**Keith:** This is Kate Moore for the National Park Service and today is 18th of July 1994. I’m in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the home of Lillian Cooper Hopkins who came from Scotland in 1925 when she was 9 years old. Why don’t we begin by you giving us your full name and date of birth please?

**Lillian:** Lillian Caroline Cooper Hopkins.

**Keith:** Right.

**Lillian:** January 29th 1916.

**Keith:** Where were you born?

**Lillian:** In Glasgow Scotland.

**Keith:** Right and what was the major industry in Glasgow when you--?

**Lillian:** Ship building.

**Keith:** Ship building and how many people lived in that town that time, do you know?

**Lillian:** No.

**Keith:** Okay, what was your father’s name?

**Lillian:** James Fanthrope Cooper.

**Keith:** How would you spell Fanthrope?

**Lillian:** F-A-N-T-H-R-O-P-E.

**Keith:** All right and could you describe how your father looked, how would you describe to someone who had never seen him before?

**Lillian:** About 5, you mean like his measurements. 5”8 brown hair slender.

**Keith:** Eyes.

**Lillian:** Blue eyes, very nice man.

**Keith:** What about his personality and temperament?

**Lillian:** Wonderful and very giving. Gave a lot to charity and things like that.

**Keith:** Is there a story about your father that you associate with your childhood, anything?

**Lillian:** Well, I remember him coming home from work and we would, we lived on the 3rd floor of this apartment house. We would run down to meet him and he always had chocolate. Then we’d get that all over our faces. So he was a good father.

**Keith:** What was your mother’s name?

**Lillian:** Sara Ann Johnson.

**Keith:** What was your father’s occupation sorry?

**Lillian:** Ship builder.

**Keith:** A ship builder and what was your mother’s occupation if any?

**Lillian:** When she was really young she worked in a match box factory, filling match boxes 3 cents a box.

**Keith:** How would you describe what your mother looks like?

**Lillian:** She was about 5’ 6, dark hair.

**Keith:** Eyes?

**Lillian:** Hassel.

**Keith:** Hassel eyes.

**Lillian:** Hassel eyes.

**Keith:** How would you describe her personality and temperament?

**Lillian:** She was barely 50, she was but she was nice and she had a lot of these old wives tales that she would say to you. She was a good mother.

**Keith:** Like what, like what was that?

**Lillian:** They were all on real fortune now all those old things which you would say, “Oh! Today is Friday keep your nose tidy.” Well I’m trying to think she was full of those things and then we used, we lived on the 3rd floor, so the 4th floor.

So if we wanted something to eat we used to yell up to her, “Hey mum.” She’d come open the window and walk in there and say, “Throw me down a piece of bread with jerry on it and shut it.” That meant pour it over, which she would do and we would catch it and eat it.

She was good. Yeah she was full of- isn’t that funny if I didn’t know you were coming I would all kind of things. But she used to say.

**Keith:** Well let me take you back you may remember some of it, right.

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** What about brothers and sisters?

**Lillian:** I have an older sister, she has long dark hair curls and I remember when we were getting ready to come to America somebody told her they wouldn’t let us in at Ellis Island if you had long hair they cut it off. She was worried about that but they let us in.

**Keith:** What is her name?

**Lillian:** Her name was Annie Elizabeth Cooper, but she goes by Nancy.

**Keith:** Did you have any other--?

**Lillian:** I have a brother James E Cooper.

**Keith:** Younger or older?

**Lillian:** Younger and he lived in, well my sister lives in a nursing home in Calvert, PA she’s 81. Not a nursing home, in the senior citizen. She has her own apartment we go to visit her once a month. My brother lives in Mars, PA and he lives on a farm.

**Keith:** All right and you’ve mentioned where you lived at the apartment house, could you describe how many rooms did you live in?

**Lillian:** Well I think there was 3 rooms, because we had a bedroom and my parents had a bedroom and then there was a kitchen and I guess there was a bathroom.

