**Janet:** It’s good. Today is January 23rd 1996. I’m here in Elmont at the Senior Center with Emmie Kremer who came from Germany in 1926 when she was nine years of age. Today, Miss Kremer is 78 years of age. This is Janet Levine for the National Park Service. I feel privileged to have this interview today because Emmie Kremer has written a number of poems, some of which have been put to music. Hopefully, we may get someone singing one of those on this tape later on.

Let’s start at the beginning if we may. Where were you born and the date of your birth?

**Emmie:** I was born in Bommern, Germany, March the 16th 1917.

**Janet:**  Bommern? Is that what you said?

**Emmie:**  B-O-M-M-E-R-N.

**Janet:**  Bommern, okay. Did you live in Bommern up until the time you were nine years old and left for America?

**Emmie:** Yes, till I was nine. The day of our departure was the day of my birthday. That’s why I remember that I was nine years old.

**Janet:** Who did you live with? What did your family consist of when you were in Germany?

**Emmie:** And my mother when I was four years old. I lived with my grandparents.

**Janet:** Your maternal grandparents?

**Emmie:**  Maternal, right.

**Janet:** It’s going to pick that up I think. What were their names?

**Emmie:**  Their married name was Tegeler.

**Janet:** Could you spell that?

**Emmie:** T-E-G-E-L-E-R. My grandfather’s name was Jacob and my grandmother’s name was Bertha.

**Janet:** You lived with them from the time you were four?

**Emmie:**  No, from the day I was born, I lived with them.

**Janet:** You did?

**Emmie:** Yeah. It was a two-family house.

**Janet:** I see.

**Emmie:**  We lived next door.

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

**Emmie:**  Ottilie, O-T-T-I-L-I-E.

**Janet:** And your father?

**Emmie:**  Henry.

**Janet:** Did you have sisters and brothers?

**Emmie:** Yes. There were four of us. There was Meta, there was Henry Junior, there was Eric and then Emmie.

**Janet:** You were the baby?

**Emmie:** Yes.

**Janet:** Do you remember your mother at all?

**Emmie:**  Very little.

**Janet:** How about your father? What did he do?

**Emmie:** My father was, he was a great speaker. He was into politics. Although he worked in the mines but he still loved the area of politics. When he made speeches at times that were not approved by the political opposition parties, then eventually he had to leave Germany.

**Janet:** Was that basis? That was the basis of the decision to leave?

**Emmie:** I think that was one of them, yeah, because I remember a group coming to our house at night. He had already left. He had prepared himself already knowing that he had to leave Germany. I don't know whether that was the beginning of Hitlerism or whatever political parties were involved.

I remember the group coming to the house and my grandmother saying, “Oh, he’s gone.” He had a brother here in America. Andrew Kremer. He had already prepared himself, had made contact. How he got the money together for traveling, I don't know, but this is where he landed, was in America. That’s how he came here.

**Janet:** Do you have any other memories of his political activities? You were quite young so you might not but …

**Emmie:** I know he was very active and very into it that this seemed to be a very important part of it. As I say, he was a great speaker because I remember later on in America, he gave a few speeches at the Veterans of Foreign Wars that he got involved in over here. Everybody would sit and listen to him. You know?

**Janet:** Yeah, yeah. How about your grandparents? What was your grandfather doing in Germany?

**Emmie:** My grandfather was a landowner. He was a farmer. This is what we … We lived off the land.

**Janet:** What was he growing? Was he growing things or he had livestock or?

**Emmie:** Yes. We had livestock. I remember helping him all along, working with him, planting the potatoes. He would dig the whole and I would drop the potatoes in. As a young child, I learned and I work, which would help me later on in America.

**Janet:** How about your grandmother? What are the things you remember when you think about her back in Germany?

**Emmie:** She was a very sweet person, very reserved. My grandfather was very religious. My grandparents both were very religious.

**Janet:** We’re pausing for a second. Okay, we’re resuming now. You were talking about your grandmother. She was a very sweet woman and both she and your grandfather were religious?

**Emmie:** Very religious. You couldn’t say anything out of the way. You’d get your spankings. My grandfather was also into writing. I guess later on, I inherited that from him. That’s why I did the writing that I’ve done, is he could write the Bible and memorize it from the front to the back and from the back to the front again. He had a beautiful handwriting which when I was younger I really didn’t appreciate. It was only later on that I realized maybe that I had inherited some of the writing from him.

**Janet:** What was his manner like? What was his temperament? What kind of a person was he? Do you remember?

**Emmie:** He appeared to be very stern but he was really a very gentle person. I remember him making me a pair of shoes. During that period, you couldn’t go out and buy shoes. The shoes were handed down from my brothers down to me. I remember him for one of my birthdays, out of an old pair of shoes, he made me a brand new pair of patent leather shoes. I was very proud of those shoes. Until this day I guess patent leather seems to be a thing with me.

