**Kate:** Good afternoon, this is Kate Moore for the National Park Service. Today is the 11th of December, 1993 and I'm in Farwell, Michigan at the home of Fredrick Sigel who came from Germany in 1923 when he was 21 years old. Why don't you begin by giving me your full name and your date of birth please?

**Fred:** My name and birthday?

**Kate:** Yes.

**Fred:** Fred Sigel, born in 1902 on the 28th of February.

**Kate:** 28th of February, 1902. Where were you born?

**Fred:** In Michelau in Germany, western Germany. There used to be western Germany.

**Kate:** Could you spell that please?

**Fred:** Michelau, M-I-C-H-E-L-A-U.

**Kate:** Alright, and what size town was Michelau.

**Fred:** It was a small town in the middle of Wurttberg.

**Kate:** How small was it?

**Fred:** Wurttberg? That’s the state W-U-R-T-T-B-E-R-G.

**Kate:** Yes and the town that you were born in, how many people approximately lived in the town at that time? Do you remember?

**Fred:** At the time there was about I think 250- 300.

**Kate:** What did the town look like? Do you remember anything about the town?

**Fred:** Oh yes, it’s still there. I mean I visited different times back in Germany.

**Kate:** What was the major industry at that time?

**Fred:** The major industry is farming.

**Kate:** Is farming. What was your father's name?

**Fred:** Herman Sigel.

**Kate:** Herman, could you spell that?

**Fred:** H-E-R-M-A N.

**Kate:** Okay, what was his occupation?

**Fred:** He was a blacksmith.

**Kate:** So your father was a blacksmith.

**Fred:** With repair Michelau farm machinery.

**Kate:** Farm machinery and could you describe his personality or temperament or how would you describe your father?

**Fred:** Well, he would be just like myself. Just about like myself, same posture, he might be a little bit heavier.

**Kate:** How tall are you?

**Fred:** 171I believe [chuckle].

**Kate:** Alright, what about his personality? What was your father like as a person?

**Fred:** He was a nice gentleman as far as that goes. We were together, went together in the banks and different deals and real estate things like that.

**Kate:** Is there a story about your father that you remember during your childhood that you could tell about him?

**Fred:** When I come to this stage where I want to go away over here to America, he didn't like it.

**Kate:** He didn't like it.

**Fred:** No, he figured I had enough to do right here in this country here but I want to go someplace else. I want to find my future someplace else. The situation over there was pretty bad, we lost finance and we lost property and also with the government and everything else together.

We were practically disowned of a lot of these properties and there was nothing else for us to do, we were six brothers together and somebody had to do---

**Kate:** So you're six children, six brothers, seven children.

**Fred:** Six brothers all together.

**Kate:** What was your mother's name?

**Fred:** Marie Sigel.

**Kate:** And what was her maiden.

**Fred:** Frank.

**Kate:** Frank? And how would spell that?

**Fred:** F-R-A-N-K.

**Kate:** What was her occupation if any?

**Fred:** Her occupation? She was a housewife.

**Kate:** What did she look like?

**Fred:** She was a little bigger than my father and myself. I mean I'm the smallest one of all them.

**Kate:** Did she have fair hair?

**Fred:** Black hair.

**Kate:** Black hair.

**Fred:** Yeah, I can show it, I got the pictures here of her.

**Kate:** And what color of eyes.

**Fred:** She was real nice.

**Kate:** Describe her personality and temperament if you could? What would you say about your mother to characterize her? How would you characterize your mother?

**Fred:** She was very good, good personality and she was brought up on a farm too and had to do hard work until she passed away of course.

**Kate:** Is there a story about your mother you remember? How did she feel about you coming for example?

**Fred:** That was the same thing again, I want to go someplace, there was nothing left in the country. I mean I figured I had to go someplace else in here than over there because there was nothing there for us anymore. You see we lost too much property and property was confiscated by the government, taken away from us and things like that and it was too tough.

**Kate:** Was she happy or unhappy about you going?

**Fred:** Well, she was unhappy to go and I never see in life to date.

**Kate:** Name your brothers. You said you were six brothers?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** What are your brothers' names?

**Fred:** One of them is Herman, the other one is Carl, myself, and Robert and Emil. That makes the whole six of them.

**Kate:** Who's the oldest then?

**Fred:** Carl, when I came to the United States, at that time times was too tough in Germany right there. There was nothing for us to do and no work and nothing and a lot of our property was lost by the government and taken away.

**Kate:** So Carl was the oldest?

**Fred:** He was the oldest one.

**Kate:** And where were you in the order?

**Fred:** I was the second born.

**Kate:** You were the second son.

**Fred:** Yes.

**Kate:** Do you remember your house back home? Describe your house where lived in Germany.

**Fred:** I got some pictures right here.

**Kate:** If you were going to tell us, how would you say?

**Fred:** The house was about one more story higher than this house where it is.

**Kate:** So it was two stories.

**Fred:** We acquire that and from some other properties we have lost and we acquire that building right there and he had a nice [unclear 00:08:56] and so on and so forth but we didn't have anything else anymore.

**Kate:** Was it a brick house?

**Fred:** It was steel house.

**Kate:** Steel house.

**Fred:** That was a steel house yeah.

**Kate:** How many rooms were in the house?

**Fred:** About six to seven rooms in the house.

**Kate:** How was it heated?

**Fred:** With wood, wood heated.

**Kate:** Wood heated and what did you grow in your garden that you had?

**Fred:** We had all kinds of vegetables in the garden and then we had the farmland around there.

**Kate:** Did you keep animals?

**Fred:** We had some cows, we had to have some cows [unclear 00:09:46].

**Kate:** Who else lived in that building? Was it for your family only or were there other people?

**Fred:** We was the only family in the house right there.

**Kate:** Who did the cooking in the family?

**Fred:** My mother.

**Kate:** What was your favorite food? Do you remember?

**Fred:** My favorite food- well, there wasn't too much [laughter].There wasn't too much that we could pick on, we had to eat what we were--

**Kate:** What was the typical meal? What did you eat?

**Fred:** That’s right, potatoes, sour milk and things like that from the cows you know. Whatever was available, sometimes we had to butcher a pig or we had some rabbits to feed on and things like that.

**Kate:** Did you ever help cook? Did you help cook at home?

**Fred:** We all had to help sometimes because when my mother was sick, we had to go in the kitchen fix up whatever we could fix up.

