**Kate:** Good afternoon. This is Kate Moore for the National Park Service. Today is the 27th of June, 1994. I’m in the La Conner, Shelter Bay, Washington at the home of William and Gladys Simpanen with Saima Hendrickson who came from Finland in 1919 when she was 18 years old. Would you please begin by giving us your full name and date of birth? What is your full name?

**Saima:** Saima Limnell.

**Kate:** How do you spell Limnell?

**Saima:** Just like I say it.

**Kate:** We’ll get that later.

**Saima:** Only two L on the end.

**Kate:** Two Ls on the end. When is your birthday?

**Saima:** January 12th. Isn’t it Gladys?

**Kate:** January 12th. What year were you born?

**Saima:** 1901.

**Kate:** January 12th, 1901. Your maiden name then was?

**Saima:** Saima Limnell.

**Kate:** Limnell. Where were you born? What town?

**Saima:** Pori.

**Kate:** In Pori, Finland.

**Saima:** [inaudible 00:01:14].

**Kate:** Describe Pori. What type of town was Pori? What was the major industry in Pori?

**Saima:** There was a lot of interesting Pori. There was [inaudible 00:01:32].

**Kate:** They made boats too, wow! What was your father’s name then?

**Saima:** Uno Limnell.

**Kate:** How do you spell his first name?

**Saima:** U-N-O.

**Kate:** What did he do for a living? What his occupation?

**Saima:** My goodness, he have come this country first time when I was 18 months old and he has so many occupations that …

**Kate:** Give us an example, what was one example that he did? What type of work did he do here?

**Saima:** Fisherman I guess.

**Kate:** Did he work in the woods?

**Saima:** No, not that I know.

**Kate:** So he’s a fisherman. What did your father look like? Could you describe him?

**Saima:** He was very handsome man.

**Kate:** How tall was he about?

**Saima:** He wasn’t too big. He was 5’8 or something like that, had very beautiful blue eyes.

**Kate:** What about his hair color? What color hair?

**Saima:** Dark.

**Kate:** Dark hair.

**Saima:** Dark brown, real dark brown.

**Kate:** What about his personality? What was he like in temperament?

**Saima:** I don’t know very much. He was inventor.

**Kate:** An inventor.

**Saima:** Yes, he keep restaurants and pouring houses, and last year he built like a camping ground, camping to rent out. It’s still there in Ritz spot in the name that he gave, Fair crow is there. There was few acres and he built lot of camping there and rent them out. He had little grocery store there. He also [inaudible 00:04:21].

**Kate:** He smoked fish, sold fish.

**Saima:** Yeah, in his store.

**Kate:** Where was that store that he had?

**Saima:** Ritz spot, however 101 [crosstalk 00:04:39].

**Kate:** Here in Washington.

**Gladys:** Oregon.

**Kate:** In Oregon? It was in Oregon.

**Saima:** Oregon, yeah.

**Kate:** Is there a story about your father that you remember that your mother or your family told you about your father, any stories?

**Saima:** He left America when I was 18 months first time. Then he came when I was four years old, but he only stayed one year and we went to Kemi. He was [inaudible 00:05:17]. I remember that and I was four years old when we went there. Then I was five I guess when we came back.

**Kate:** Is that some of the first memories you have? Do you remember before? What do you first remember about your father?

**Saima:** I don’t know. How can I remember what was-

**Kate:** What about your mother’s name? What was your mother’s name?

**Saima:** Ida, Ida.

**Kate:** Ida, I-D-A.

**Saima:** Yeah.

**Kate:** What was her maiden name?

**Saima:** That was hard to say because that time his father was buying farm houses and selling and buying and they always took the name of the house. She had many different names.

**Kate:** Do have any one of them? Do you remember any one of those names?

**Saima:** Takola that was the last one, my grandfather’s place.

**Kate:** What was her occupation, your mother?

**Saima:** I guess I say cook.

**Kate:** She was a cook.

**Saima:** Yeah. She keep [inaudible 00:06:49]. She had English engineers. They live in our house and she gave them important room.