**Janet:** Do you remember the celebration of any religious occasions in Germany? What was done?

**Emmie:** No, because of my father’s involvement into certain areas of politics, we were cut off from the church. Therefore, we had our religious teachings at home.

**Janet:** What church was it that?

**Emmie:** The Catholic Church.

**Janet:** Catholic Church?

**Emmie:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Janet:** Your father then, he wasn’t practicing?

**Emmie:** No, he was Catholic. He was not practicing his Catholic religion because he had my mother into the protestant religion. Therefore, later on in America we were raised in the protestant religion.

**Janet:** I see. Do you remember any occasions in Germany that stand out in your mind? Maybe they were a particular holiday or maybe a certain activity that you engaged in either with the family or?

**Emmie:** We lived in a country, it was strictly old country where we lived. There weren’t even any stores around. As far as religious holidays or Christmas or anything, that was strictly family. It was strictly to invite, it was just the family took part. Relatives came to visit you once a year maybe because your transportation and traveling wasn’t as modern as it is now.

**Janet:** How did people get around?

**Emmie:** Horse and carriage. Luckily, a younger person might have had a motorcycle which was very rare. There were no radios, no electricity. We had kerosene lamps and the lights were very low. To this day, I enjoy low lights, small lights are my thing.

**Janet:** Do you remember any dishes that your grandmother cooked that you particularly liked as a little girl?

**Emmie:** We made our own bread. There was no such thing as buying anything in a store. If you went into town, which was maybe every couple of weeks or so, things were a delicacy if you were to buy anything. No, everything was strictly came off the land.

**Janet:** How about clothes?

**Emmie:** Clothes was all homemade and hand-me-downs. Shoes, whoever was next in line would get the pair of shoes if they fit.

**Janet:** Was Bommern a community of families?

**Emmie:** A very small town. A closeness community? No. It was a very small town. You had farms there. They were widespread. No, you didn’t have much contact with neighbors. It was strictly family.

**Janet:** Did you go to school [unclear 00:10:23]?

**Emmie:** Oh yes. Oh yeah. They had a school in town. You had to walk quite a distance into town to go to school. No, we went to school.

**Janet:** How did the school in Germany compare with the school that you went to while you were in America?

**Emmie:** Later on in America? The memories that I have, I went to school there about three years. The memories that I have are of a special school teacher. He was a very kind and gentle person but at the same time strict. If you didn’t mind your manners, you would get the switch across your hands.

Later on, in America, we didn’t have any, the teachers didn’t touch you. Only on one occasion where I talked too much in class and the teacher came with a book and hit me on the head with a book. That was a very rare occasion. She was also my favorite teacher so I forgave her for it.

**Janet:** Let’s see. Are there any other memories? Do you have memories in particular of your brothers or sister? In Germany, what kinds of things, did you go places with them or do things with them that you can remember?

**Emmie:** No. we didn’t go anyplace. There was no such thing as going anywhere. It was strictly the home.

**Janet:** Did you have a favorite of your brothers and sisters?

**Emmie:** No, we all loved each other. Although my one brother who was closest to my age, we could relate to each other a little bit more so than the other two who were older than I.

**Janet:** Are there any other things that you remember when you think of Germany? When you think of your childhood up till nine years old? Do you have pictures in your mind of the house or the farm or what you did?

**Emmie:** Yeah. I have pictures in my autobiography of going back to that period. One memory I had was where an aunt who later on became our guardian and brought us to America, how she came to visit us. She brought chocolate with her. Now, I had never tasted a piece of chocolate. The chocolate was divided into so many pieces. The piece that I had, I remember had dropped to the ground into the sand. I picked up that piece of chocolate and wiped it off. It was like precious gold although I had no idea what gold was like even then. That was one of my memories.

**Janet:** Were there other things that you remember that were very rare for you to have?

**Emmie:** I remember after World War I, I was born during the war. An aunt of mine came to visit us. She was very modern and very, she came from the city. She was very modern and very up to date. She could speak French. I remember after World War I, our town was, there was a, what would you call it? Not a fence around it but in order to get in and out of the town you had to pass through a railing like. Then there was a guard there, a French guard by the way, and because France occupied the rural land which is the area where I was born. France occupied that after the war, during and after the war, which is part of history. I remember my aunt because she spoke French, we were able to travel back and forth. She was a young, very attractive German girl who spoke French and had no problem getting back and forth through that barricade. That’s what it was. It was a barricade.