**Kate:** Describe the kitchen, what did the kitchen look like? Do you remember the kitchen?

**Fred:** The kitchen was kind of small and we had a washing machine in there. [Unclear 00:11:09] washing machine and the stove that was all heated by wood.

**Kate:** What was meal time like? You all eat together or separately? How did you eat meals, at a table together?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** The whole family?

**Fred:** It was the whole family.

**Kate:** And you ate three meals together?

**Fred:** Yeah, that’s right.

**Kate:** Were there other family members nearby, for example your grandparents?

**Fred:** No, they passed away.

**Kate:** Was your family originally from that town?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Did you have cousins in the area?

**Fred:** Yeah, my grandfather died and my grandmother died and my father had a sister in Switzerland but during the war we lost everything.

**Kate:** Who were you particularly close to in the family? Who were you closest to?

**Fred:** In the family?

**Kate:** Yeah, who were you closest to?

**Fred:** I would say Emil, he's the next one.

**Kate:** The next brother after you.

**Fred:** Yeah, after me.

**Kate:** You were the second brother and he was the third brother?

**Fred:** Robert would be the one the other one and then Herman was not a brother.

**Kate:** But Emil was after you.

**Fred:** You see when I came to the United States, everybody wants to come and they want to live a different life than what we had.

**Kate:** What do you mean by everyone? Who?

**Fred:** My brothers.

**Kate:** All your brothers wanted to come?

**Fred:** So I brought all the brothers here.

**Kate:** I see.

**Fred:** One, he was in Russia as a war prisoner, Paul and he was the last one, after he was released from the war prison and then I brought that family here also. So we had the whole family together.

**Kate:** So you were the first to come over and you helped the others move?

**Fred:** I helped all of them to get the papers for them and get them here.

**Kate:** Back to your life in Germany, what was religious life like then? What religion were you?

**Fred:** What I was doing?

**Kate:** Religion.

**Fred:** Lutheran.

**Kate:** You were Lutheran and was there a Lutheran church near your house?

**Fred:** In the next town.

**Kate:** In the next town, how did you get to church? Did you go to church?

**Fred:** Yeah, we had to walk.

**Kate:** You walked to church, how often did you go to church?

**Fred:** As long as we were around there we had to go to church.

**Kate:** Every Sunday?

**Fred:** Practically every Sunday.

**Kate:** And did you go together? The family go together?

**Fred:** Yeah, the family would there on Sunday morning.

**Kate:** So the children and the parents would go to church?

**Fred:** Yes.

**Kate:** Did you have any religious persecution or prejudice? Did anybody--?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** No.

**Fred:** I worked with Protestants, Lutherans or Catholics what was in the area, we had no trouble whatsoever.

**Kate:** Okay and what about holiday celebrations, what type of special holidays did you celebrate?

**Fred:** Christmas, New Year and whatever the holidays. There isn't many too holidays here, there was nothing else but the work [laughter].

**Kate:** And what about Christmas? What was special about Christmas? What did you do for Christmas?

**Fred:** Well, we had the Christmas tree and you know the trimming and everything. We went out in the woods and cut the tree and trimmed it up for Christmas.

**Kate:** What did you eat for Christmas? What did you eat at Christmas time? Any special foods?

**Fred:** Yeah, we probably had one or two rabbits for Christmas dinner or sometimes we had some pigs we raised and we had that for the winter.

**Kate:** I see, did you give gifts at Christmas time? Did you exchange gifts? Did you buy gifts?

**Fred:** Oh yeah, sure.

**Kate:** At Christmas time?

**Fred:** That was a big holiday. Everybody was waiting for that [laughter].

**Kate:** And when was Christmas, Christmas Eve or Christmas day?

**Fred:** Christmas day.

**Kate:** What about school life in Germany? Did you go--?

**Fred:** We had to go to the 7th grade. We had to walk about half an hour to school and we had from 8-12 and 1-4 every day. We did except for summer vacation.

**Kate:** Right, you said you walked a half an hour, where was the school in relation to your home?

**Fred:** That was over the hill, over little mountain there and we had to go there to school.

**Kate:** Were you school crowded? What were the conditions in school? Was it crowded in school? Was the school crowded? Were there many children in school?

**Fred:** We had the school from 1st to 4th grade we had one teacher and about the same teacher had to also in between teach the kids herself again from the higher up grades had to come on down and educate them. That’s the education we got.

**Kate:** So how many children were in a class, let’s say?

**Fred:** There was 96 kids, one teacher had 96 kids.

**Kate:** One teacher had 96 kids between the ages of--?

**Fred:** From one to seven grades.

**Kate:** From one to seven grades. Do you remember any specific teachers or playmates?

**Fred:** Well, we didn't behave ourselves [chuckle] with that many kids you know, that teacher had sick about that long and we really got [unclear 00:18:33].

**Kate:** Do you remember the teacher's name?

**Fred:** That was Fraulein Waigart.

**Kate:** Fraulein Waigart and what was your favorite subject? What did you like best?

**Fred:** I wanted to go into business and I want to get myself educated what I can get from all these public [unclear 00:18:58]. I want to be sure about figuring things out and not with the tab what we're doing right now. We had to do it in our head.

**Kate:** When did you learn English?

**Fred:** No place, I learned it here.

**Kate:** You didn't learn before you came here?

**Fred:** I knew some, a couple of words of English before I came here because we had the occupation. We were under the occupation forces in the First World War, after that we got together with some other Britain’s, the French, the English and all these troops and we played with them too. Played the pianos sometimes and [unclear 00:20:08].

**Kate:** So did you serve before you came?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** No, you didn't.

**Fred:** Health center, we had what we call a health center. We had to help the wounded when they came back from the field, from battle.

**Kate:** When did you start doing that? At what age did you start that?

**Fred:** That was about 13-14 years old and I remember that very well because we had a big back sacks to carry in the back when [unclear 00:20:43].

**Kate:** What was in those back packs? What was in those?

**Fred:** All the things that the men had the gun and everything.

**Kate:** So you helped the soldiers, the wounded?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** And from 12 and 13 and what other age? Did you go for 14?

**Fred:** We had to help whatever we could. This was during the war, I'm taking about the first war we had to work here and there whatever we could find and get ourselves busy and get things done.