**Kate:** For the cotton factory in Pori.

**Saima:** Yeah. She went to cooking school before that and she have to have [inaudible 00:07:27]12 O’clock. They have two hours for eat. Middle of the day they ate the main meal. She had a [inaudible 00:07:44] that was [inaudible 00:07:49] and then she had another table where she served the hot dishes.

**Kate:** What about your mother’s personality and temperament? How would you describe her?

**Saima:** Very energetic person.

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

**Saima:** There is a picture of her in the bedroom.

**Kate:** How would you describe on tape for us?

**Saima:** She was good looking woman, very good looking woman.

**Kate:** How tall was she about do you think?

**Saima:** She was a couple inches taller than me. She was Gladys’ size.

**Kate:** About 5’2 or so. How about her hair and eyes? What color of hair-?

**Saima:** Dark brown, natural and curly.

**Kate:** Naturally curly?

**Saima:** Baby.

**Kate:** And her eyes?

**Saima:** I remember she had little tiny curls here on neck when she put the one here on the top.

**Gladys:** It was a really old one.

**Kate:** With blue eyes. She had blue eyes too.

**Saima:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Beautiful. Do you have a story at all about your mother that you tell, that you remember about your mother?

**Saima:** In this country or Finland?

**Kate:** Anywhere, any story you have.

**Saima:** Here she used to make lutefisk and sent it to all her friends as a Christmas present.

**Kate:** She liked to cook.

**Saima:** Oh yes.

**Kate:** What about brothers and sisters? How many brothers and sisters did you have?

**Saima:** I only had one brother.

**Kate:** How old was he, older or younger than you?

**Saima:** Younger.

**Kate:** Younger.

**Saima:** Four years younger.

**Kate:** What was his name?

**Saima:** Leo.

**Kate:** Do you remember your house in Pori where you lived? Do you remember much about your house where you lived as a child?

**Saima:** Oh yes. We have very nice big house and my grandmother has same kind of house on other side of the yard.

**Kate:** What kind of house was it? What was it made of?

**Saima:** Wood.

**Kate:** Wooden house.

**Saima:** Five feet long stone.

**Kate:** Foundation, stone foundation. What color was the house? Was it painted?

**Saima:** Oh yes. It was tan.

**Kate:** Tan colored.

**Saima:** Like that fence over there.

**Kate:** Natural or tan color. How was it heated your house in Pori?

**Saima:** We have [inaudible 00:11:01]. We have heating stove real beautiful made out of tile in every room.

**Kate:** In the corner.

**Saima:** It wasn’t in the corner in all the rooms.

**Kate:** Where was it?

**Saima:** They are on the back wall, middle of the back wall.

**Kate:** How did you heat it? You put wood inside those? You put wood in those fire places.

**Saima:** They have [inaudible 00:11:41].

**Kate:** An oven, yeah.

**Saima:** That was made out [inaudible 00:11:46], not too big.

**Kate:** The pieces of wood. What about the lights? How did you light the house?

**Saima:** First when I was little we have oil lamps and I remember when electricity came.

**Kate:** When was that?

**Saima:** I was about five years old I guess.

**Kate:** So about 1906.

**Saima:** Yeah, something like that. I remember you know they have street lights and then man with the little step ladder and [inaudible 00:12:40] came. Before it got dark late afternoon and light them. Then 11 o’clock he came and blow them out.

**Kate:** You said you had oil lamps and electricity. What about plumbing? Did you have indoor toilets?

**Saima:** No, nobody have, but we have big out house. Then we have two houses to cater, now this big building. Both sides was same way. In the middle they had … Where everything went.

**Kate:** Where did you get your water then? What about water?

**Saima:** We have to get the water. It was about three blocks away [inaudible 00:14:01] winter time and so many time we have little [inaudible 00:14:11] like a big bucket. Then we had very good water in some kind of natural waterfall there in [inaudible 00:14:37]. We went there in the evenings for walk, for evening walk to get the real good drinking water from there.

**Kate:** How did wash yourselves then?

**Saima:** Sauna.

**Kate:** You had a sauna.

**Saima:** Public sauna.

**Kate:** You had a public sauna.

**Saima:** The funny part was that the public sauna where we went that was closest to us, first room was like a first one that you left your overcoats and then you went to next room and that was men’s dressing room and back of that was lady’s dressing room.