**Keith:** What was this with you being in 3rd floor…?

**Lillian:** The 4th floor.

**Keith:** The 4th and yelling up to your mother, where was she?

**Lillian:** Yeah she was up here this window.

**Keith:** Where were you?

**Lillian:** Down in the street playing.

**Keith:** Oh! I see she threw the food down to the street.

**Lillian:** Yeah threw down a piece of bread and jelly and shut it.

**Keith:** So this is the street, what’s the address here?

**Lillian:** 3 Blawrthill Street.

**Keith:** B-L-A…

**Lillian:** W-R-T-H-I-L-L.

**Keith:** All right.

**Lillian:** Glasgow Scotland.

**Keith:** That’s good, I mean the address and how was your flat heated then?

**Lillian:** I just told what’s on Jim just by cold grates and we had the bed were in the wall like bunk bed and it must have been 2 bedrooms because when we were waiting. We all 3 of us were born at home and we were expecting, in those days I guess I was about 5 or 6 I didn’t know anything about where babies came from.

They told me, “Well we’re going to get one,” and every morning I remember running in to see my mother. To see if we got the baby yet. Then one morning I went in and there was my little brother and he was we just felt that was wonderful.

I didn’t know about all this others, how he got there or anything. I think they told us the doctor brought him in the little black bag. That’s what my mother told us.

**Keith:** Now how about plumbing, did you have?

**Lillian:** As far as I can remember we had a bathroom and I think that you had to pull a chain. There was a box and you pulled a chain to flush the toilet.

**Keith:** How about what was your source, did you have running water?

**Lillian:** Yeah as far as I remember yes.

**Keith:** What kind of furniture did you have? Was it store bought or handmade or?

**Lillian:** Probably store bought and like I said the beds, we didn’t have beds we had bunk beds. They were in the wall like.

**Keith:** Did you have any animals at home?

**Lillian:** Not in Scotland I don’t remember, no. Because of the apartment.

**Keith:** Where was this building in relation to downtown Glasgow at that time, central Glasgow?

**Lillian:** Maybe 10 miles or so.

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

**Lillian:** My mother.

**Keith:** What was your favorite food as a child?

**Lillian:** She used to make what they called pudding with resins in and we liked that. Then she used to make Christmas pudding with all the fruit. Then my dad would hide money, none of us kids liked that Christmas pudding.

It was dark and had all these pieces of citron and all that in. So my dad used to hide money in there. A 5ing or shilling or something so that we would eat it, so that we would get that piece of that money.

**Keith:** What about the kitchen describe the kitchen, how was that do you remember?

**Lillian:** Well I don’t remember much about the kitchen except I did a fall going to school. It’s that funny how your mind work. I fell going to school in some or sliding on the ice and it must have knocked me out. When I came to I was standing by the kitchen table with my hand on the table and that’s all I remember. That’s funny.

**Keith:** What about did any of your grandparents live nearby?

**Lillian:** No most of them were in London, they didn’t live in Scotland but we used to get to visit them. I remember going on train over to London.

**Keith:** What part of London did your grandparents live in?

**Lillian:** East end of London.

**Keith:** East end and were both of your parents grandparents in London?

**Lillian:** Yes.

**Keith:** So they went to Scotland the children or? How did your family end up in Scotland?

**Lillian:** Because my dad- there wasn’t any work in London and my dad moved to Scotland to the ship yards the Clydebank. We lived right near the river Clyde and then he got a job and he helped to build the ship that brought my mother and my sister and my brother and me to America. The Cameronia, the HMS Cameronia. Yeah that’s a good fact.

**Keith:** Yeah it is, were you close, especially close to anyone in the family? Who was your closest family member to you?

**Lillian:** You mean my immediate family?

**Keith:** Right.

**Lillian:** Well I’m very close to both my brother and sister, very close.

**Keith:** Do you have any stories about your brother or sister, any favorite stories you tell about them?

**Lillian:** Well my sister and my mother were sea sick. So I’m 9, my brother is 3. We had a run of the ship. We went on our passage was 3rd class but we went upstairs and then we would run all around.

We lost more balls in Atlantic Ocean than anything and then they come on and they said when we got close. It took us almost 14 days to come across.

**Keith:** Just back up a little bit do you remember getting ready to go for the boat?

**Lillian:** Yeah my mother sold everything.

**Keith:** Let me go back a little bit. You’re racing ahead you’ve got good stories here. How did you, first of all did you go to school in Scotland before?