**Kate:** Was it organized by the government this service that you did?

**Fred:** No, this was private. I picked up an apprentice job to be a miller.

**Kate:** To be a miller.

**Fred:** We also had some war prisoners there too and we picked up a couple of words here and there from them too.

**Kate:** War prisoners from where? Where were the war prisoners from?

**Fred:** Mostly French and Belgians.

**Kate:** And you were too young to serve then in the first war? Were you too young to serve in the first war?

**Fred:** Yeah, that’s right.

**Kate:** Did your older brother serve?

**Fred:** No, we were just in the category to get there. I had a conversation with the Belgian and the wanted to get the rabbit. We sold the Belgians some rabbits to fix up and they had a party of it and I still have spy glass from the Belgian prisoner.

**Kate:** He gave you your spy glass?

**Fred:** Yes, he gave me the spy glass and we traded the spy glass for the rabbits [laughter], so we had a good combination, we didn't hear each other [laughter].

**Kate:** What did you do at that time? You were being an apprentice to be a miller you said at one time?

**Fred:** My boss was in the army and his wife she operated the mill and I had to work from about 6 O'clock in the morning sometimes to 11-12 O'clock at night in order to keep things going.

**Kate:** What did you do for entertainment? What any games or anything?

**Fred:** We didn't get much entertainment during that time.

**Kate:** How about as a child? What were your favorite games as a child?

**Fred:** We didn't play ball, they would take the six of us if we played the ball [laughter].

**Kate:** Did you have any games at all?

**Fred:** No, we was trained, in the school we was trained with about six like this we called [unclear 00:24:04], up and down and march a little bit and stuff like that.

**Kate:** When did you decide to come to United States?

**Fred:** When I had my apprentice should be completed, I worked in another mill there and it was a decision of- we were one of the rich families and I could buy myself and my grandfather and my father too. We could buy our own mills and our own equipment you see but with the times change and everything. They confiscated someplace and some other things, we lost all that.

There was nothing there anymore, so I decided there was nothing for me in Germany. From the conversations, from the American boys that was there under the occupation and things like that, one of them wrote to me different letters after they came back to the United States and encouraged me and said they would never see any country like that. So I got the encouragement from there.

**Kate:** So you started learning English by talking to the soldiers?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** And then you kept in contact with some of the American soldiers on the occupation?

**Fred:** Yeah, that’s right.

**Kate:** And they gave you the idea?

**Fred:** It would be better in the states than over there.

**Kate:** So you knew this people, did they offer to sponsor you? How did you get to the United States? How did you get here?

**Fred:** I had a contact with an American soldier which he was left in Germany. He had malaria fever and he was transported down to Switzerland for this malaria fever and instead of that he stayed in Germany and got married to my cousin at that time. So I got contact with him that day and he had a brother in New York City, I got some contact right there too.

**Kate:** So, an American soldier married your cousin, an American soldier who was sick married your cousin and you had contact through him to New York.

**Fred:** Yeah, but outside of that we didn't have no further contacts as far as that goes because when I came over here, his brother in New York he didn't do nothing for me at all. He was living on 42nd street 9th Avenue right in the district of New York.

**Kate:** In Manhattan.

**Fred:** In the show business and when I come there, I had to look for work and I tried to get some work over in the harbor over there unloading ships and things like that. I found some work [unclear 00:28:09] on 110th street I believe, so Harlem right there.

**Kate:** Yeah, the upper west side.

**Fred:** I stayed in 42nd street and paid rent.

**Kate:** Lets back a bit, who paid for your fare to come over? How did you get the money to get here?

**Fred:** That was kind of a little story. I was in the mill working in the mill and at night we ground some flour behind what we shouldn't do and these farmers they had to have something to eat and not just what the government told them and we ground that flour and put it away and got it out the side at night.

So this farmer here came in from a neighbor town and had some wheat ground and I did it for him and he said to me in his life he made the biggest mistake and I said, "What’s that?" Well he said, "I've been out in the [unclear 00:29:38] Indians in [unclear 00:29:40], I was old in the united states before and my father died," and he said he had to take the father- the little farm over and he came back and he had to come back to settle everything up for him and things like that and he said that he got married and stayed again in Germany and he said, "If I were young fellow like you, I wouldn't stay here. I'd get out of here and get back in the west [laughter]."

That’s also what he thinks right for me to do, he said, "Young fellow you waste time." Well I said, "Listen, I couldn't do that, I wouldn't have any money and nothing. I have no connection but survival." In this part of New York I didn't get no response, nothing to come there and I got a letter from a soldier and he was shipped to down south, in a camp down south and I lost that letter, I had nothing to show for it.

In the meantime, this man told me, "Listen,” he said, "See you getting [unclear 00:31:21]." But I said, "I can't do that because I haven't gotten the money and nothing for it." He said, "I got the money."

**Kate:** He said he had the money.

**Fred:** He said he had the money and "How much do you need?" and I said, "It would take about $102," because I wanted to get onto a ship somehow to get over there, legally or illegally but I couldn't do that because he said- this one was on a Saturday night when we ground the flour and Sunday morning and he said, "You go to Stuttgart and my brother in law has got the money in the cash register right there. You get that much money."

I went with the bike to Stuttgart, that was about 25 kilometers on a bike and I figured onto these rules and regulations I would be in jail for the next 20 years carried foreign devices, whatever they called devices for foreign money and how could I handle that because they're taking sometimes the shoes off from the people and searching for all what you got.

**Kate:** So they were searching for foreign money, foreign money they were searching for?

**Fred:** For whatever you got on you. If you were a suspect of so something, the police and they were strict.

**Kate:** Let’s go back a bit, you were grinding that grain, illegally anyway.

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** You were doing that at night, the man came to you with the wheat grain and he said he had been in the United States.

**Fred:** Yeah, that’s right.

**Kate:** And he would get you the money and so you took your bike and went to Stuttgart.

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** So now you’re going to Stuttgart and you're scared of being caught?

**Fred:** And I had them $102 in my pocket and I didn't know where to put it so I made a roll of it, in the saddle there's a pipe in there and I put a [unclear 00:34:10], so that it couldn't get lost in it and the police passed there and I drove on with it. The next day, I was in the American consul for papers.

**Kate:** Let’s back up, when you got to Stuttgart, you rode your bicycle to Stuttgart when you got there how did you get the money?

**Fred:** I got that from that man in Stuttgart.

**Kate:** Now, what did you say to him? How did you explain to him you wanted the money?

**Fred:** He gave me a little letter, this was neighbor town and I went from there with the letter and I showed him the letter and he gave me what I wanted.

