

NAME

Braig-Lucile-Interview-20-May-1987 only side.mp3

DATE

October 6, 2026

DURATION

13m 47s

2 SPEAKERS

Roger Leonard

Lucile Braig

START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:01] Roger Leonard

This is Roger Leonard and I'm recording Lucille Bragg. On May 20th, 1987 to see what she remembers about the Hochatown Railroad. That was the central New England. Well, we'll just put this here. Okay. Now, you can say whatever you remember.

[00:00:20] Lucile Braig

Well, what I really remember, just as a child, my grandparents owned all this land. And I used to come summers. And my mother had a brother that was only three years older than me. And I remember we used to walk way every morning until we heard that. Oh, engineer, blow the whistle at wave crossing.

[00:00:38] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Where was.

[00:00:39] Lucile Braig

That? That's down there. Just about. Well, you know where the new. Car washes. That's on way road.

[00:00:48] Roger Leonard

Oh, okay.

[00:00:49] Lucile Braig

But of course, there was no route nine there. You came up the old route nine that comes back. We'd hear the whistle there and we'd go through here. Where our houses are now was a pear orchard. Oh. And we come down the road through the orchard. To hang on the gate. So that we could wave to the engineer and the fireman when they went by. That was the first thing I remember. But I do remember going with my grandfather, taking milk up to the old Borden's plant, which was behind the old Agway store. Now. In fact, it was just room for the train really to go through. Now, they took the old Borden's plant down when we built the new store, which was about six years ago.

[00:01:30] Roger Leonard

So that was right next door to the chocolate factory.

[00:01:33] Lucile Braig

Well it was yeah. It went. The train went from there past behind the chocolate factory. And my grandpa, my father's people, my other grandparents lived on the corner there of Fiske and Thompson Street. But I do remember when I was a teenager, Red hook, we used to go to Barrytown to get the mail, and there was no mail delivery to Elizaville. They hired. The man's name was Harry Holzapfel And he used to take the mail from Red Hook to Elizaville and bring back the outgoing mail. So my girlfriend and I went up on the train one time to ride back with him just for the experience, you know? And it went so slow that without a word of a law, you could pick wildflowers out the window. And, you know, it went so slow to it. And it had one car on the front that was all freight. And the second car only had two cars, and the second car was mostly freight and had like four seats in the back. And I remember particularly because it was summer and they were like horse hair. And we sat down and when you sat down, the dust rose so high that you were practically to elizaville before the dust cleared. And the place nobody ever. They never took passengers. It was always just pick up milk and freight, you know, and I remember doing that.

[00:02:48] Lucile Braig

But as far as anything pertinent to the building or anything, you know, that agway now has there. I'm really not sure. I think Warren Rockefeller would be your best bet, because he's the one that told me when we had to, by law. Close that up because of chemicals, where to find the ticket window. And that was just as we were building the new store, and the fellows gave me the ticket window because I wanted to hang it by my desk in my office. And my boss at that time thought it was the most ridiculous thing to hang on the wall, but it has the original gold leaf around it, and that's still there. We did find some when they tore up some of the floorboards, we did find some covers of notebooks, but the insides were gone. That said they were freight slips and tally slips evidently had been kept in there, but they were pretty well, you know, deteriorated. We couldn't keep those. But the only thing I really have seen from there is that. But I do remember that Warren Rockefeller's brother in law, who lived over here, Raymond Coon, was instrumental in the original of the Agway, well, the farmers co-op. And then that was And he thought Warren should become a manager there. And Warren was there for years and years and years because that was formed in 1921.

[00:04:10] Roger Leonard

And I suppose it was located where it is because. Yeah. Right.

[00:04:14] Lucile Braig

Because it was along that was the object of it. And they got everything in by railroad. And it was of course there wasn't that much truck traffic in those days, and it made it a lot cheaper. They would get carload lots. And that was the object they built right by the railroad tracks, but they originally added on. And when they did they took what had been the ticket or the original little station, put it across the road of Elizabeth Street. And that became the chemical building for the co-op.

[00:04:48] Roger Leonard

Oh.

[00:04:49] Lucile Braig

So, but Warren is very knowledgeable in that. Yeah. My experience was just as a child, you know?

[00:04:56] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:04:57] Lucile Braig

And of course, I used to be at my grandmother's and I'd hear the train. See the train come back at night, you know?