**Janet:** What else do you remember about that aunt?

**Emmie:** Recently, we had, this past year only, we had contact again with each other after all those years. Not with my aunt but with her daughter, my cousin. We were able to compare notes and stories, little bits and pieces of a period of that time. She said, “Yes, the area where we were born was a beautiful little town.” It was almost isolated from civilization. We didn’t have much contact with people on the outside. With the French occupying it, even isolated us even more.

I remember once a year, during harvest time, all your aunts and uncles would come. Fortunately, we had a hayloft upstairs and they would come to help with the harvesting once a year. It was like a big family reunion, a big celebration. Us as children we had to sleep in the hayloft with the mice.

**Janet:** Then once the hay was harvested, were there festivities? Did they have [unclear 00:15:51]?

**Emmie:** Yeah. My grandfather would bring out his violin. I guess this is where music was bred into me. Grandpa would bring out the violin and start playing music. We would have on our best clothing, Sunday clothing. We would all sit around and sing hymns.

**Janet:** Besides the church and the school, was there any other place that people went on a regular basis or where people congregated, except for the home?

**Emmie:** There was a beer hall. In fact when I read something about Hitler’s period during that time, and he used to go into beer halls to make his little speeches. It reminded me a little bit of when I’d have the memory of my father going into that beer hall, they call it a beer garden, whatever. It was like a little hotel and it had a beer garden on the outside. How he used to go into meetings into town. I remember my mother getting angry because she felt that he should have been at home instead of politicking.

**Janet:** You mentioned your father worked in the mines?

**Emmie:** In the mines.

**Janet:** Exactly what were the mines? What was?

**Emmie:** Coal mines.

**Janet:** Coal mines?

**Emmie:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Janet:** He might have been politicking in regard to the miners’ working conditions and that kind of thing do you think?

**Emmie:** Possibly. I guess I was too young to really absorb the area that he was into. All I know is that later on when he came to America he was more American, became more American than some of the Americans here. He enjoyed this country. In fact, during World War II, he even volunteered his services to work on boats or in the navy, but he was not young enough really to be accepted. He volunteered his time.

**Janet:** Was he involved in World War I at all?

**Emmie:** Yes. He was wounded. He was wounded during World War I. He was shot. Maybe later on it gave him one of the reasons to leave Germany.

**Janet:** What was the situation of your leaving? Why were you?

**Emmie:** Our leaving?

**Janet:** Yes.

**Emmie:** As I say, he came to America first. He wanted a better life for us. As I say, he came to America and he loved America. He by the way applied for his citizenship papers and he wanted us children with him. He had met someone here, a woman and he, according to my documents that I have, private documents, he was able to guarantee us a good life here. He had gotten a job.

In fact, he got a job in a sugar factory in Brooklyn. That sugar factory I believe the man that owned the sugar factory had a daughter. The daughter is the one who had the plaque made which is at the base of the Statue of Liberty. My father worked in that sugar factor. Years later, the daughter would have a plaque mounted at Ellis Island. Strange coincidence.

**Janet:** What a coincidence? Yes. Your father left, how long before you and your?

**Emmie:** Three years, three years went by. He had to establish himself. He went and applied for his citizenship papers, his first papers. Then there was no problem in getting us here. We had no problem.

**Janet:** Was there any more of an aftermath to his leaving besides you remembered some men came looking for him and your grandmother said he left Germany?

**Emmie:** Yeah. I remember that vaguely, yeah.

**Janet:** How about your grandparents? Was there ever a thought that they might also come to America?

**Emmie:** No. I think they were then in their 60s already. They had quite a bit of land in that area there. In fact, later on, I met a man in America, when I mentioned my family name, he said, “You come from that family?”

**Janet:** They were respected because they owned the land?

**Emmie:** Yeah. They were not politically involved in anything, my grandparents.

**Janet:** You were nine years old. Then how old was the oldest? Who was the oldest child?

**Emmie:** My sister, Meta.

**Janet:** Meta. How old was Meta then when you children came over?

**Emmie:** I remember her graduating from school in Germany when she was 14. I think she was about 16, because there’s three years between each of us, or is it two years between each of us? I think 16. I was nine. Nine, 11, I think 13 and 16, close enough.

**Janet:** Was she working after she graduated?

**Emmie:** High school?

**Janet:** Yeah.

**Emmie:** No. We all worked on the land.

**Janet:** On the land?

**Emmie:** Yeah.

**Janet:** Do you remember what you brought with you? What you packed to come here?

**Emmie:** We traveled very light. We didn’t have much clothing. As I say, I think I had one pair of shoes. Those were handed down to me from my brother. In fact, I have that in one of my poems. I remember my hat had a hole in it. I have that in the poem that I wrote The Little Immigrant. Her shoes too large, her coat like a sack, hole in her hat. It’s there.