**Kate:** The brother gave you the letter?

**Fred:** His brother.

**Kate:** Gave you a letter to give to him and when he saw the letter he gave you the money?

**Fred:** Yeah and I got the money, nothing else for it and he figured that I was honest enough to handle this deal.

**Kate:** So you went back on your bicycle back home and then the next day....

**Fred:** When I came home with that money, I told my dad, I said, "Hold that money in a safe place for me." He said, "I've nothing to do with it, get on your bike and get to the mill. You have got no business to go and you'll stay right here."

**Kate:** What year was that? Do you remember what year?

**Fred:** It was 23.

**Kate:** 1923, was that the first your father heard? When did your father first know that you wanted to go to the states?

**Fred:** That was in the fall of September, it was about September and I left in November.

**Kate:** So, he already knew that you had in your head when you got the money to go to the states?

**Fred:** Yeah and I had to have $25 more for the [unclear 00:36:30], I had to have that and I got that from a neighbor in the city. He gave me the $25 also so I was all fixed for the money and I went to the American consul then and made all these questionnaires and so on and so forth and this [unclear 00:37:00].

I remember that because I was on pins and needles with that money and everything else you know handling it, not lose it and not lose the opportunity to do it and that was kind of [unclear 00:37:23] moments.

This was in for noon at 12 O'clock and everybody could go but there was two, a girl and myself and we had the same answers but I don't know that I made the same answers. I couldn't see over there what she wrote.

**Kate:** Answers to what? She had the same answers to what?

**Fred:** To go to.

**Kate:** Oh, why you were going?

**Fred:** Yeah, about the same thing.

**Kate:** They asked you why?

**Fred:** So the American consul there was a little bit suspicious, why did she put the same thing? Did I put this in her ideas or what?

**Kate:** Right, whose idea was it, right?

**Fred:** Yeah, young people have young ideas too you know [laughter]. So at 12 O'clock he said, “All can and go get the passport but these two have to wait,” and he put an O on and her over here and an O on my papers also. I thought I lost my situation, you know an O is bad and here it’s always good [laughter]. After the whole bunch left, he explained to us why this happened here and so on and then he said, "You can go but how you go on and get up there?"

He said, "On what?" I said, "I got the money and I got it in my pocket right now." He said, "You have?" I said, "What should I do? I can't handle that money." Well, he says, "You want to go?" You got the money for it, I'll call up the line Hamburg and American line," and we put that money right there [laughter] and that’s what he did.

When my papers came, I got the papers from the American consul and I was told such and such a time to be there in Hamburg at the ships port then I didn't get the money anymore but they changed that you know that was transferred for the line. So, I didn't have any money to spend on the ship at all, the $25 to come into the country and the $102 was gone for the ship.

**Kate:** Alright, let’s go back now. So after you left that office and you went home what happened? When did you tell your family that you were leaving? When did they know it was true?

**Fred:** When I was in Stuttgart at the American consul in the afternoon and I came right straight home and I told my dad, I said, "There is no chance to change it as I'm going." He could see that I had my mind made up for it and that’s it and that’s it.

**Kate:** What did he say?

**Fred:** He had to give in.

**Kate:** What about your mother?

**Fred:** Same thing.

**Kate:** But did you tell her the same time?

**Fred:** Yeah and I went back to the mill and worked my time out until I had to leave. From then on I went to Hamburg. I was in Hamburg for five days. They send me a cablegram or whatever you call it, we had that revolution right then and the trains was blowing up so we had to transfer in some different lands and [unclear 00:42:37].

**Kate:** What revolution are you talking about now? Which revolution?

**Fred:** The revolution of Spartacus and communist and everything else and the day before I left for Germany I had to be in on my body.

**Kate:** You carried a Benet with you.

**Fred:** A Benet.

**Kate:** Going back a bit, what did your brothers think about you leaving?

**Fred:** All they thought about was, "Take me along, help me here to get there." and that’s what I did.

**Kate:** And that’s what you thought about when you left, that you would help your brothers?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Did they give you a party? Did you get a party before you left: What about [crossover 00:43:33]?

**Fred:** No, when the telegram came from the ships land, I had to leave immediately and I had to be right there and it took me two days to get up there to Hamburg.

**Kate:** And what was your leaving like? What happened when you left? Did you family gather to say goodbye to you?

**Fred:** Well, we were together in the evening. In the evening I figured I had another two days but when the telegram came I had to leave immediately and I left the next morning on the train.

**Kate:** What did you pack? What did you bring with you?

**Fred:** Well, not much, some clothes with me and an umbrella and my suitcase I slept on there so in case it rains.

**Kate:** Did you bring anything dear to you? What did you leave behind? Did you have to leave much behind?

**Fred:** I left everything behind I would say before that war.

**Kate:** Did you take any food with you?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** No food, anything special that you brought with you, when did those spy glasses? When did you bring?

**Fred:** That I brought along.

**Kate:** You brought those spy glasses [crosstalk 00:44:57].

**Fred:** I brought them along, yeah.

**Kate:** Anything else?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** You got the [unclear 00:45:08]?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** What port did you leave from then? Hamburg?

**Fred:** Hamburg, yes.

**Kate:** What ship did you depart?

**Fred:** Thuringia.

**Kate:** Thuringia, how did you get from your home to Hamburg? What trip did you take? Did your ride a bicycle to the train? How did you get there to the port?

**Fred:** From home to the port, on the trains.

**Kate:** You were on the trains. Where did you stay once you got to the port? Did you get on the boat immediately or did you sleep?

**Fred:** We were quarantined for three days and for the doctors to do exams and everything else you know sort of be sure that there was nothing wrong with me.

**Kate:** So three days they gave you examination?

**Fred:** Three days, yeah.

**Kate:** And where did you stay during that three days.

**Fred:** They have a little place for immigration and I was there for- what do you call it? They had to check you all out you know for health and everything and we had to be with the doctors or the dentist, for our heart and everything else.

**Kate:** Did any family members come with you to say goodbye to you?

**Fred:** No, we left. I mean I was away already.

**Kate:** Alone, you went alone.

**Fred:** Yeah, I was alone.

**Kate:** What was the month and year that the ship departed? What month and year?

**Fred:** When I left?

**Kate:**  When you left, yeah.

**Fred:** In November. I think it was in November 15th and we entered New York harbor in November 29, I know that much.

**Kate:** What year was that?

**Fred:** 1923.

**Kate:** November 15th, 1923 you left and the name of the ship? Could you spell the name of the ship? Do you remember how to spell it?