**`** Women always have to go through men’s dressing room to their own dressing room. Then Sauna was both man and woman. Man were right side and woman were left side [inaudible 00:15:51] it. Same thing, they wash under. It was the room though but then there were [inaudible 00:16:03] or nothing. Woman’s who had a husband they went there on men’s side to wash their backs.

**Kate:** To wash the men’s back.

**Saima:** Their husband’s back.

**Kate:** Where was that Sauna? Do you remember where that Sauna was, the nearest Sauna for you? Where was it?

**Saima:** [inaudible 00:16:26].

**Kate:** How far was it from your house?

**Saima:** It wasn’t too far. It was about three, four blocks.

**Kate:** How often did you have a sauna then?

**Saima:** Every week.

**Kate:** Did you have a garden?

**Saima:** We have [inaudible 00:16:54].

**Gladys:** Lilac.

**Saima:** Lilac roses. We had maya out of lilac roses middle of the yard. Inside that was staple and chairs. We used to drink afternoon coffee there so many time.

**Kate:** What kind of furniture … How big was your house and how many rooms was your house?

**Saima:** Some apartments were only two rooms, [inaudible 00:17:42] another room and some have three rooms.

**Kate:** Your house where you lived with your brother and mother, how big was that?

**Saima:** We live in different apartments in that house. When mother [inaudible 00:18:04], we had to pick we live in … We had rented one room out and we had another room. Then there was dining room and kitchen, about five rooms. Some have only two rooms.

**Kate:** What kind of furniture did you have?

**Saima:** Beautiful furniture. My father had [inaudible 00:18:41] that were made of beautiful furniture.

**Kate:** A carpenter made it.

**Saima:** Beautiful furniture.

**Kate:** What was it made?

**Saima:** [Crosstalk 00:18:53]. The bed was that it would put together about size of this table and you pile all the bed clothes on top of it for day time.

**Kate:** You draw the bed out at night. It would be a sofa in the daytime.

**Saima:** No, that wasn’t sofa. That was bed. We have sofa beds too.

**Kate:** I see.

**Saima:** I don’t know what you know of those things.

**Kate:** We are trying to find out about life Finland before you came. Then we’ll walk you now through others. Who did the cooking in the family? Your mother

**Saima:** Sure.

**Kate:** Did you help at all?

**Saima:** No. I guess I peeled potatoes. Here in this country I did.

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

**Saima:** Yeah, hot cakes.

**Kate:** What about the kitchen? What was meal time like? When you had borders, did they eat with your family? How many meals a day did you eat today?

**Saima:** How many meals? Three meals.

**Kate:** What did you have for breakfast?

**Saima:** I don’t remember. I suppose oat meal or some kind of porridge.

**Kate:** What about your grandparents? Where did they live? You said across the yard. You had one set grand- Your grandparents.

**Saima:** Yeah. That was my father’s mother.

**Kate:** Father’s mother. What about your mother’s mother and father? Where did they live?

**Saima:** They were dead.

**Kate:** I see. Were you close to anyone? Who were you closest to in the family would you say?

**Saima:** That time you mean?

**Kate:** Yeah, in Finland.

**Saima:** After my mother left, I was closest to her sister’s family. Her sister was 10 years older than my mother.

**Kate:** What was her name?

**Saima:** Her name was Sophie Anapaka Alameki.

**Kate:** Did you see them often? Did you live with them when your mother left?

**Saima:** No. I live with other relatives for a while and then they have to sell their house to the school because it was next to the school house and they have to make the school bigger. They moved far away close to Rauma. I went to my grandmother and my aunts’ house to live.

**Kate:** Which was where?

**Saima:** Across the yard from my home.

**Kate:** Do you have any stories about your aunt or grandmother that you could tell us?

**Saima:** I have one funny story about her. There’s a lot of stories about her. She had a [inaudible 00:23:01] in one of her ankles and leg. She always had a seat [inaudible 00:23:16] where she sat. She have a lot of pillows there and sauce. Then she had another [inaudible 00:23:35] for where she keep her back straight. That have a lot of pillows and these blankets she have. One time, it was that time that food was [inaudible 00:23:56]. She sold milk in the mornings and she was very friendly with all the farmers who bring the milk and other farmers. We had a ticket that time that we have to buy our flour, and bread, and everything. You’re so much [inaudible 00:24:34] to it.

