, and at a period of time we had a house up on Circle St., which is by the backside of Mt Pisgah where there were.... I didn't know it at the time but many houses, the big houses, had porches on them downstairs and maybe one upstairs. We had two that were screened in. It was just kind of neat what I found out afterwards that they were for people known as cure cottages where people that were suffering from tuberculosis if they didn't need to be in a sanatorium, they could be released to a cure cottage. They were taken care of and the porches were to go out and get the fresh air, the Adirondack fresh air. Believe me I had a lot of it in those days – the snow, the cold, the fresh air. I learned that even though it's attributed to the Europeans, the day bed - the word and term - was used here in the cure cottages as a narrow bed to get people through the doorways onto the porches so that they could rest. Good diet, lots of fresh air. I had friends who went to Paul Smiths College. I would bicycle around Saranac Lake. I knew Robert Louis Stevenson's cottage. He had tuberculosis. It took me a long time to connect all the dots and as I got older and got out of post and secondary education and out of college and started reading... I had an opportunity to spend part of my life in the Adirondacks and part of my life, post xxx I married my wife and we live in Rhode Island, right on the ocean. I have to flip a coin because I love both of them. I would come up and just... names and situations would pop up and they would spike my curiosity.

I did some reading... some books were given to me. My wife gave me a book (because she thought I would be a little homesick) on the Adirondacks. Another book she gave me the title of it was Saranac Lake, another one was the history of Saranac Lake. Then I knew for a long time that my father had spent time very ill and transferred from Bellevue to Ray Brook. He took me to Ray Brook many times. I had to go many times to be tested. He took me because his illness was arrested but they kept an eye on it for a number of years. It was open to him and we would drive around. In the back they had a field just to play ball. They would have a town picnic there occasionally. It was open to the town. He pointed out to me that it was a self-sufficient campus with its own power house. I got to see all those things and just slowly kind of put things together that somehow Saranac Lake and a number of people.... When I left Saranac Lake, Will Rogers Hospital was in development and I didn't quite understand that but then after reading a

bit about it I found out it was a hospital for people that were on vaudeville or led a very odd life sometimes and were susceptible to.... Anybody I guess is susceptible to tuberculosis but there was a hospital for them to go and a research center. I learned a lot of things that had gaps in them all.

Unfortunately two years ago this past January my father died and my mother in April the following year. My father was 98 after all that – tuberculosis. Before the drugs were widely in use when I would moan and cry, he would say that they would have to shove a scope down his throat to take a look at his lungs without very much medication. If you wanted to get better you had to do what you had to do to get better. I still get curious and try to put things together. I went to school with... there was a woman by the name of Margaret Sageman who was instrumental in doing a lot of cure cottages. She was the first one to see the demise of the institutions so to speak with the drugs, new drugs, beneficial drugs with the fresh air. So she converted a lot of her properties into cure cottages with porches and rented them out. I went to school with her grandson. Through having a curiosity and liking to be able to be familiar with the history of the area that I'm in, I read about her and other people, Robert Louis Stevenson. I would go through the sanatorium property before it was sold to AMA to get to the backside of Mount Pisgah. I just knew that there was something special about the Adirondacks besides tourism and besides Lake Placid and its Olympics and its international-ness. Saranac Lake was always referred to as the center of the tri-lakes area, a center for research. Then there was Tupper Lake. If it was mentioned I might pick the book up and look. Today I went to the library and asked the librarian about some research. It wasn't available for today but she gave me a book on the cure cottages of Saranac Lake and I sat at a table and I had just finished driving with my wife for an hour pointing them out. They are not quite the same as they were but I knew what they were. I guess in this interview... I never expected ever to do this. I never knew this museum existed until a very short time ago. But I didn't come up this visit to Saranac Lake to chase old memories of things. I came up to visit. One of the things that was suggested my wife said "Why don't we stop at that museum? Maybe you can get some answers to things that are missing in your family story." So here I am having this conversation with you and it does, it fills in a bunch of blanks about the long history of Saranac Lake.

KG – I'm curious about what your parents told you about their experience. How much did they talk to you about it?

KW – Very little at first. Very little even when I was 8 or 9. Probably for my early years – 4 to 5 – I had no idea. I knew my parents were from New York but I couldn't connect it to anything except for the fact that I lived in Saranac Lake and they lived in Saranac Lake. Slowly my father would explain to me a little bit about Ray Brook because I still had to go to be tested, especially 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. I think I went until I was about nine years old.