**Fred:** Thuringia, T-H-U-R-I-N-G-I-A. It was a small ship.

**Kate:** Alright, and what were the accommodations? What was it like on the ship? Where did you stay?

**Fred:** Real down in the bunker [laughter], I had the cheapest hold they could have.

**Kate:** What did you sleep on? Did you have a bunk?

**Fred:** It’s a bunk yeah.

**Kate:** Were you alone in your own cabin?

**Fred:** No, there was about 4 in a cabin? Bottom bunker, top bunker and two other bedsides here just enough to [unclear 00:48:30].

**Kate:** Who did you share your accommodations with? Who were there with you?

**Fred:** These people come from West [unclear 00:48:46], from the state of [unclear 00:48:47]. It’s in Germany too. Well, we got acquainted amongst ourselves.

**Kate:** Were they men/ women? Men obviously.

**Fred:** Part of them was women on the other side was of course divided up and part of it was for men on this side over here and then when we got down the ship and we got out on the ocean that was another thing [laughter]. We had never been on the ocean or anything like that and you do a lot of spitting [laughter].

**Kate:** Were you sick?

**Fred:** It didn't bother me too much but with this kid, [unclear 00:50:03] we had to carry him from ship hole and carry him and take them out there.

**Kate:** So lots of people were sick? Were many people sick?

**Fred:** There was about 900 people and that little boat.

**Kate:** 900 people on the boat and many were sick. Was it rough? Was the trip rough?

**Fred:** Oh, gosh. We slipped from here to over there and back and forth. We were wobbling like this, I never seen anything like that.

**Kate:** How did the people react to that, most people [chuckle]?

**Fred:** Well, it was on their own deal and they wanted to get through with it and come through alive?

**Kate:** What about the food? What was the dining like?

**Fred:** We were [unclear 00:50:59] and we had to set out there in the quarantine for a day or two before they let us in.

**Kate:** At Ellis island?

**Fred:** At immigration and everything you know they prepare all that ship for these immigrants because they come in and then take them back to Ellis Island.

**Kate:** So where did you eat on the boat? What about eating on the boat, where did you eat?

**Fred:** Eating on the boat, [laughter], we did so while coming but the last two days we didn't have nothing [unclear 00:51:44] because there was nothing there anymore.

**Kate:** So the food ran out?

**Fred:** Ran out food.

**Kate:** Two days before you arrived?

**Fred:** Yeah, before we came in. Either they took it away from us or they figured we had enough, I don't know.

**Kate:** So you arrived hungry?

**Fred:** Yeah, we were hungry.

**Kate:** And do you remember seeing land for the first time? Do you remember seeing land for the first time? Land, do you remember when you came near New York?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** What happened?

**Fred:** Well, you're going past the statue of liberty.

**Kate:** Do you remember seeing that?

**Fred:** Oh yeah.

**Kate:** What was the reaction on the boat?

**Fred:** They were relieved that, we all relieved that we didn't know what getting into [laughter].

**Kate:** Did you see New York City from the boat too? Do your remember seeing New York City for the first time?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** The city, what was like?

**Fred:** Well, that was enormous [unclear 00:52:53] [laughter].

**Kate:** How did you get to Ellis Island? Where did the boat go?

**Fred:** We were taken from the ship to the Ellis Island and we were supposed to go right through, to go there and get examined again and if there was any ridden out among the travellers or sickness or anything like that to check all that out and I was one of them. I was one of the first one.

**Kate:** Hold on, you were on the ship? How did you get from the ship to Ellis Island? How did you get? Did the ship come right up to Ellis Island or did you have [unclear 00:53:38]?

**Fred:** Yeah, it’s a smaller boat.

**Kate:** A smaller boat came and got you.

**Fred:** Into Ellis island and brought all these people to Ellis Island.

**Kate:** And you were the first out.

**Fred:** I had to line there, it’s a fence. I mean with fence you couldn't get through so you couldn't slip in and get out of it and as I walked through there there was a fellow on the boat I got acquainted with before I got further out up to the office he says, "Are you good and through with your money?" I said, "Yes." I showed him I had $25, he said, "Could you give me $5. I haven't got the $25." I was passed already, I gave this guy the $5, he says, "I'll give you the $5" as he comes out, I didn't get the $5 [laughter].

**Kate:** How much money did you need? $25.

**Fred:** $25.

**Kate**: And you gave 5 away.

**Fred:** I gave 5 away to this guy here to bring him through.

**Kate:** But he never brought it through?

**Fred:** No [laughter]. I never seen him after that [laughter].

**Kate:** Oh my God. How did you get through then? How did you get through if you needed $25?

**Fred:** I was through already.

**Kate:** You were through already, I see.

**Fred:** I had only 5 left.

**Kate:** I see [00:55:27].

**Fred:** When the ship landed and I was free and I had my [unclear 00:55:42], right there and there was no place to go.

**Kate:** Wait, let go back a bit, you didn't say something. Did you have a medical examination? Did the doctors give you an examination?

**Fred:** Yeah, everything.

**Kate:** What did they check for?

**Fred:** They didn't check me, they sent me on.

**Kate:** You didn't get checked for your eyes? They didn't check you anything?

**Fred:** Not anymore, they just shoved me right out.

**Kate:** So you were detained at Ellis Island. You weren't kept at Ellis Island? You didn't sleep there?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** So you went straight through?

**Fred:** Talk about half an hour, I think it was half an hour.

**Kate:** So you were in the great hall?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Was it crowded with people?

**Fred:** There was crowded from the different ships coming in.

**Kate:** And were you frightened that you would be detained? Did you have any fear? Were there any rumors that people were being sent back?

**Fred:** Well, we heard about that some of them were sent back alright.

**Kate:** Where did you hear that?

**Fred:** From the offices out there. There was an office right there and if you were rejected they took them off right away.

**Kate:** But you were the first one, so you didn't see anybody rejected?

**Fred:** I was the first one through there but we came back in this land here see and we saw what was going on over here.

**Kate:** I see.

**Fred:** And that’s how this guy got my $5 [laughter].

**Kate:** $5, I see and when you were in the hall, how were people dressed? What were the conditions in Ellis Island hall as you entered? That’s 1923, November. What day was it you entered?