**Lillian:** Yes I did and I got hit with the strap for being late. You had to hold your hand out if you were late in school.

**Keith:** Why were you late?

**Lillian:** I guess being 8, 9. 7, 8 years old [unclear 00:11:54] and if you put your hands back like if you knew it was going to come and you put it back you got hit twice. I got hit once but it would hurt, it really hurt.

**Keith:** How far was the school from home?

**Lillian:** Maybe about 5 or 6 blocks. I think it was called Clydebank School I’m not sure.

**Keith:** Clydebank School.

**Lillian:** I’m not sure.

**Keith:** What was your favorite subject?

**Lillian:** I guess well what is it now spelling?

**Keith:** What were the conditions of the school, how many children per classroom were there possibly? Was it crowded or not or?

**Lillian:** I don’t really remember that.

**Keith:** Do you have any friends, playmates or classmates that you remember in your school time?

**Lillian:** No, but the pictures I was looking for had all of the kids in our block in that little you know. But I don’t remember, oh! Do remember Katy Gout. She lived in the next apartment on this floor the Gout family, yeah Katy.

**Keith:** Now how did you get to school, you said you walked to school.

**Lillian:** Walked.

**Keith:** Did you learn, did you learn English- of course you knew it. What did you learn about the United States before you came here, what did you know?

**Lillian:** Not much, I don’t remember much. Just that it was a good place and my dad could get a job there.

**Keith:** Did your parents know much about the United States?

**Lillian:** I don’t know what they knew but all my dad’s friends, he belonged to like a band, Constantine a band. Somehow his fellow band members were living one at a time and coming to United States, because things were better.

Another little thing I want to say is we went to the care ourselves in Akron Ohio. But we could go Saturday to see Yankee Doodle Dandy. Boy did that bring memories to me because my dad had this band and I remember him sending to America for George M Cohan’s music for his band to play.

I remember hearing all those songs while they were practicing. “Mary is grand old name” and all that stuff. My sister you want to know about, oh! I guess I could keep you for that. My sister on Halloween, I don’t think we called it Halloween, we called it some other name.

But when you went to somebody’s house to ask for candy they didn’t just give you candy, you had to perform you had to do something. So my mother dressed her up in the kilt. We had those kilt and she went in and she’s saying [singing 00:15:09].

But that’s what she did before she got the candy. But my mother we wished now that we had those kilt because we both had a set of kilt, with the plant skirts and the hat and we both took lessons in say the horn pipe dance, the difference it’s the sword try to.

She was better because she was 3 years older than me. But we wish now we both wish that we had the kilt to pass down to our grandchildren. But my mother sold some, she actually sold in order to get the money to come to America. She sold piano and everything to come to America.

**Keith:** Now before you left was your family religious at all?

**Lillian:** Not really religious, I wouldn’t say. Of course we had to say our prayers and we always had to kiss mum and dad goodnight before we went to bed. They insisted and we got a little bit older girls we’d thought we’d even. My dad he told us, “You forgot to kiss me goodnight. Kiss your mum goodnight.” So we did that.

**Keith:** What about what denomination were you if you were to?

**Lillian:** We were Episcopalian in the old country.

**Keith:** Was there Episcopal Church nearby?

**Lillian:** I don’t remember.

**Keith:** Did you say grace before your meals?

**Lillian:** No.

**Keith:** No but you said your prayers every night.

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** Did you say special prayers?

**Lillian:** They always said we had a whole line God bless the Episcopalian prayers. God bless Nancy, God bless Wee Jimmy. We called my brother Wee Jimmy. God bless mum and dad. God bless Nancy, God bless Wee Jimmy. God bless me that’s the routine, the way we had to say it, yourself was last.

**Keith:** Now what was your favorite holiday?

**Lillian:** I forgot, I guess Christmas and I remember so well my dad when he was over here he sent gifts over and they came well in the evening when my mother was over the neighbors.

I say this so often to Jim, when I was walking from my house around the corner to where my mother was. The snow was glistening, it’s like diamonds. I was just so happy because my dad had sent me a present and everybody a present.

Mine was a sewing box. Did I say to Jim a lot now when we were here and look at see the snow I said, “That reminds me of the night I had to walk around the corner to get my mum with the snow as glistening.”