KG – Now what was the testing like?

KW – First I had to have a tuberculin test, what they call a patch test or a scratch test. The first time I had a false positive which meant right away that I had to have some X-Rays. Because of

that they wanted to make sure that there wasn't any chance that, since I was the eldest and that I accompanied my father a couple of times, so I would go to Ray Brook Hospital twice a year I guess for approximately three years to be tested twice a year. Because of the false positive I was X-Rayed and then after three years I was given another test that came out positive, came out negative, I'm sorry. Coming out negative it was curious because they couldn't understand why I had a false positive and so then I had to continue to come once a year to get a chest X-Ray.

KG – Now were you tested for TB while you were in school as well? Or was this just an individually...

KW – This was just individually. In grammar school, no, I was never tested for tuberculosis even though the school was here in the middle of Saranac Lake in the middle of all the sanatoriums, and homes and its history of tuberculosis. It wasn't mandated, it wasn't required for attendance in school. I went to a parochial school here in Saranac Lake and it wasn't required. It was slow to have the required vaccinations at the time: measles, chicken pox, whooping cough. They didn't include the tuberculosis. But because both my parents had tuberculosis the doctors at Ray Brook that wrote the discharge for my father and discharge for my mother, they weren't real fond of them having children. The possibility that there would be tuberculosis. That took a long time – we didn't talk about that until I was in my teens. How lucky I was compared to other people. I went for testing and I wasn't fully cleared until I believe I was 12 years old. At 9 it was twice a year and from 9 to 12 it was once a year. After that it was at the discussion of the family physician if they heard anything in my lungs then right away it was to get an X-Ray. No more false positives came up so it was just a matter of getting an X-Ray.

KG – Now, at the time that you remember getting tested there weren't any more TB patients at Ray Brook were there? Or was it still...?

KW – There was one building that was still fully active.

KG – Was there? Do you know which building that was?

KW – I'm not sure which building it was because I'm not sure how the setting went. Especially up until 1961 and 1962.... I think after 1960 there weren't full-time resident patients at Ray Brook but there were still patients that were coming back and forth on a regular basis for treatment. It's kind of what I'm trying to put together because Ray Brook... when my parents died, I was handed a bunch of information that I never saw before in my life: my father's diagnosis, his admittance to Ray Brook, things like that. That added a bunch more questions. I couldn't tell you the exact date he got out. That's one of the things I would like to know. Exactly when did he get out? When was he fully discharged? I know that when I was very little, he still had to send a test in because I remember as plain as day the little spittle bottles. They were on his dresser. All he would say to me was: "I have to take these to work to make sure I'm alright." But with that I also remember having to go twice and then once a year for an X-Ray and in the

late 50s and early 60s the state hospitals because Ray Brook the X-Ray facility was huge and it was fairly scary. It was black, it was cold, the slides were large. You'd stand there with no shirt on. It was cold right up against the screen so they could take a picture. Sometimes they would come back and take another one because it didn't turn out or you moved or coughed and you had to sit and wait and find out the results. It was a little... I didn't want to be any different than anybody else but I already knew there was something different about it. When I saw physicians on my own as I got older, I would tell them that both my parents had tuberculosis. If they were going to do an X-Ray if I had pneumonia once or twice. I worked outside for my career as a yacht builder. I wanted that out there but I wanted them no to do any patch tests. I'd rather, I'd pay for it if necessary, to have an X-Ray done instead. As time went by and tuberculosis became less, younger doctors knew less about how to diagnosis it or what to look for. That was kind of scary. I would simply explain as best I could like this interview that I would prefer an X-Ray.

I know my father was totally separated. He never had one visitor the whole time, not one. Not one single member of his family. That was his wish because at that time when he was in Bellevue it was so bad and even when he went from New York City to Saranac Lake in that time period it was a long bus ride. He was afraid. He had five brothers and three sisters. No, not one visitor. That was the way it was.

KG – How do you think that – and this is a kind of a broad question – but do you feel like it really impacted your childhood in like the way you look at the world? Did you feel a resonating affect from your parents having TB?