**Fred:** There was big hall, like sky like.

**Kate:** What were you dressed in? What were you wearing? What were you wearing that day?

**Fred:** The same thing, I just had some pants and a jacket and that’s about all.

**Kate:** Were there any entertainment in Ellis Island [laughter].

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** I've never heard anybody say, alright. Now we're back to you, you came out and you didn't know where to go? You came out of Ellis Island- remember a moment ago you said you came out.

**Fred:** Yeah, I came from Ellis Island to the Padre Park. I remember right now- padre park and I still drive there, an no place to go and a cop walked up to me and I figured I want to talk to him but he didn't really understand it. See, there was another cop come along here and he says, "Hi, you got a green horn here and he has no place to go." That’s what I hear at that time to them two talking.

**Kate:** They called you a green horn?

**Fred:** Yeah, and the other cop said to this one, "Has he got any money?" And I told them I had money and he said, "You got some money on you?" "Yeah,” I showed him $5, he took them $5 and we went up into the elevator train and he cashed that money and put it in his pocket and it was only a nickel transferred at that time in New York at that time and I saw him put that money in a pocket and he says, "I got a place for you," and he brought me up to 42nd street and 9th Avenue.

When I came up, I came down with him [chuckle] and we walked down through there and went about two- three places passed entrance from the 42nd street in 9th Avenue and he shoved the door open and he said, “For you,” and he shoved me right through that door and he took my umbrella.

**Kate:** So wait wait, first the policeman takes $5 and only take 5 cents and pays your fare and takes your money.

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Then he brings you to 42nd at 9th and shoves you through a door and they take your umbrella?

**Fred:** That’s right.

**Kate:** What happened? He stole your umbrella?

**Fred:** Well, I didn't have my umbrella anymore and I want one to walk back to him and [unclear 01:01:16] where he went up them shifts. See and he was gone already.

**Kate:** So what did you do [inaudible 01:01:20]? So they stole your umbrella.

**Fred:** So my umbrella was gone.

**Kate:** Where did you go after that? What happened after then? Good experience [laughter].

**Fred:** This Bill here he says, "Have you got any money?

**Kate:** Oh no [laughter].

**Fred:** He was a German, beer bellowed German and he was a blind pig.

**Kate:** A blind pig.

**Fred:** He was a blind pig and what they did they had they had the dance hall in 42nd street and I went there and all they show people who come to 42nd street after they entertain them.

**Kate:** So he owned a blind pig?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** The German guy owned a blind pig.

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Okay, is this German guy the one who took your umbrella?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** A different one.

**Fred:** No, the policeman they got the umbrella [laughter]. Let’s get away from that room for a little bit [laughter]. Anyways, he asked me, he said, "Have you got any money?" I said, "Yeah, I got some money." He said, "Well, that’s costing $4." Then he took me up to the 4th floor underneath the roof and he showed me the roof up there and it wasn't a pleasant place to live because I had to go between rooms. All I had was a sleeping couch and during the night I couldn’t' sleep, something stung me all the time.

**Kate:** Hold on a second. Something stung you? You said.

**Fred:** Yeah, something stung me the whole night and there was blood all over [laughter], bed bugs.

**Kate:** Oh no.

**Fred:** Yeah, when I come to him down there, I told him about it and I said, "I'm full of blood." Well he says, "Take a pill, go up there and wash the room." So that’s what I did and I cleaned up the room and when the bugs came again the next night, I turned the pillow over on them now and then [chuckle] because some more.

**Kate:** How long were you there?

**Fred:** I was there about- I cleaned that place up and there was a janitor on the Thuringia and he jumped the ship and he came to the same place too. I saw that fellow on the boat already and I asked him what’s he doing, he said he's staying, he staying for another ship again. Until he gets another ship to go back and forth and the driver, "If you got $4," he says, they gave us something to eat and you can help me sweep the halls and the dance floor and tables and chairs and things like that. Well, that’s what I did for a couple of days until I found some work.

I also got acquainted with- she was married to one of the show people, I can't think of that name anymore- Mary Bigfoot, she took me on the cheeks and she says, "Where you get so nice little cheeks on," and come up to my apartment and the old fellow said, "You better stay away from there [laughter]."

When I looked for work some place, when I got [inaudible 01:06:46] way up there. I don't know the number of it anymore, I found a German fellow from back home. I didn't know him but he was German and he had a [unclear 01:07:08] that turn some wooden rods to make paper. I don't know how it works anymore. I didn't work too long on that job. He put me down in a coffee [unclear 01:07:36], he says, "Can you knit anything together? In the [unclear 01:07:41]? Because I had to climb in there. I came out like a [unclear 01:07:46]. I had done my job.

When I came back on 10th Avenue about two weeks after that, I came back at the same place to sleep because he charged me a lower rate and the janitor gave me something to eat in the evening and I helped the janitor.

**Kate:** You mean the blind pig? You went back to the blind pig.

**Fred:** It was never a pig, it was a restaurant but I call it the blind pig because I had to take some up and down stairs and I didn't drink and they had them barrels in the floor that [unclear 01:08:54].

**Kate:** Somewhat in the floors? Some jars?

**Fred:** They had some barrels in the floor.

**Kate:** [unclear 01:09:04] bells.

**Fred:** Barrels like this had about 50 gallons with something in there, for wines and stuff like that. He had everything but I didn't drink. I didn't drink, I never tasted that but sometimes I had to siphon it out and bring some of that stuff up and I figured it was a blind pig because the cops were after him every now and then and picked him up and took him to court. I wasn't a dummy, I kept that to myself, I didn't know nothing.

**Kate:** What neighborhood was this blind pig in? What was it like? What was that neighborhood like where that restaurant was?

**Fred:** [unclear 01:09:58] you know underneath the railroad track and you could buy some bananas or food or things like that.

**Kate:** What about Harlem, the 110th street? You said you went to Harlem, what was that like?

**Fred:** That’s way up there. There was all the [unclear 01:10:19] up there.

**Kate:** You found work where then finally? Permanent work, where did you find it? Did you ever go to that apartment of the soldier that you knew?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** You never went.

**Fred:** I didn't trust myself to go under rail or on the subway or on the street cars but I had to go to 96th street and 3rd Avenue in 96th street and I walked all that for a nickel, to save a nickel.