**Keith:** So now let’s get, we’re getting now to the point of you mentioned that you played with your playmates and you had whole block of kids over there.

**Lillian:** Yeah the whole block, yeah.

**Keith:** What type of games did you play, what type of?

**Lillian:** We played rounders and tagging, I guess that’s the ball.

**Keith:** Any jumping games at all?

**Lillian:** Yeah, I jumped rope, yeah I jump rope.

**Keith:** You came here after the First World War, do you remember you were born now. Do you remember anything about the effects of the First World War?

**Lillian:** Yeah I remember my mother taking us all down in the shelter, I was just really small and my brother I don’t think he was born yet. But I remember going underground during the First World War.

**Keith:** Did you know whether or not your family suffered in terms of food and rations and things?

**Lillian:** No, I don’t remember that.

**Keith:** Okay so you said your father came here first.

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** What year did your father come over?

**Lillian:** 1923.

**Keith:** 1923 and do you remember him first bringing up this idea about going to America?

**Lillian:** No, don’t remember just that when he was saying his friend Jackie [inaudible 00:19:53] they’re going to America and I guess he talked to my mother about it. He decided he was going to come to America things were better.

**Keith:** Where did he come to?

**Lillian:** Pittsburgh.

**Keith:** Why Pittsburgh?

**Lillian:** That’s where his friends came.

**Keith:** What were they doing in Pittsburgh?

**Lillian:** I don’t know what Jackie Conley did. But he did come to see us since we moved to Pittsburgh but I don’t remember. When you’re little you don’t pay that much attention what these men are doing.

**Keith:** What was your father working as when he first came here?

**Lillian:** He worked in the run house of the rail road, it was hard work. That’s the only kind of work he could get I guess. Then he didn’t stay there very long and then he got a job in the [inaudible 00:20:47] bank. Well they called it the Union Trust Bank downtown Pittsburgh.

Then he just worked there and worked himself up till he was an electrician. He retired from there and he got a pretty good, but what was his pension I forget. But anyway it wasn’t much of a pension but I think I got more money because his salary was small on those days as depression. But they paid him more in retirement. I think it was 100 dollars or something he got. Because nobody expected him to live to 94.

But he came after my mum died then he came to live with us and he was very contended. He thought he was going to live forever. So he died at 94.

**Keith:** Well when you, so he came here first and then you waited a few years.

**Lillian:** 2 years.

**Keith:** 2 years right. You mentioned tell me about what happened with your mom selling everything?

**Lillian:** Well she sold everything then she went, as a job I think it was like a house keeper. So she cooked and we all the kids were there and she cooked for this family. Then when my dad he kept sending money over for her to save for our fare over which she did. Then she sold everything that was in the apartment and that’s how we moved.

**Keith:** What was your attitude about coming to the United States?

**Lillian:** I don’t think she was just like us I guess. I’m not sure how she really felt she never said much. I know she was awfully sick, sea sick on the boat.

**Keith:** Now when you got, did you take anything with you, what did you pack to bring here?

**Lillian:** I guess I think she had some blankets, she had some knick knack.

**Keith:** Like what knick knack?

**Lillian:** Well I have one out in the kitchen it’s a little boy and girl playing here did that. I can’t really mostly remember. I think it was mostly clothing and blankets because she didn’t know what she was coming to.

**Keith:** Any family pictures or records?

**Lillian:** Oh! Yeah but my brother had. We had those big albums but my brother took them. I have pictures of my mum and dad on their wedding day. They got married in 1910 but I don’t know what I did with them. Look in there Jim, see if you can find them in there.

**Keith:** Okay so did you take anything special with you?

**Lillian:** I think I took, no I can’t remember. My sister had a doll that she was going to take but somebody told her, they told you all kind of things when you were leaving to come to America about what you could take and what you couldn’t take. So I guess we just took the bare necessities.

**Keith:** Now did you have a medical examination before you left?

**Lillian:** Well I don’t know but we had one in Ellis Island.

**Keith:** Now before you left did you see your grandparents at all, did anybody have goodbye party for you going?

**Lillian:** No, no, no maybe the neighbors came goodbye I don’t know.

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

**Lillian:** No not that I remember.

**Keith:** So tell me what you remember about the trip?

**Lillian:** Well I remember the cabin kind of remember the cabin.

**Keith:** Do you remember getting to the boat first?

**Lillian:** Yeah well no. I don’t know whether we got to the boat, whether we went to London to get the boat I don’t remember that. I remember in Scotland we used to walk down to I guess it was the Clydebank river and see the people leaving.