KW – Oh yeah. Absolutely. I didn't understand it at first – what I was feeling – but there was a separate community here of local residents that were born and raised here and then people that stayed here after they were finished with their tuberculosis treatment and the social circles didn't intermingle too much. Weren't broadly intermingled. I knew that most of my parents' friends were people that had gone through tuberculosis treatment. Most of the kids, the young kids that I grew up with – there was even a time that I had a paper route – they didn't know and they didn't care but there was still a slight difference. I knew that for the longest time because my mother was so young, when I got to be old enough – 12-13 – I knew that my mother was.... She was always unhappy in Saranac Lake. It wasn't her home. She had to come here. She had to leave her family. Her family was in New York. She had four sisters and a brother.

KG – So the choice to stay in Saranac Lake was very much just because they had to.

KW – Because it was highly recommended and it would have been tough to start over again in New York. They had friends, they knew the local pharmacist, they knew the local doctor, especially after I would say roughly three years, when I was born. He had a regular job so why look for another one at the time and he had a son. It was time to stay here. I know my mother was never truly happy here. She was much happier when my father decided.... And of course she was worried. She was lonely for her family. It was hard to make the trip up here from New York. A working-class Irish family and happier when I was at that age to go to high school that I would have more opportunities in New York than I might have here in Saranac Lake.

KG – Sure. What was your impression of Saranac Lake growing up?

KW – I loved it. I was little bit outside of the mainstream and I think was a misunderstanding of social circles, especially when I lived up on the hill where the cure cottages were because of most of the people there. But I loved the woods and the mountains and from there I had a chance to live on Lake Flower. At the foot of my driveway was the lake. I spent a lot of time and was very familiar with the woods. I had a very close neighbor who worked for the conservation department. I wanted to stay here. I ran away for a night and a half when the decision was made to move to New York. I didn't want to move to New York, even though I had been there a few times because of relatives. I was more than unhappy. I wasn't afraid of the woods or the village. I had lots of friends. Spent a great amount of time in the woods. Boy Scout. My parents – once they knew I was healthy – put no limitation besides doing the right thing and knowing that there were consequences, good and bad for what you did. I absolutely.... It's part of the reason that I've come back and I have.... My youngest sister lives in the Catskills because she left New York City and got an education to become a therapist and she and her husband live in a ski area in the Catskills. I'm often visiting them because it's a little bit shorter of a trip than to come up to the Adirondacks. It's a flip of the coin. I love the ocean. I was a yacht builder. I had the best of two worlds but when I was here in Saranac Lake...

KG – Did you know... your parents' friends who also had TB, the former TB patients, was it common for them to have children? I've just heard from other people that they were the only kids around in that circle because patients were discouraged from having kids.

KW – Patients... I realize it now, I didn't understand it then, but there were more of my parents' friends that were former TB patients that didn't have children than there were that did. The ones that did have children had at the most two. Early years now I can look back and say that they made sure that they were healthy. Or did everything that they could possibly do to ensure their well-being. But I think of all of my parents' friends that had tuberculosis and could have and had children, most of them didn't. The ones that did had two. My parents had three but that was it. Not big families. It was discouraged. The people that were discharged from the Ray Brook Sanatorium that had children were... I don't know. They were highly encouraged if not required to have the children come in and be tested or X-Rayed to make sure that there were healthy and weren't carrying any of the tuberculosis bacilli. It was kind of odd, yeah. I didn't fully realize it then but it took a while. When I was in high school looking back on it and I would come up to visit during the summer and spend a week or ten days with somebody as a visit, it started to dawn on me. I handful of people that would babysit for my mother and father were ones that had a daughter that was a couple of years older than myself and my two sisters. But one daughter. So and so, it wasn't explained until much later that it was dangerous. That's how it was explained. I learned from my father just how deadly a disease it was. When he was in Bellevue he didn't expect to live. He didn't want to see any of his family. If it weren't for the fact that his mother worked for a doctor and Ray Brook was opening, they didn't have the money so he would have.... In his words when I got much older, he said to me that he was destined for

Roosevelt Island. That was the last stop in treatment. Through books that were given to me about the Adirondacks and Saranac Lake, I learned about the railroad and just how they had the locomotive turntable and at night one out of every four patients at a period of time died from this disease. Going through your museum I recognize names of people that I thought I heard were in Saranac Lake and could... those people didn't have tuberculosis, they wanted to live good lives. But then after xxx my father and mother lived a good life. He was 98 when he passed away. There was a certain fear and stigma about it.

KG – Did that change as he got older, as your parents aged? Did they begin talking about it more or was it kind of always just something they didn't talk about?