So we didn’t have no trouble to having it. It’s the people who have farms and drink milk for her to sell always, drink as plant flowers. One time somebody had just put all sack of flour, big sack of sisal [inaudible 00:25:08]. Some kid from other side of the house to another apartment, some kids run over and says that they have [inaudible 00:25:25], that they have examiners who call over the house that you don’t have any more than you’re supposed to have. I guess everybody ask [inaudible 00:25:43] grandma says that, “Take that sir away, that sir without back where she used to sit and in place put that sack of flour. Then put all the pillows and ropes over.” She sat on that sack of flour and have her another leg on that another stool that didn’t have no back.

They came and they didn’t find any. That’s one of the funniest stories.

**Kate:** The grandmother. How about church? Did you go to church at all?

**Saima:** Yes. We had a big church, beautiful church in Pori. I went to confirmation in school and I was baptized. I went to church.

**Kate:** Did your father, mother go to church very often?

**Saima:** I wasn’t with them very much.

**Kate:** Because they’re away. What domination was the church? What type of church?

**Saima:** A Lutheran.

**Kate:** Lutheran. How far away from your house was the church?

**Saima:** It was [inaudible 00:27:26] to the church because there was a river. Then there was a bridge that you have to cross. It wasn’t too far.

**Kate:** Did you say first before you ate, did you say Grace ever?

**Saima:** No. we didn’t used to. Everybody say itself but not on loud.

**Kate:** How about before you went to bed? Did say prayers?

**Saima:** No, you can say yourself but we didn’t say loud.

**Kate:** What was your favorite holiday?

**Saima:** Christmas of course.

**Kate:** Why?

**Saima:** Why? Because that was the best holiday you get some presents, good food, and a lot of visitors and lot of visiting and get to go to church.

**Kate:** What type of food do you make on Christmas?

**Saima:** All the bests foods that we could have.

**Kate:** Like what would the example be if we were recording this? What would be an example Christmas meal? How is it different from here?

**Saima:** We have rice pudding that was [inaudible 00:29:01]. Then we have mashed potatoes and maybe meat balls. I don’t remember if we have vegetable or not. I don’t remember.

**Kate:** What about Santa Claus?

**Saima:** Santa Clause was like we have here. [Inaudible 00:29:30] Santa Claus suit and she went to every house. Folks know him and tell him but there was for him to drink.

**Kate:** Did you go to church on Christmas?

**Saima:** I don’t remember. When I was with my mother’s sister, we went to Church on Christmas.

**Kate:** When you say they were visiting, who did you visit on Christmas?

**Saima:** Relatives.

**Kate:** Relatives.

**Saima:** Whoever.

**Kate:** You did a lot of eating.

**Saima:** Yes. Christmas Day we didn’t visit anybody, but day after Christmas, we visit.

**Kate:** When you went to visit, what did they serve you?

**Saima:** I don’t remember.

**Kate:** What about school? Did you go to school in Finland?

**Saima:** Of, course. All the senior people go to school. They all know how to read. Everybody didn’t know how to write but everybody knows how to read.

**Kate:** Where did you go to school?

**Saima:** In Pori.

**Kate:** Which school?

**Saima:** [inaudible 00:31:03].

**Kate:** Could you tell me about school life then in Finland when you were small, when you were-

**Saima:** I went to Kindergarten, [inaudible 00:31:21]. It was play school. When I was five years old I guess I went there. I was there two years in play school and then when I went to real school, first year my cousin went too. First year, real school I thought it was still like a play school. I didn’t took it seriously anything and I didn’t learn anything. My cousin was smarter than me I guess. He read lessons and I listen. I always know my lessons but I wasn’t able to read for memory. I told them I did two years and then I went to live with other people. There was two girls there and they were older than me. We place school that summer and they found out that I didn’t know how to read and I didn’t know arithmetic or nothing. I did it, but I didn’t how. I just do it for memory. I take [inaudible 00:33:10] is scared at what’s going to happen when I go school there. They have very, very strict teachers. They have teach me that. Whole summer they teach me to alphabets and arithmetic. Otherwise, they won’t even take me to school.