So I’m pretty sure that we left from Scotland but my brother he’s only 3 but he thinks we came from England because he made that we have one of those certificates from Ellis Island and he thought but unless he got just wanted to say that my dad came from London England.

But I think we, I remember sort of leaving from Scotland because I know we used to go down this place and we’d be waving to the people that were going to America. So then my mum and my sister got sick. They were seasick on the boat.

**Keith:** What class accommodations did you have?

**Lillian:** 3rd class.

**Keith:** 3rd class and did you have your own, explain to me how you slept or how it was arranged?

**Lillian:** It was like bunks, 4 bunks. It was a real small room.

**Keith:** There was the 4 of you.

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** Your mother wasn’t escorted by anyone.

**Lillian:** No.

**Keith:** So your mother was sick and your sister was sick and you and your brother were free.

**Lillian:** Right we had a good time.

**Keith:** What was the food like on board?

**Lillian:** Well that’s another thing. We got food that we had never eaten before. We never had corn flakes, we didn’t know what they were corn flakes. Different thing we got on the ship we had never eaten before. We didn’t like them because…

**Keith:** What else for example?

**Lillian:** Orange juice because in the old country we got an orange. One orange in our stock in the Christmas that’s the only time we got orange in Christmas in our stock one orange. So we thought the food was great on this ship because of the things that we had never eaten.

**Keith:** On the boat were there things that you had never seen before?

**Lillian:** Yeah, well no just that well I remember this great big dining room. It was big to me. I don’t know really how big it was and then these long tables. But my brother and I we went to every meal. So yeah we had a good time.

**Keith:** Now your mum suffered for how long on that trip?

**Lillian:** Well I can’t remember that. I imagine she had good days and bad days but she was really sick. Just upset stomach and that, and my sister too. I don’t remember I think she was in the dining room a couple of times but I can’t remember and there was when we were really sick they didn’t have a good time like my brother and I did.

**Keith:** Now you we’re allowed on deck you said.

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** Was there any entertainment for you on the ship?

**Lillian:** Yeah there was people playing Constantine and whatever instrument they brought with them because they were done and they went down below and singing. Then we played ball and we saw a couple of whales come and cross yeah.

Everybody saying, “Come and see the whale,” and then you’d go out and see it out there spouting. So I remember, I held my little brother hand all the time that’s why we’re close today I guess.

**Keith:** You said that your mother and sister was seasick, was the voyage rough?

**Lillian:** Yeah, some of it was rough.

**Keith:** Were there storms or any?

**Lillian:** Yeah some it I think there was waves. There was really roughty not like the ships are today.

**Keith:** Do you remember seeing land for the first time?

**Lillian:** No except when the, no I don’t remember till the captain said anybody that wants to see Statue of Liberty come up and such and such to deck. Then my brother and I went up.

**Keith:** Did you know what it meant the Statue of Liberty?

**Lillian:** Oh! Yes we were anxious waiting to see the Statue of Liberty because we knew that it was going to be a good country and we were going to there to live. In fact when I went on that trip to New York I was braced myself and I took a nerve pill that I wasn’t going to cry when I saw the Statue of Liberty.

**Keith:** So what was the reaction on board of the other people, were they all cheering?

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** So that means a lot to you then.

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** Do you remember seeing New York too, the skyline?

**Lillian:** No, just the Statue of Liberty and it was misty. But this last time I did see the skyline when we went back 2 years ago.

**Keith:** So you couldn’t see the skyline.

**Lillian:** No I don’t remember the skyline, all I remember is seeing this big statue in the vague or whatever it is and it was misty. It was early in the morning but when we went back I saw it really clear. I did break down just 2 years ago when I did see it.