KW – It was always quiet for my mother because she young when she got... discovered as being very sick and how terrible it was to be the youngest and to be in a sanatorium. I don't know how to say this and how to be honest about it. There was in some sanatorium situations there was use of an awful lot of alcohol, boredom and things. Trudeau had at least an occupational therapy department but Ray Brook had none. There was a fair amount of misuse of alcohol. Alcohol was thought at one time to assuage the cough. When you were allowed to walk around and not much to do... On top of everything else that played a little bit of a problem. It took a while.... My father explained to me that beyond the tuberculosis and the boredom was alcohol and that it was very dangerous and after a number of years he didn't drink and my mother didn't drink at all. I think part of his explaining that to me was by using the window of tuberculosis and the boredom and being away from home in a sanatorium with a limited amount of friends of your own, peers so to speak, it made it difficult. It would have made it even more difficult for them to go back to New York and join their old friends and neighborhoods. Where here they had started a new life that was good. That turned out good. They had to work at it but... Certain health issues that take people out of their safety net and put them somewhere else for a while leave the potential for pitfalls if they are not careful. That happened with tuberculosis. Alcohol was a serious problem with tuberculosis. Fortunately it reared its head but it didn't turn out to be that for my family. For that I'm lucky. But he used that as a tool to explain to me what it was like to leave his family. Someday if you're lucky you'll be able to look at your life and you'll see it in front of you and make a decision. He was fortunate. He had his life in front of him and he didn't want any of his family to see him the way he was and I guess you might call it through intervention or divine intervention he wound up in a sanatorium and was able to make it through all of the ups and downs of life in a sanatorium, which had its own pitfalls, and had three children. All of us are healthy. I have a few nieces here and there and nephews. My wife and I have been married for 30 some odd years.

KG – Tell me about your parents – their lives before they were diagnosed. They were still living in New York City?

KW – Yes. My father, his family, lived in Hell's Kitchen, East 40<sup>th</sup> Street. He was in the Army and discharged before the Second World War, just before the Second World War was declared. But it was under Roosevelt's emergency preparedness program. He was a ship builder as a boiler

maker eight months after he had gotten hit in the chest on the job with a huge jack for moving these big steam boilers around. They were building them for the military ships. He developed a cough and would go out with the boys at a time and have a drink or two and eight months later the cough was such that he went to a doctor. The doctor – this is part of the papers that were given to me – did some tests and sent him... called another doctor that was a specialist and sent him to see the specialist. The next day he was in Bellevue. So, from two years in the Army before the beginning of the war, and eight months later he was diagnosed full-blown tuberculosis. His life was shattered. "What do I do now?" Besides in the hospital he got sicker and sicker and sicker and sicker so that whole thing, and weaker and weaker and weaker.

My mother was the youngest in her family. She just had graduated a Catholic girl's high school, two years before, was living with other relatives because her natural mother passed away. Her father was bringing somebody from the Old Country, Irish, like many immigrant families to help take care of the whole family. He did and she came home to the whole family and developed a cough. I don't know exactly the time frame but she went to the doctor and was diagnosed with tuberculosis and she was sent to the hospital. Then to the sanatorium. Her life was shattered because she had just come home to the family and she was the youngest. It was very hard. It's a family thing. It sounds like a sad story but life in the 40s was a bitch in New York – poor, crowded, rough, tumble, dirty, you had to look out for each other. Five brothers and three sisters for my father and they took in a little boy whose parents had died in the building so I had an additional uncle. I didn't know that story for a while. It was very difficult. Very difficult. The only alternatives because of no cure were bleak, as bleak as they can be.

KG – What was your experience moving back to Queens when you were just starting high school?

KW – I thought it was just.... I had to shake my head. I didn't like it. I had a tiny bit of knowledge about how to get around because I had visited New York over the years. I thought it was a cruel trick to put me back after I knew so many people in Saranac Lake. I left as soon as I graduated high school. I went away to college.

KG – Where did you go to school?