[00:05:03] Roger Leonard

And you could hear it so far.

[00:05:04] Lucile Braig

Oh, yeah. They used to always blow it waist crossing. We'd take off down here.

[00:05:09] Roger Leonard

But I'm trying to picture that railroad bed down there. Well, very close to.

[00:05:16] Lucile Braig

Firehouse Lane is the. Where is the where is the bed now? Okay. John Coburn's house here, right next to my dad's house. Is that.

[00:05:25] Roger Leonard

And we're on Rokeby Lane now. Rocky road. People are listening to.

[00:05:28] Lucile Braig

This rocky.

[00:05:29] Roger Leonard

Road.

[00:05:29] Lucile Braig

We are. And it went. It went right through. The brick house was built right on the

[00:05:35] Roger Leonard

Okay.

[00:05:35] Lucile Braig

About Oh, maybe 8 or 9 years ago, my grandson was in Scouts and they followed it from Rhinecliff, and they camped overnight just down here. But most of the places they had to walk around and ask permission to go through somebody's yard and walk around the house because they couldn't follow the whole, the whole path. Yeah, if our house is. And so is John Coburn.

[00:06:00] Roger Leonard

When did they take the tracks out?

[00:06:02] Lucile Braig

The beginning of the war.

[00:06:04] Roger Leonard

Of World War Two.

[00:06:05] Lucile Braig

World war two. Yeah. I wasn't here for World War I. The war to end all wars. They took it up. Then all the. They hadn't been used for quite a few years. I think it was in the 30s that it stopped. It must have been towards the late 30s because I was a teenager in the 30s, but I the exact date one probably would know.

[00:06:33] Roger Leonard

Yeah. And where did it go from here? South, then down to.

[00:06:37] Lucile Braig

Rhinecliff.

[00:06:38] Roger Leonard

And connected up with the New York Central.

[00:06:40] Lucile Braig

I don't know where it connected up. Wasn't, you know, it was called the Central New England. They always called it the C and E railroad. And then it went on out and went past earth up in through there. This map pretty well shows the way that it did go.

[00:06:55] Roger Leonard

Yeah, we have a map here. And there's no date on it.

[00:07:00] Lucile Braig

No. Some of the railroad buffs that come over to look at my window and so forth over at the co-op and tried to find out. A man came in one day and asked anybody if they knew where the railroad went.

[00:07:11] Lucile Braig

And of course, they kid me and say I'm older than dirt. So they said that Lucy knows.

[00:07:18] Roger Leonard

So it just says map seven on here.

[00:07:20] Lucile Braig

Yeah, I think it's probably a town map of some sort. Yeah, but you can see where the train comes and it crossed over by the coal storage.

[00:07:32] Lucile Braig

There again, that's why that where colburn's is, that was always a depot for spray materials and things like that built there. Probably because of the being adjacent to the railroad.

[00:07:45] Roger Leonard

Yeah. And then it went out by Crestwood.

[00:07:50] Roger Leonard

That's right across the fields there.

[00:07:53] Lucile Braig

Across.

[00:07:54] Roger Leonard

The town. And I have a recording of Ethel Gallagher remembering going to high school on the town railroad.

[00:08:03] Lucile Braig

Did she.

[00:08:03] Roger Leonard

Really? Yeah. From from the coca Coca-Cola out by Spring Lake. And then it had another. Is this the same one that was the same railroad that was known as the. Some people called it the.

[00:08:17] Lucile Braig

Hooker.

[00:08:17] Roger Leonard

Bush. Yeah.

[00:08:18] Lucile Braig

Yeah. That's what we always called it.

[00:08:19] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:08:20] Lucile Braig

Because it came through, you know, we always call it the.

[00:08:24] Roger Leonard

Well, some people said it was the huckle bush. Oh yeah.

[00:08:26] Lucile Braig

So we always I always thought it was because this is hooker wood.

[00:08:32] Lucile Braig

You know down here was always hooker Wood.

[00:08:34] Roger Leonard

Makes sense.

[00:08:35] Lucile Braig

We always call it the hooker bush.

[00:08:37] Roger Leonard

Some said it was because it went past Huckleberry Sound.

[00:08:41] Lucile Braig

See how things go.

[00:08:42] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:08:43] Lucile Braig

But I remember it.

[00:08:44] Roger Leonard

And that's what Then it went all the way to New England.