**Keith:** Actually, many people whom we interviewed have the same reaction about seeing the statue.

**Lillian:** Isn’t that something?

**Keith:** What about now what happened once you got past the statue what happened then?

**Lillian:** Then we went in to the big room. We all had a tag.

**Keith:** Okay we’re going to take a little break for a moment for this tape. All right so you mentioned that you got to Ellis Island, how did the boat get to Ellis Island or how did you get from the boat to Ellis Island sorry?

**Lillian:** I don’t know if we just walked down the game planned or whether we had a little boat to take us. I don’t remember. All I remember getting into this real big room with lots of people. Then they tagged us, we all had a name tag on. Then they would take people up to examine them on a second floor.

**Keith:** How were you treated at Ellis Island?

**Lillian:** Very well and they kept us so long then we all got box lunches which was good as I remember it was a good lunch.

**Keith:** Did you have a medical examination?

**Lillian:** Yes.

**Keith:** So you waited…

**Lillian:** They looked in your hair and I remember this one beautiful Irish girl she had long hair and she was crying and crying and we were wondering, what was the matter with her? I don’t know who found out but they came back and told us that she had TB and they were sending her back to Ireland but she had I remember then beautiful red long hair and they send her back. They did send some people back.

**Keith:** Were you or anyone if your family frightened that they’d send you back?

**Lillian:** No, except my sister was frightened that they were going to cut her hair.

**Keith:** Where do you think that rumor came from**?**

**Lillian:** I don’t know and then another thing they told us when you get to America you have to call everybody ma’am. Like your school teachers, yes ma’am, no ma’am and well that kind of scared us because we didn’t do that in the old country.

**Keith:** Ellis Island did you have to stay there at all?

**Lillian:** I don’t think so. I think they gave us lunch then we had to get on the train to come to Pittsburgh. I remember the train being very dirty and it must have been dark.

**Keith:** On Ellis Island how did you describe the conditions of the great hall that you were in?

**Lillian:** Well they had nice like it was clean and they had rows and rows of benches for people to sit on.

**Keith:** Was there any entertainment at all?

**Lillian:** Not that I remember. No I don’t remember that.

**Keith:** Was the hall relatively crowded or would you say?

**Lillian:** Yeah I thought it was crowded, a lot of people.

**Keith:** Were there many other people from Scotland there?

**Lillian:** No not that I remember.

**Keith:** How were the people dressed in the hall?

**Lillian:** Well some of them looked pretty fancy and other people were just medium. Some were poor people.

**Keith:** What were you wearing?

**Lillian:** I know I had like a brown woolen coat on with buttons and this that’s where the tag was.

**Keith:** That’s where the, so you had a little woolen coat on.

**Lillian:** Yeah brown.

**Keith:** Okay so you basically think you stayed there for one day about.

**Lillian:** Yeah maybe and then they gave us a box lunch because we were there a long time.

**Keith:** Okay so then how, did someone come to meet?

**Lillian:** In Pittsburgh not that I remember anybody taking us. Somebody must have took us and showed us where the train Station was to come to Pittsburgh.

**Keith:** What were your first impressions of that train trip to Pittsburgh?

**Lillian:** I thought it was awfully dirty. The train that when I got to Pittsburgh we came in to be in our station and I was the first one to recognize my dad. I hadn’t seen him for 2 years and you had to go through these glass doors and then I saw him and I ran to him.

I was always proud that I was the first one to recognize my father, because my brother was too little and then my sister I don’t know. So I always happy that because he was a great dad.

He lived with us and never caused us after when he was up in years. Even though he worried us a lot with the smoking because he smoked a lot. I thought he set this house on fire.

**Keith:** So he was there to meet you and then where did you from there?

**Lillian:** From there we went to where he lived. He rented a room on the north side and the lady that rented the room let us come there to stay. But we didn’t stay there very long and then he found a house to rent at the East end.

**Keith:** You remember the address?

**Lillian:** Yeah Lautner street. I don’t remember the number but it was Lautner Street. Then we went up this big hill to school was Highland Park school. I have pictures of that of me in there.

My brother he was I guess about 4 and the neighbors on Lautner Street would tell my mother, “Put long stockings,” because he just wore little short pants and socks. The neighbors told my mother he should have long stockings, long and black stockings.