KW – I went to Marist in Poughkeepsie. Not a very good idea to go to parochial grammar school, parochial high school (Christian Brothers high school), and then to go to a Christian Brothers parochial college. A good education. The times that my parents went through always taught me first as the eldest that you had to watch for your siblings, watch out for your family, and it was taught that there were consequences for everything that you did. Not necessarily bad – there were good and bad consequences. Nice job, good job or.... I had a set of standards and there some that were developed of what my parents went through because they had to live by standards that were set by the doctors in order to get better. They just instilled that in order for you to live a right life you need to do this, this, and this. I think looking back now – I'm 68 – and all of this information that's come into my hands lately of my parents' history that those standards were generated pretty much by that time in the institution and the time adapting to

Saranac Lake. For me, when I was young in Saranac Lake, I was just another young boy on a bicycle. I'd ride through when the sanatorium was turned over to AMA, I'd ride through it as a shortcut. I'd cringe and get nervous and break out in a sweat when I would have to go get a chest X-Ray in Ray Brook but they didn't... they paced explaining that stuff until I got older and older and older and explained it to me in degrees so that I would accept it. There were other illnesses that are incurable but that can be treated. They would pick an example to put beside it so that I would see that there. People can be just as good a people if they have this or this or this or this. That's how it was presented to me.

Coming to the museum today. My intention to come to Saranac Lake for a while is not to go searching for cure cottages. There were some things that I knew that were here like Robert Louis Stevenson's cottage and the sanatorium in Ray Brook, but I wasn't going to get into Ray Brook because it's a corrections facility. They might not let me out if I got there. It turned out as we stopped in, my sister actually told me about the information available at the library so this morning when I set out, I just took one of the turns that came here first, talked to you and your partner, and then went through the museum. I had a long discussion with my wife and went over to the library and then took a long ride all the way out around Riverside Drive to some of the old houses that I delivered newspapers to. I didn't know they were cure cottages. I didn't the porch that was windowed in that was my bedroom was a porch for a patient at some time. But it became easier to put things after a bunch of years, after having things explained to me, and after understanding for a long time there was no cure, that fresh air. Even for Dr. Trudeau. He had to leave a few times and go bury himself at Paul Smiths to fight a relapse - that the slide information was shared I believe either by a French or German doctor in the research. I have my own concerns about it resurfacing again in a larger proportion than twenty years ago. It makes me pause to think where we are in the world and in the country or in our cities or in taking care of ourselves and all those social things.

KG – Sure.

KW – It was pretty well taken care of for a while when something like that tends to pop up more frequently, if you know a little bit more than some people about it or if it's been a part of your life then you wonder gee whiz, why is this popping back up around the world again?

KG – Well I think we are coming about to the end of the time. Is there anything else you want to share that I haven't asked about?

KW – I wish I had more information about some of the pieces that are missing but I'm not on a crazy search to fill them in. I will take the time if I see the opportunity to fill them in and this is unusual because I don't usually do these kinds of things. I don't think I've had this long a talk about my mother and father's tuberculosis with my wife in many years. But I have been very fortunate that their experiences were related to me in such a fashion that I knew that there were certain things that if I went down that road it may not be good for my health, which I'm very fortunate for. I think that what's being done here with the museum with this online and with the data at the library.... The woman at the library said that they could probably find my

father's admission date and I couldn't. When I first got the papers I went and researched a whole bunch of places to see if I could get more information about it, just to fill in that. That generation post-Depression I don't think they talked much about the tough times that they went through. They just wanted to provide better for their families so that they don't spend time wallowing in that or not even wallowing in it but their stories about it were very "this is what it was, and you don't want to do this, and it took away my freedom for this amount of time." Especially talking to a young man growing up in high school - "I had to play by these people's rules for this long", which was to make a point to me that I might have to play by other people's rules for a period of my life. So I will probably put my head on the pillow tonight and say "I don't know how the hell I got myself into that conversation" to be perfectly honest with you. But, as painful as it was for them and getting the information when they passed away, there were lessons to be learned and if there are lessons to be learned it's nice to see that there is a repository for those lessons. I think that's what this is, is a really unique repository for a place outside of a such a huge metropolitan area that went through two epidemics of tuberculosis.

KG – This hunt you're doing for more info, I'm sure you know there are other people that are looking for some of the connections and info that you have and just to bring it full circle I mean your nieces and nephews. This is why we're recording it because they are going to be trying to fill in the same blanks.

KW – As I said to you, I wound up doing a search for one of my cousins to Stony Brook and as a result of that they got in touch with someone that was there when their mother was there. They didn't know for a long period of time that their mother was here and curing. The cousin that asked me to look, if I could do anything new that I knew about my father's illness and was kind of hesitant but did ask me and I said I would be glad to do it if I can and I'll send you whatever I find. I did and as a result they were able to get in touch with somebody. It's kind of neat.

KG – Well it's been really good talking to you. I'm so glad that I managed to convince you to sit down for an interview on the same day that I met you. I know it's always a little bit intimidating but this has been really good. I'm going to turn this off.

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