[00:08:49] Roger Leonard

Whereabouts?

[00:08:50] Lucile Braig

I don't know. Well, after I left, I remembered. Yeah, I wasn't that, you know, you weren't that really. You took it for granted. It would be there forever. And nobody thought this was going to be nostalgic someday, you know?

[00:09:02] Roger Leonard

Yeah, you never know. But anything more on the on the station itself that became the agora. About the building.

[00:09:10] Lucile Braig

I don't know any anything about that Warren Wood, though. I know there was something in the minutes because in 81 was our 60th year or their 60th year, I'd say ours because it really in the co-op. And at our annual meeting, we had a resume and Warren wrote it. So he was, he even knew the dates that they moved the building to across Elizabeth and so forth. So and he, he, even, he, he even had in there about what the, the different products that they received by, by train, you know, like sulfur and all these things. Of course, before all these chemicals of today, he was very knowledgeable in that.

[00:09:57] Roger Leonard

Now, you lived here all your life.

[00:09:59] Lucile Braig

My I moved my parents, grandparents lived here, you know, for a long time. And I moved back here in 1933.

[00:10:05] Roger Leonard

So that's your maiden name?

[00:10:08] Lucile Braig

My maiden name was O'Brien.

[00:10:10] Lucile Braig

My, who owned this property was my mother's people. Her name was McMurray. And it was my grandparents that lived on the corner of Fifth and Thompson. So we moved back here in 1933. So that's 54 years.

[00:10:25] Roger Leonard

Yeah. So they have quite a bit of property here.

[00:10:27] Lucile Braig

Oh, they all down through here where the development is and everything.

[00:10:31] Roger Leonard

And what's the development. You mean Red hook?

[00:10:33] Lucile Braig

No. Rokeby estate back here. Yeah. All this down where? These other houses. And they own property in Hollywood. But my Let's see, the date isn't clear. When we sold that, my mother and her sister and brothers owned it, and we get parcels to build here. We built here in 1950. So that's how long. But I don't know all the particulars. I just know I remember the riding and I remember the train. And you know, I don't really didn't feel I had very much to offer to you.

[00:11:10] Roger Leonard

Oh that's fine. Your mother's people.

[00:11:14] Lucile Braig

Were. My grandmother was a Martin from Red hook. And that was the original homestead was the where Mrs. Cookingham was. And then the house right across from Alice Chisholm next to John Morris, which is now an apartment building, was where my grandmother grew up.

[00:11:32] Roger Leonard

Oh, is that right?

[00:11:33] Lucile Braig

So that's how I got in the DAR from those Martins. Oh, yeah.

[00:11:38] Roger Leonard

Okay.

[00:11:38] Lucile Braig

Family's been here a long time.

[00:11:40] Roger Leonard

Give me a little genealogical information. Starting from yourself and going back with these other Red hook families. So we get the connection?

[00:11:49] Lucile Braig

Well, I don't have anybody any more on my mother's side.

[00:11:54] Roger Leonard

Any anybody that you remember? I mean, who they were and their names and.

[00:11:59] Lucile Braig

Just people, you mean?

[00:12:01] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:12:02] Lucile Braig

Cause, see, I was an only child and only grandchild. My father's name was Roland O'Brien, and he was from Germantown originally. And my gran, his mother had been a Rohrbach, which went way back. They were all Palatine. She was Palatine Dutch. Well, so were the Martins, Palatine and my mother, as I say, my mother's name was. My grandmother's name was Martin. Now, my grandfather's people were McMurray, and they were Scotch immigrants. And they had come from with their own minister who was a Presbyterian minister, and he brought some of his flock to the New World, and he settled in Argyle, New York. That's where they settled, and they named it Argyle. They settled the town and named it because they are from Argyllshire in Scotland, in the Highlands. And there was a school, a Mary Hoffman's mother went to the school. There was a school called the Fort Edward Institute for Young Ladies in Fort Edward, New York. And my grandmother was her mother was dead, and her father sent her there to make her into a proper young lady. My grandfather's people were from Fort Edward, New York. The mcmurray's that his branch had moved over from Argyle. That's where they met. And that's how the connection was that we got back. Then they. They got back down here to Red hook and they moved here. I think I recall my mother saying about 1915 that my mother would be like 15 years old. She was born in 1900. So but actually my mother's side, I don't have any relatives at all.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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