**Kate:** What was the name of the school that you went? What was the name of the school in Pori?

**Saima:** Read and [inaudible 00:33:51].

**Kate:** Do you remember any teachers?

**Saima:** No.

**Kate:** What was your favorite subject finally?

**Saima:** I don’t remember. I like to draw. I guess you can’t do that.

**Kate:** You like to draw. You did learn-

**Saima:** Draw pictures.

**Kate:** Did you learn any English before you came here to United States?

**Saima:** No. There was anybody to teach English there.

**Kate:** What did you do-

**Saima:** That was one time anyway. I had a ticket two years and I didn’t even get a letter from my mother or anything after I got that ticket. Two years there was no mail.

**Kate:** What years were those?

**Saima:** It was First World War then.

**Kate:** Was it like 1914.

**Saima:** Yeah, 1914 to 1916. I didn’t get any mail or money or nothing. The bank are posted there in Finland and I lost all my money. My mother had left me plenty of money than before she left this country because her father was rich and she inherited a lot of money. [Inaudible 00:35:34] by the school and everything. I lost all the money.

**Kate:** Going back a bit, as a child, what types of games did you play for fun?

**Saima:** I don’t remember, [inaudible 00:35:56].

**Kate:** What is that?

**Gladys:** Hop scotching, hop scotch.

**Saima:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Did you jump at all?

**Saima:** Yes.

**Kate:** Do you have any childhood stories? Now…

**Saima:** My father have come from Mount Erica, from Fair Street. He then took care me. That’s their town far North in Finland. He was [inaudible 00:36:51]. I was to … Mother made the coffee and lunch and put the [inaudible 00:37:09] with the coffee bottle and that bottle in heavy sock, wool socks to keep hot. Then I guess I had a bag of sandwiches. I went there and I was talking with my father in that [inaudible 00:37:35]. I guess before I got there, I have to go really. I had [inaudible 00:37:50] or something that [inaudible 00:37:57] on site. We couldn’t buy any underwear. They all have to be all sown and made of the material. I had the underpants.

Underpants had button holes, you know, one [inaudible 00:38:19]. This one too put both side of the pants. It was awfully hard to get in. it was cold. My hands were cold. I was some place, [inaudible 00:38:51] some place. I couldn’t get them to tell back to the partners. So I hang.

**Kate:** Hang.

**Saima:** Hang and then I went all over Rumperiat looking for my father. Of course, the men were laughing because my pants were hanging down. Finally I found my father. He gave me little licking to be in solace and not to put my pants up.

**Kate:** You said your father first came to the United States? Why did he come here?

**Saima:** Because all the finished [inaudible 00:39:58] for one year. He was married and he didn’t want to go to Russian Army.

**Kate:** He came instead to the United States.

**Saima:** Mm-hmm.

**Kate:** How did he get the money to come here?

**Saima:** He had money I guess. I don’t know.

**Kate:** What year did he come here first?

**Saima:** I was five years old … No four years old, 1905.

**Kate:** 1905.

**Saima:** Something like that.

**Kate:** Do you remember your father talking to your mother about leaving you very young then? Do you remember them discussing this at all?

**Saima:** No, I don’t know.

**Kate:** How long was he away then?

**Saima:** He was two years then he came back.

**Kate:** Why did he come back?

**Saima:** How do I know? They had a good time here that time too.

**Kate:** Where did he come to first? Where did your father come in the United States? Where did he go?

**Saima:** I don’t really know where he came.

**Kate:** Here, New York.

**Saima:** New York.

**Kate:** Then you mentioned that your mother also went at one time. Where did she go and why did she go?

**Saima:** How do I know? I don’t know why came to Boston.

**Kate:** When did she go to Boston?

**Saima:** I mean I was five years old.

**Kate:** You were five, I see. Your father left when you were four and then your mother left when you were five.

**Saima:** Yeah.

**Kate:** How long did your mother stay in the United States?

**Saima:** She never went back to live in Finland.

**Kate:** You waited and went to school in Finland to come here?

**Saima:** Yes.

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

**Saima:** I didn’t decide to come at all. I didn’t even want to come, but my mother sent me a ticket. I had that ticket two years and before that, I couldn’t even get the letter or money or anything two years. Now the bank is supposed to [inaudible 00:42:44] Finland. I have this ticket, so why don’t I come for one year? Matthew had a boarding house that time in Portland.