So she let well he hated them those long black stockings. So we went up there to school in Highland Park School, and I had a boyfriend. A little black boy was my boyfriend because we never saw very many blacks and his name was McKinley Regan. Can you imagine me remembering that, McKinley Regan and he was nice he treated me nice.

**Keith:** You went in the school. Did anyone make fun of you for being foreign at all?

**Lillian:** The only thing was that I couldn’t write, all I could do was print. They kind of made fun of that and I had to learn to write everything we learnt in the old country was printing.

**Keith:** Were you ever identified as Scottish among the other children?

**Lillian:** Oh! Yes all made fun of them and I’d say, ‘Well if your mother went to China and you were born, you wouldn’t be Chinese.” So they made fun because we were Scots.

I can remember that was my answer to them, I’m not Scot. If your mother went to China and you were born you wouldn’t be Chinese. That was stalking answer. They used to like to hear us talk especially my sister because we were all about [inaudible 00:38:18].

So I wasn’t very long till I got rid of that brogue, so they wouldn’t know.

**Keith:** How about your mum and dad did they loosen their accents?

**Lillian:** No, no they didn’t. We have them on tape and it’s something to hear both of them because I had them down here. We had a big party for their 50th wedding anniversary now. My dad was very emotional when we have them on tape but they never lost everything with the accent. But we kids we all lost our brogue.

**Keith:** How did your parents adopt to life here?

**Lillian:** Very well, I thought very well.

**Keith:** Did they seem themselves as English Scots?

**Lillian:** I think American because my dad never wanted to go back to England, some English people do but he said, “No this is my country.” Because we even thought he’d like to go back on a trip to see his relatives, all his brothers and sisters but he said no he didn’t want to go back to England. So this was his country.

**Keith:** How about your mum did she have the same reaction?

**Lillian:** Yeah I guess she didn’t, she never said anything. Neither one of them ever expressed the desire to go back.

**Keith:** Tell me a bit about their life and of course of your life, you went to school here and tell me a little bit about your life after that. How you adjusted and what happened?

**Lillian:** You mean well we moved, my dad had planted he loved. On Lautner Street he had a big yard. He planted all vegetables and we had chickens but when one time we were going to have chicken for Christmas. So he killed the chicken and then none of us kids would eat it. Because it was our pet.

Then he planted strawberries, beautiful strawberries and just when they were getting ripe the landlord we were just renting. The landlord decided he wanted the house for his sister who was getting married. So we hated to leave all those strawberries. So then we moved to Campania Avenue in the east end.

**Keith:** Going back to this house on Lautner, how many rooms was that?

**Lillian:** Well that must have been about, well we had a really big kitchen with old fashion stove. Oh! How wonderful it were, when you remember that and a back porch and a nice living room. Upstairs was an old…

**Keith:** How about water did you have indoor plumbing?

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** What about lighting?

**Lillian:** Yeah we had a lighting.

**Keith:** Electricity?

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** How about toilet facilities?

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** In door?

**Lillian:** Yeah we always had that since I can remember.

**Keith:** So you went from there to which street?

**Lillian:** Campania Avenue that’s still in the east end.

**Keith:** Did you rent or did you?

**Lillian:** We rented and the same thing happened there that in fact the lady that owned it was from Hungarian, her and her sister. My dad used to teach them, the one sister came over I guess after we moved in my dad used to try to teach her English from the newspaper.

She would say Malik instead of milk you know stuff. So anyway we left that house, we only the older sister kept raising the rent and then my dad was working downtown in the trust building. So he decided he saved money, we lived very you know.

**Keith:** Frugal.

**Lillian:** Yeah and he bought a house about 4 or 5 blocks up from here on Dagmar Avenue he bought that house and that’s where we lived till we got married.

**Keith:** So right now you’ve been living in the same area basically?

**Lillian:** Exactly.

**Keith:** Since what age did you move to that street?

**Lillian:** 12 because I started I went to the 7th grade in the Beechwood school. Graduated from Beechwood school then went to South Hill’s high school graduated from there.

**Keith:** So you’ve been in this little neighborhood now 67 years.

**Lillian:** Oh! Yeah that’s right and then I met Jim blind date and he was from Mount Washington. After we did get married we rented, his parents lived in Mount Washington and we lived in 2 rooms in Mount Washington till we saved our money and then we bought this house and we’ve been living here 50 years.