**Kate:** To save a nickel.

**Fred:** And I walked back in the same way.

**Kate:** Why were you going to 96th street in 3rd Avenue? Why did you go there?

**Fred:** Oh, they played cards in there and they lost their money. With the fellow name was Charlie, his wife had to bring some money, that wasn't true. I was told Charlie was dead and his ashes was at the funeral parlor and I had to tell that woman at 96th street that Charlie’s ashes was in the funeral parlor. I didn't know what I was talking about [laughter].

**Kate:** What were you talking about? Did you know what that meant?

**Fred:** No, I didn't know what it meant, that was [unclear 01:12:16] to tell her that Charlie's ashes was in the funeral parlor and she should come there and get it, that’s what I was told.

**Kate:** So you had to walk from 42nd street to 96th street in 3rd avenue to tell the woman who played cards?

**Fred:** No, to tell the woman that Charlie- his ashes [unclear 01:12:47].

**Kate:** And you didn't have any ideas what this meant?

**Fred:** I didn't know what it meant.

**Kate:** What do you suppose it meant? What do you think it meant? What do you think you were doing, giving a message?

**Fred:** I didn't know nothing about it, I was just told by that guy to go there to that street [laughter] and tell that woman and there was an old woman in her rocking chair and this was a younger woman in her 40 and you know their reaction when I opened up the door and said that? That the rocking chair flew right back [laughter]. I went back to 42nd street again and when I come back I was told that was not true, Charlie owed so much money that the woman had to come to get him bailed out.

**Kate:** Oh, I see.

**Fred:** Yeah, they were playing poker.

**Kate:** How did you get along with your English? You said you learned some from the soldiers, how was your English at this point? Did anybody understand you?

**Fred:** I didn't know what I had to tell them but I was at the door and picked it up [laughter]. Now, I'm coming back to the shop where I worked back there and there was an evening in November, I mean getting into December. It was tough times. The only thing I bought myself was an old jacket from one of the old homes. I bought it for $3 and I had it for over forty years, an overcoat and I went back to 42nd street in 9th avenue.

I came down on 10th avenue and about around the 5th street and a guy came out of a butcher shop with a big pail of sausage and as I want to pass him, coming out from the other hole underneath to the side walk, he looked at me and I looked at him. He says to me, "Where the hell are you coming from?"

He said that in English and I knew then what it meant hell [laughter], so I looked at him and it was a home that worked that came, his wife died and he went back to Germany and the place I worked in that town and I had been a rider in between [unclear 01:16:17],music and things like that and also for shows around Christmas things like that and he was to that show there with his girlfriend, he married and I met that guy with all that sausage and I was hungry [chuckle].

He set the sausage down and got acquainted and how he got there and how I got there you know in a couple of words what happened to me and what happened to him because in that town in Germany, I met this couple already at that time see but never thought about it that I would meet him here in New York.

So I went [unclear 01:17:18], I had some sausage, I had to come in and eat some sausage and eat some bread and I had to have something to drink and then we got acquainted right there and he said he would help me to get around and I should come into the German singing festival, what they called it at that time in the evening, that I couldn't do because I had to work some other places anyways, this was realized and helped me a lot and when we went in the bakery, in the [unclear 01:18:12] on 7th avenue is the [unclear 01:18:22] bakery and there was a job, a baker told me, one of them old Germans bakers, he says, "Go there and you get a job there, you can help in the bakery." And I know about [unclear 01:18:39] things like that and I worked at that bakery for I think about 6 weeks and we went on a strike.

The bakery went on a strike and I didn't know what a strike meant either until I had the stick in my face and get the heck out there [laughter]. When I left from the bakery, I know my job was gone on account of the strike and I had to have [unclear r01:19:38].

I went through the Wrangler’s chocolate factory, as a miller read, I could fix them some stones that were grind the cocoa and that was damn good job, I got my wages went up to $48 a week during the day but that was during the summer and that helped me to get my brothers coming in.

**Kate:** Oh, that is what it was.

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** When did you bring your brothers in? What years did you bring your brothers to the United States?

**Fred:** Emil came in April, the following April, 1924. You see that was very close to me to come thereafter.

**Kate:** Yeah, so he came in 24', and who came after him?

**Fred:** Then Robert, Herman come I think 1925 two of them came. In 1927, my latest brother with his family came and I bought the mill, the property here in Farwell.

**Kate:** How did you really get from New York to Farwell? How did you get here?

**Fred:** I had head miller's job offered in Detroit to [unclear 01:21:25] flour mill and when I came to Detroit I took two jobs and my brother had the job in Harlem Park in 4th and I took the night job. My head miller job was at night and I took the job for 8hours at an average from Harlem Park to downtown to [unclear 01:22:12] flour mill and I worked in there. Of course I couldn't do that, I had done it for about three months.

**Kate:** Wait, what two jobs did you have? You had the head miller’s job and what was the other job you had?

**Fred:** I was a harmer's smith in Henry's Ford.

**Kate:** You were a hammer smith in Henry's ford shop.

**Fred:** Henry Ford’s shop.

**Kate:** What year was that?

**Fred:** I worked for two years.

**Kate:** Hammer's smith.

**Fred:** A hammers smith yeah.

**Kate:** And so you quit the mill job, did you quit the mill job?

**Fred:** I had for about 3 months. The only sleep I had was between the rail sleep cars [laughter].

**Kate:** Oh my God, where did you live at that time?

**Fred:** I got married in 1925.

**Kate:** How did you meet your wife?

**Fred:** Well, she was in the states and she was here for about three previous to that. We sold our farm in Michelau and her folks went onto that farm and this girl I met when she was 7 years old and I met her in Detroit again and I never saw her in between. I met her in Detroit in 1924 and she went on a trip, in 1925 we got married and then in 1927 I bought this mill here and this property here.

**Kate:** I see, what about your brothers learning English? How did they learn English?

**Fred:** I took the opportunity to learn English in Detroit, I mean every time I had the chance I took my citizenship and so did my brothers also.

**Kate:** Anyone make fun of you? Anyone ever make fun of you for being German? Did people make fun of you for being foreign? Did you have any persecution here? Did you anyone treat you badly for being German here?

**Fred:** You mean anybody was--

**Kate:** Here in the united states, did they make fun of you for being German.

**Fred:** No, I’ve never had that opportunity and they always have been nice to me. The public was nice to me and on the street situation like that, if I was sick, have an accident like that, I've been well treated.

**Kate:** Did you keep your religion? What about religious life here? Did you keep going to church?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Your whole life?