**Kate:** Portland, Oregon. What was it like being alone those years? Did you miss your mother and father?

**Saima:** I don’t remember.

**Kate:** Now tell me how you came here. Did you come alone?

**Saima:** Yes, I came alone.

**Kate:** You came here and your mother sent the ticket. Where did you travel from, Pori?

**Saima:** Yes. I left Pori but I went to Sweden to Goteborg?

**Kate:** How did you get from Pori to Goteborg?

**Saima:** I went with the boat and I went with the train. Then the boat has same name that we came over Atlantic Ocean.

**Kate:** Now let’s back up a bit. From Pori, how did you get to the boat? Where did the boat live from Finland?

**Saima:** Pori’s fountain part by Lake of Portnia. I went from Helsinki and from Helsinki, I went to Turku.

**Kate:** How did you go from Pori to Helsinki?

**Saima:** With a train.

**Kate:** From Helsinki to …

**Saima:** Turku.

**Kate:** To Turku.

**Saima:** Went with the train and then I went with the boat to Sweden.

**Kate:** How big was it? What was the boat ride like from Turku to Sweden?

**Saima:** I don’t remember.

**Kate:** Now this was what year, you said 1919 you left?

**Saima:** Yeah, I guess.

**Kate:** 1919. You were 18 years old.

**Saima:** Yes.

**Kate:** Back home before you left, what did you pack to bring with you?

**Saima:** We couldn’t even get the suitcase. We have one every box. We didn’t get no letter suitcase. It was a box.

**Kate:** Plywood box. What did you put in that box before you left?

**Saima:** Anyway, I had a brand new wool dress made to come here, to put it on when I come here. It was apple green, nice wool. It has little thorough trimming around the neck and here. That was the style … Little brown thorough trimming. There in Goteborg, there was eight of us coming from Finland. We were in some kind of big room overnight. It was five women and two children. Then somebody came and hollered that you have to get ready in 15 minutes that the boat leaves. We all start packing and everything. Five women in one room and two children. Some way we hollered at but they hollered at [inaudible 00:47:23].

I had that nice wool dress there on the bed and somebody told the [inaudible 00:47:36] or something. I left that dress there. I had a middy blouse and platted skirt. I have to wear the same thing all the time and came here with them.

**Kate:** What else did you bring? You had a box. What things did you bring with you besides that? What did you fill the box with?

**Saima:** I have a couple of pairs of underwear. They have to be sown that time. You couldn’t buy it. The best clothes I had.

**Kate:** Did you bring anything from home that you still have?

**Saima:** No.

**Kate:** Did-

**Saima:** I have that box still.

**Kate:** You still have the box.

**Saima:** Yeah, in Seattle in my house, in the basement.

**Kate:** Who made that box?

**Saima:** I don’t know. I bought it.

**Kate:** You bought it. Before you left, did they give you a party or people come to say goodbye to you?

**Saima:** Of course. They came there to the train and I had [inaudible 00:49:04].

**Kate:** Tulips.

**Saima:** Oh my I had whole …

**Kate:** Arm load.

**Saima:** Arm load of tulips. Everybody was bringing them/

**Kate:** At the train station before you left. Who said goodbye to you? Who came to the train station? Who came to say goodbye?

**Saima:** A lot of my friends.

**Kate:** Your family too, your aunts.

**Saima:** My cousins. I had a lot girl and boyfriends.

**Kate:** The trip from Turku to Stockholm.

**Saima:** Yes, and from Stockholm to Goteborg.

**Kate:** By train?

**Saima:** By train.

**Kate:** Turku to Stockholm how was the trip over? What type of accommodations, do you remember?

**Saima:** No.

**Kate:** You don’t remember.

**Saima:** I don’t remember.

**Kate:** You got in Goteborg. You got on the boat. Do you remember the boat’s name that you left from?

**Saima:** Boat’s name was Goteborg.

**Kate:** Was Goteborg. What type of accommodations did you have on that boat? What was it like?

**Saima:** I have a room, top propeller, telepool. It was jumping back like that. I got so seasick that I couldn’t get out the bed.

