

Cahill/Stayton family in Montauk 1939 to 1995

Michael L. Cahill was born in 1896 and raised in Cambridge MA. His parents Immigrated to the USA arriving on the ship Catalona from Cork, Ireland in 1887. His father was a Letter Carrier. Michael enlisted in the Navy in 1917 he served during WWI on the USS Delaware in the medical unit at Scapa Flow Scotland.

He meet in Margaret Honor Fallon in Bayside in 1921 they married in 1922. Margaret was born in College Pt. In 1904, she was graduate of Flushing High School and worked as a stenographer. Her father John J. Fallon was born in College Pt in 1873. He worked in construction as a lather the trade he learned from his father who had immigrated from Roscommon Ireland they arrived on a ship in 1850 and John J. grew up in the five points NYC. He was very well connected at Tammany Hall. The family story is that he worked on a lot of mansions all over Long Island even commuted to Montauk to work on the Manor with his crew. This is the families first introduction to Montauk.

Michael and Margaret Cahill loved the water. In the mid1930's they began the search for a summer home. They took the train from Jamaica station out east. Montauk was the place. They got delayed due to the 1938 The New England hurricane (also called "The Long Island Express") which had devastated Montauk. By 1939 they were back in Montauk with there 3 daughters in tow. Peggy (aka Wee Wee) the oldest. Eleanor (my mother, the middle child) and Carol, the baby who was 10 at that time.

They purchased 8 Lots 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156 1157, 1211 and 1211 between 1940 and 1958 in the Montauk Beach, Hither Hills Section, Map #2 1940 from the Mirror Holding Company. Next in 1941 they purchased a house kit from the T. &S. Lumber & Supply Co. Inc., Riverhead LI with a mortgage of \$14.95 per months for 5 years = \$897.00. The house address was 95 Bryan Rd

In 1943 Michael Cahill re-enlisted in the Navy to serve in WWII. He was on active duty from June 1943 through March 1945 First in New York then at the Coronado, CA Naval base. Margaret spent the rest of the summer of 1943 alone with her 3 daughters. There were many blackouts, scares and rationing. Also plenty of young, polite servicemen to keep an eye on them. No phone at their home yet. The four Cahill ladies followed "Daddy" by train in September to Coronado CA. Carol had to start her freshman year in high school there. Margaret and the girls returned to Montauk by June of 1944.

Michael Cahill was a Chief warrant office, pharmacist with the U.S. Navy, he was in the Pacific Ocean theater on the USS Luce destroyer he was discharged just prior to base after reenlisting for service during WWII. After the war he returned to the Medical Department of Consolidated Edison Company NYC headquarters (Con Ed) as a pharmacist. Michael passed away in 1967.

Margaret and family continued to split their time between Montauk and Flushing mostly during the warmer weather as the house was never winterized. During WWII for the war effort she worked as a bookkeeper in Long Island City in the fall, winter and springs of 1942 and 1943 at the Ford Instrument Company, Inc. Where they built reconnaissance vehicles. She was super creative continually working on her projects which included writing, painting, crafting, antiquing. She was a historian. A published author. A seamstress. A stage mother [all three of her daughters were models]. Socially active in many causes and volunteer efforts. They supported many of Montauks non-profits including the Fire Department She was in on the early development of the Montauk Historical Society. They were members of the Surf Club. Loved attending the Greenery Scenery Galas. Our Montauk parish was The Church of the Little Flower. St. Therese Church. Margaret passed away in 1996 and much of her collections remain with me.

Peggy graduated from Queens college with a degree in fine arts and romance languages. While at Queens college she had joined the Army Special program. She worked as a code-breaker for the Army and later became a translator for the Navy in Washington DC. She married in 1949 to Alan Johnson also in the service as a Research Analyst. They worked and lived at bases all over the world before settling in California in 1962. They raised 4 sons. Both Peggy and Alan are buried at Arlington Cemetery in Washington DC along with a fifth son who died in infancy.

Eleanor Graduated from Bayside High School in 1944. She went on to win seven beauty titles and a career as a Harry Conover Modeling agency, Harry renamed her as Nan Kimberly. She met my father Leon (Bud) Stayton at Trail's End Restaurant the summer of 1949. My father was stationed at Camp Hero where he had extra training while in the reserves and also was a Air Battery Inspector along the East Coast. During WWII he served with the 86th Blackhawk Division of the Third & First Army. After WWII, with the aid of the G.I. Bill he attended and Graduated from the University of Delaware in 1949 with a degree in Business administration. [In April of 1945 he fought in the Ruhr Pocket, Germany battle, where he served as a scout in front of the front lines.]

Eleanor and Bud married in 1951, while he was on leave from the Korean War. She stopped her modeling career then. They were back in Montauk during time off until 1954 when my father's employer the Sheaffer Pen Company transferred him to Seattle. They have 3 children, two boys and a girl (me the baby). Bud was transferred back to NYC in 1961, they settled in Port Washington and summers in Montauk. They separated in 1966 and divorced in 1970 he died in 1976. Eleanor worked in the Port Washington School system as a secretary. In 1977 she sold the Port Washington home and moved year-round to Montauk with me, our dog Maxine and cat Noel. 1978 she was employed as secretary in the Park Superintendents office, Hither Hills State Park. She retired in 1984. She worked part time at the Montauk Lighthouse from 1984 until 1994. She sold our beloved Montauk home.

Carol Graduated from Bayside High School in 1947. She worked every summer at The Anzac House as a chamber maid in the early 1940's (during World War II the premises was occupied by the Coast Guard officers) When the war ended it opened as Bea's Surf & Sand. Carol was again a chamber maid into the early 1950's. Every May she's quit whatever job she had at the time to spend the summer at Montauk. It wasn't until 1963 that she landed a great job at the Lever House on Park Avenue NYC (Lever Brothers) headquarters. She began her 25 year career as the head of Employee Benefits. She was a great athlete. She loved Horseback riding at Deep Hollow, swimming, golfing at the Downs, Square Dancing at Hither Hills campground, fishing, Bowling, etc. She never married but loved traveling the world.

Our extended family loved spending time in Montauk and were frequently there. My brothers and I had the best times of our lives growing up every summer. I married a Montauk boy of the Knowlan/Eurell clan many who still call Montauk home.

I hope you enjoy our memories.

Sincerely,

Lynn Stayton-Eurell