**Fred:** Well, yes. If we are not sick, we're going to it.

**Kate:** Every week like in Germany? Every Sunday?

**Fred:** Well, not every Sunday because you know we have to go here and there and families are split and my daughters- one of them is up in Wisconsin and then my other daughter she's at the college at [unclear 01:25:59] down there.

**Kate:** So wait, wait. Let’s back up. So you met your wife?

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Is that your wife here?

**Fred:** No, she died.

**Kate:** You met your wife and you had children?

**Fred:** Yeah, we sent them to college also in [unclear 01:26:18]. They had an opportunity for the country, what I want to say is that they have an existence.

**Kate:** And so you came here in 1927.

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** And then you had a mill here in Farwell.

**Fred:** Yeah, the mill I bought in 1927.

**Kate:** And then where did your brothers go?

**Fred:** My brothers went down in Ohio and also in Detroit.

**Kate:** And what did they work as? What did they get down to?

**Fred:** Either Black smith or machinist in machinery and then other one is in Ohio, he's down there and he has a big farm down there. Everyone has a good existence and none of us have to take the [unclear 01:27:22].

**Kate:** Did anyone return to Germany? Did anyone ever go back to live in Germany?

**Fred:** No.

**Kate:** Did you go back to visit?

**Fred:** I didn't go back to Germany because under that Hitler regime, I didn't go back for 45 years because I had a threat from Germany never step on German soil because at that time they want to get some information and get me into it. I was influential in politics. I've been through 30 year’s mayor in Farwell and things like this.

**Kate:** You've been how many years- mayor?

**Fred:** Yes.

**Kate:** How long?

**Fred:** 30 years.

**Kate:** 30 years you were a mayor of Farwell?

**Fred:** Yes [chuckle].

**Kate:** Wait a minute, let’s go back, so you had the mill and you had your wife and what happened to your parents in the mean time? They stayed in Germany.

**Fred:** My father I wanted to bring here and my youngest brother that was before the second war and I had everything prepared for it even a farm brought for them to live right within a half a mile from here. Then fell through and my brother had to go into the service and he was a war prisoner in Russia and my father wouldn't dare [unclear 01:28:57] that ended it. So I never saw him but we [unlike 01:29:06] 45 years I did not enter Germany.

**Kate:** What year did you finally go to Germany then?

**Fred:** With my second wife, she's German too and she lost her husband in Chicago through sickness and we got acquainted and we got married. We're married now 28 years.

**Kate:** You had children with your first wife? You had two daughters?

**Fred:** We had two children from the first marriage.

**Kate:** Two daughters.

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** And your daughter is at University of Michigan? What does she do at University of Michigan? What does your daughter do at University of Michigan?

**Fred:** All I can explain is typing and what do you call that? She’s connected with all the- in a harbor.

**Kate:** Clerical work? Secretary?

**Fred:** Her husband has been there in [unclear 01:30:34] as a technician over there too and I can't think of that name, what everybody call it. It’s got to do with all the figures everything.

**Kate:** Book keeping?

**Fred:** It’s not quite CP, it’s higher than that.

**Kate:** It’s higher than CP and your other daughter is--?

**Fred:** And they've been up there in Wisconsin and they all have their PhD and they retired now.

**Kate:** When did your first wife die? What year did your first wife die?

**Fred:** 1963, 65 we got married.

**Kate:** So you've been married since then?

**Fred:** Yeah, 28 years now.

**Kate:** What family tragedies occurred? Were there any family tragedies during the time that you have been in the states besides the death of your first wife?

**Fred:** Tragedy?

**Kate:** Yes, any other.

**Fred:** We had some accidents with car accidents like that [laughter].

**Kate:** [unclear 01:31:54].

**Fred:** Yeah, could be we had to replace it but I mean--

**Kate:** When were you mayor of Farwell? What years?

**Fred:** Of Farwell, let’s see. She can't get me the book.

**Kate:** Just when? Like about.

**Fred:** We got into politic about 1930 and about 1955- 1960.

**Kate:** From 1930, so you started to get into politics right away? You came here in 1927, you bought the mill and by 1930--

**Fred:** Yeah, we got into politics also and helped to come those peace elected and things like that.

**Kate:** In 1930, what did you do in politics? What were you doing?

**Fred:** Well, we helped the republicans.

**Kate:** When did you become mayor? What year?

**Fred:** I think that was about 1932.

**Kate:** You became mayor in 1932.

**Fred:** Yeah, well I had to be on the counsel first and then you build up to the mayor.

**Kate:** Going back a bit, when you said you weren't allowed to go back to Germany, you were forbidden to go back to Germany, did they contact you?

**Fred:** Letter, with a letter.

**Kate:** They sent you a letter.

**Fred:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Saying what?

**Fred:** You traitor, it said, "You traitor, never enter Germany again."

**Kate:** The German government sent you that?

**Fred:** Yes.

**Kate:** What year was that?

**Fred:** It was about the time when Hitler got into it.

**Kate:** How did you meet your second wife?

**Fred:** We got acquainted through some friends and she was living in Chicago and she was a widower when her husband died with--- so we got acquainted and we got married and we had a happy life together.

**Kate:** Are you happy that you came to the United States?

**Fred:** Yes, I'm happy.

**Kate:** Do you think your parents were happy that you came here?

**Fred:** Well, it was the best thing for them too because I sent them support, financial support and everything. All the rest of the boys helped them out there too and everything. The only thing they couldn't do anymore- during the war they passed away.

**Kate:** The Second World War.

**Fred:** Second war, yeah.

**Kate:** And your brother who was a prisoner of war, eventually you brought him back? Your brother who was a prisoner of war, you got him here too?

**Fred:** Yeah, he came here and his family is living in [unclear] down there.

**Kate:** What year did he come back?

**Fred:** I think that was around 54' or 55'. He was in Siberia out there and there was 18 got away from the Russians, from Siberia and three made it through Poland and a Polish miller gave him a sack of flour. A little sack of flour to help them through the port to the border and they got through there.

**Kate:** And are your brothers happy they came?

**Fred:** Oh yeah, sure.

**Kate:** That’s a good place to end this interview. I want to thank you very much for --

**Fred:** Well, thank you for your time too but if you have a little time I will show you a picture, a book with some of the pictures on it.

**Kate:** I'd like to see it. This is Kate Moore signing off with Fredrick Sigel on 11th of December, 1993 for the Ellis Island oral history project.