**Kate:** Was the trip rough?

**Saima:** No. I don’t know if it’s any rough than any other time but anyway that room that I had, it was so terrible because that was propeller makes so much noise and made it like move. Maybe it didn’t move. Anyway that propeller feel like it was moving.

**Kate:** Were you with other people in that room? Were you alone or with others?

**Saima:** No, there was other girl there.

**Kate:** Another girl.

**Saima:** But sitting at seasick.

**Kate:** Did you have good bedding and linen covers. What type of beddings and things did you have?

**Saima:** They have some kind of bedding. I didn’t have my bedding there but spending there.

**Kate:** How long did that trip take?

**Saima:** Week I think it was.

**Kate:** Were you able to eat at all during that trip?

**Saima:** Of course. We have all the meals put in. I was so seasick, I couldn’t go. They bring me some food like [inaudible 00:52:03], little something like that.

**Kate:** Were other people sick besides you?

**Saima:** Of course. There was lot of sick people.

**Kate:** Did you go on deck very much?

**Saima:** No. I couldn’t go. The last night then they had one empty [inaudible 00:52:24] middle of the ship where the Arabians were. They took me over there because they said that I was so weak that they can’t understand how I can even get out the boat. I slept there that last night and they brought me food there.

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

**Saima:** Oh yes. We didn’t went to Ellis Island. That was first time that went right straight to New York and not to Ellis Island like before.

**Kate:** Did you ever go through Ellis Island?

**Saima:** No, I never went there. That was first time that they quite going there. The doctor came to the port and examined us, and we have to show [inaudible 00:53:32] to any dollars. That was that. It was very, very deep step down from boat and there was big black nigger out the steps to the … Or there. Boy, I haven’t seen [inaudible 00:54:13] in a boat and that time when I ate there it was across the street, it was across table for me. I guess I was looking him too much. He start making faces for me, all kind of faces like they make for kids.

Then there was another nigger that I have to call when I left the boat. I didn’t know if I call or not.

**Kate:** Did you ever see Ellis Island ever at any of your travels? Did you ever go through Ellis Island?

**Saima:** No.

**Kate:** You’ve never seen it.

**Saima:** No. that was first time that day. I guess they never went there anymore after that.

**Kate:** What happened after that? Where were you going to?

**Saima:** We went some kind of room I guess. I don’t remember, but anyway there is this Mary Captain Lind. He has been in Pori and he talk little bit Finnish to get [inaudible 00:55:45] and I talk Swedish some too that time. So he have his friends, 16 year old girl that he was drinking this country. That girl was born here. When she was eight years old, they sent her back to Finland but she was Finnish Finn. She didn’t talk Finn. Then this Mary Captain Lind was going to bring her back. Again she had somebody’s old mother too that he was bringing back.

Here in New York I have my ticket two years and all the prices and everything, railroad, all the prices were so much more than they were when my mother have my ticket. I don’t know what happened to me. He wasn’t taking care of. He ask that if I think that my mother have the money to send that much more money that I need, that if he sent a telegram that she’ll be able to send the money with the telegram. [Inaudible 00:57:29] I’m sure that she have. She telegrammed enough money and also that I could there third, that I could sleep with that wrecking of that another girl.

We went to eat in a dining room with each other along the way and if we stop, we went outside the restaurant to eat.

**Kate:** When you went to New York, what was your first job that you had in the United States.

**Saima:** I came to my mother here in Portland.

**Kate:** In Portland, right. You came by train.

**Saima:** Yes.

**Kate:** When you came to see your mother, what was it like after so many years seeing her?

**Saima:** I don’t remember.

**Kate:** When you got off the train, was she there?

**Saima:** Yeah.

**Kate:** What was she doing here?

**Saima:** She was having hotel.

**Kate:** A hotel. Where did you get your first job here then? What did you do?

**Saima:** No, I work for her.

**Kate:** You worked for your mom.

**Saima:** Yeah. Then I got married.

**Kate:** Did you marry a Finn?

**Saima:** No. I married right away but I met the man that I married right away, he was there in mother’s hotel.

**Kate:** Was he Finnish?

**Saima:** Born here. He didn’t know how to talk Finnish but he learned Finnish much quicker than I learned English because everybody in Poring House talks Finnish anyway.