**Keith:** So you met your husband on a blind date.

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** Now was he Scottish too?

**Lillian:** No he was just American and the cute thing about it was he had another girl then he met me and because the other girl was out of town, so she come back to town and he called him me into his- he couldn’t come out that night.

Something was wrong with his car. So he’s under there fixing the car and the wretch fell down and hit him on the head. This is what he tells me and then [unclear 00:44:26] and called me and says [unclear 00:44:28] and then he come out every night then we went together 2 or 3= 19 to 21 then we got married. As soon as we were 21 we got married and we’ve been very happy.

**Keith:** When you, what did your husband do for a living then?

**Lillian:** He worked down rail road when we first met, we got married in June the 5th. He got laid off in August. So then he sort of got took different jobs but during the depression 1937, 1938.

So he taught driving for a while and he did a lot of little he was down on produce yards. He did a lot of odds jobs until during the war because I was making the gliders. Because I was pregnant and I had lost 2 babies and the doctor said that to keep him around, if he would go out I might lose another one.

So he stayed with Hynes, when did you leave there after the war was over, the Second World War? Then you went to the union switching signal that’s Swissvale. He worked there all the years until he retired, right?

**Jim:** 27 years.

**Lillian:** Yeah.

**Keith:** 27 years, so did you have children?

**Lillian:** One child Joy, because then like I said we had lost 2. We wanted a baby so much and then we changed. I was going to a special so we changed doctors, the old family doctor and you better believe this. Because he told us when was the good time for me to get pregnant.

So I got pregnant and we were so happy. In the 8th month I got mumps. The doctor said, “I can’t get you into the hospital because you’ll be contagious.” He says, “I really want you to go home and put your feet up,” because she was supposed to be due on May and the 1st.

Put your feet up and take it easy. So she did wait till, what do you call when you’re not allowed the quarantine. To a quarantine with that. But Carl and I was to make all these preparations for having a baby at home. Newspapers and all this kind of stuff to have the baby at home but I stayed there and then I went to the hospital on the 8th of May that’s when she was born. I wanted her to be born on his…

**Keith:** What year?

**Lillian:** 1944 so when we were thinking about names then Jim said well let’s name her something that really means something. So he came up with the name Joy and we called Joy Elaine Hopkins. So that she would have the same initials as him.

**Keith:** Do you think that being, when you think back in your life do you feel, how do you feel as a nationality now, how do you feel?

**Lillian:** Oh! I feel American as I’m certainly oh! This is my happiest time of my life, yeah.

**Keith:** Do you think that is- there anything about you, you feel is Scottish at all that has survived?

**Lillian:** No I’m not tight, I’m not frugal. I might give everything aware, I give money I give everything away. I’m not like my mother I share. My mother was from the old school and same way like we were saying, we were just talking this morning about from the Scottish people they never seem to want anybody in their house.

Like your neighbor to come over in case she thinks you have something better than her. But my door is always, I have welcome lights in my window because everybody is welcome to come in. If I have anything that I can give them to drink or to eat. See my mother she was very tight.

She is like, oh! I better not say that but it’s not good to speak ill of the dead. She turned out pretty good though, didn’t she Jim. After she got Americanized she was good but when she was young she was pretty thrifty. I’ll say I’ll use that word thrifty.

**Keith:** So when you look back then you said this is one of the happiest times of your life do you think the original of your parents was a good?

**Lillian:** Oh! Yes I certainly do.

**Keith:** Have you ever been back?

**Lillian:** No.

**Keith:** Do you ever want to go back at all?

**Lillian:** Well I did think about going back after the Second war. Well we didn’t have the money but I felt well I would like to see if that place is still there where I was born but we never had that much money that we could go back to. Now my son in law he still hopes for the day that he can go back to find it or just go to England or something like that.

Now I have a cousin that my dad’s brother’s son who I have never seen, never met but we write to each other every Christmas. His father was really hurt in the second world, he was blinded but that’s the only one I have that I’m in touch with is that cousin.

**Keith:** Well I’d like to thank you on behalf of Ellis Island for helping us and sharing your story with us, and a copy of this to your family. This is Kate Moore in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania signing off on July 18th 1994.