**Kate:** Where was that boarding house in Portland? What street was it on?

**Saima:** 16 in Overton.

**Kate:** 16 in Overton in Portland. It was a finished boarding house.

**Saima:** Yeah.

**Kate:** You met your husband. When did you marry then?

**Saima:** A year after that I guess.

**Kate:** What year was that then? You were-

**Saima:** 1920 I guess. I don’t remember.

**Kate:** What happened then? What did you work at? Did you always work for your mother?

**Saima:** Yes, I work my mother and keep rooms. I rent two rooms out and the fellows ate there in my mother’s place.

**Kate:** What were the fellows doing? What were the people in the boarding house, what did they do for a living?

**Saima:** All kind of work. There was all kind of workers. There was … I didn’t know but they all work for … I guess there were long Sherman and some work in the woods … I don’t know.

**Kate:** You married in 1920. What did your husband do for work?

**Saima:** He was a window cleaner.

**Kate:** What was his first name?

**Saima:** Henry.

**Kate:** Where did you live then in the same place?

**Saima:** We rented house and our house was across the boarding house that our backyards were together. I work for my mother.

**Kate:** Tell me a little bit about what happened with your life when you married Henry. Did you have children?

**Saima:** Yes. We have her.

**Kate:** You had a daughter. Her name is? What was her name, your daughter’s name?

**Saima:** Gladys June.

**Kate:** What year was she born?

**Saima:** What year you was born, 1920

**Gladys:** Two.

**Saima:** 1922.

**Kate:** When you now look back at your life and you came from Finland and you’ve lived in Finland, and in Portland, and in Washington, how do you feel? We were just talking about looking back. You arrived the 28th of January 1919.

**Saima:** Yeah. I guess it was 1919.

**Kate:** Or 1920. When did you leave from Pori?

**Saima:** I guess it was 1920. January 28 is when I got to Portland.

**Kate:** We’ll check in there. When you look back on your life now and you’ve lived in these places, Finland first then you were in Portland and now you are here in Seattle.

**Saima:** I’ve been Alaska, and I’ve been California, and I’ve been a lot of places.

**Kate:** You lived in Alaska too.

**Saima:** Two years.

**Kate:** Doing what?

**Saima:** That was just before Second World War.

**Kate:** What part of Alaska did you live in?

**Saima:** Fairbanks.

**Kate:** Why were you there?

**Saima:** Why I was there? My husband worked there.

**Kate:** What did he work at? What was he doing?

**Saima:** I don’t remember the company’s name. He was carpenter.

**Kate:** That was your second husband there in Alaska. That was your second husband.

**Saima:** Yes.

**Kate:** You remarried?

**Saima:** Yes.

**Kate:** When did you remarry?

**Saima:** We went to Alaska then. I married last day 1939.

**Kate:** When you look back now, what do you think about your decision to leave Finland? Was it a good decision to leave Finland?

**Saima:** I don’t know.

**Kate:** Did you ever get homesick for Finland?

**Saima:** No.

**Kate:** Have you been back to Finland?

**Saima:** 10 times.

**Kate:** Why do you go back to Finland?

**Saima:** To visit. I had travelled a lot and I went there to visit. I have lot of relatives.

**Kate:** How did your mother and father feel about leaving Finland? Did they think it was a good decision?

**Saima:** I don’t know what they feel like.

**Kate:** Have you ever thought about going back to live in Finland again?

**Saima:** No.

**Kate:** Why not?

**Saima:** Because it’s better here.

**Kate:** I’d like to thank you on behalf of Ellis Island for this interview and for giving us the opportunity to talk to you. We’ll send you a copy then of this. This Kate Moore signing off on June 27th, 1994 in La Conner, Shelter Bay, Washington.