**Janet:** Do you remember saying goodbye to your grandparents?

**Emmie:** Yes, because later on, three years later, I would go to visit them again. To me, I felt like a stranger. I had now adapted a new country. I was determined to adapt the American way of life. I was going to learn English real fast. Leaving Germany, yeah, I guess I was leaving behind all the animals that were my companions.

**Janet:** Do you remember your feelings at the time? Before, did you have any idea what to expect in America? Had your father written letters so that you had some idea as a little girl of what you were coming to?

**Emmie:** All I remember is my grandparents saying, “There is gold in America. You’re going to find gold on the streets.” I remember that phrase.

**Janet:** When you and your, when the four of you children left, how did you go from Bommern to Hamburg? Do you remember?

**Emmie:** I remember we had to go to Köln, K-O-L-N, which is a major city in Germany. We had to go there for our passports first a few months before that. That was the first time I have ever been in a city or anything like. I was strictly a farm girl. As I say, the only ones that I knew were the animals on the farm and my brothers and sisters. Yes, it was quite … In later years, I would remember it more than at the time. To me, I was just following orders. My aunt who became our guardian who brought us to America, I just did as I was told.

**Janet:** Now, how was it that your aunt came to visit and then?

**Emmie:** My father’s brother, his wife was, she came over to Germany and she became our guardian. She was the one that brought us to America.

**Janet:** I see. Had she been with you for a while before you actually traveled?

**Emmie:** I had never met her before, no.

**Janet:** It was the four children traveling with this aunt?

**Emmie:** With my aunt. She had brought her son with her. His name was Henry also. She had brought him along as a traveling companion. Yeah, there were six of us.

**Janet:** What was your aunt’s name?

**Emmie:** In Germany, it was Tante Fridah, Aunt Fridah.

**Janet:** Her last name was Kremer?

**Emmie:** Kremer, yeah. She was married to my father’s brother whose name was Andrew.

**Janet:** He’s the one who was here?

**Emmie:** He was the one that was here already. He was the one that was a [unclear 00:25:20]. At that time he was a [unclear 00:25:25]. He worked on the New York Skyline. When I look over at that, I’ll start with him. He worked on the Woolworth Building, Chrysler Building, Empire State Building and then later on, Rockefeller Center which was built later. He worked on all those buildings as a [unclear 00:25:47].

I remember him telling us different stories how some of the American Indians who worked on those buildings were so agile and they were able to climb around where he couldn’t and how some people got hurt. He was one of my uncles here in this country.

As I say, when I look over at that skyline, I can look over at that skyline with pride knowing that one of my ancestors had taken part in building that, creating that skyline.

**Janet:** When you left your little town, did you take a train then?

**Emmie:** Yes, we took a train. We took a train to Hamburg.

**Janet:** Did you have to say in Hamburg much before you left?

**Emmie:** No. We went right over towards the port of embarkation where the ship was docked. It was a ship not a boat. Although later on it felt like a little boat when we ran into a storm.

**Janet:** What do you remember about that voyage?

**Emmie:** I remember the day that it was the day of my birthday, March the 16th. I remember just before we … They had gangplanks then. I remember before coming on to the gangplank, I said to my aunt, “You know, today is my birthday.” She said, “I have nothing for you.” I said, “There’s a man over there selling oranges.”

I’d heard the word orange. I had never seen one. I had never tasted one because the part of Germany where we came from, there was nothing shipped in into that area. She went and bought me an orange. With the orange in my hand, I call it a bit of sunshine. With the orange in my hand, we climbed on to the gangplank. That same day I think we sailed. We were on the ocean, it was supposed to take two weeks and it took almost like three weeks. We hit a storm.

**Janet:** Do you remember the accommodations of it?

**Emmie:** I remember, oh yes. That’s something that I was old enough to remember. It stayed with me. I remember we traveled third class steerage which is all the way in the bottom of the boat. I remember we climbed down two flights of stairs. I remember when we got down there, I could hear this rumbling noise. It was the motor from the engine, from the ship. That stayed with us all through the voyage except at one time.

I remember that we had a small group of musicians on board that traveled around from class to class. They would come a certain night and entertain us. We traveled third class which was steerage, the huddled masses. Later on the word became famous.

I remember we were half ways across the Atlantic Ocean and we hit a storm. The storm, as I say, the ship that we were on the Thuringia, was a smaller vessel. It was not one of those big ocean liners. I remember when we hit that storm, they had tables and they had guard rails around the tables. The stewards forgot to put up the guard rails and all the dishes went sliding went sliding on to the floor and people started falling on to the floor from the ship’s rocking back and forth.

I don't remember really how long, how many days the storm lasted but I know after the storm, the engine stopped. As noisy as the engines were, when finally when the engine started again, it was such a relief. We thought we were going to be stranded in the middle of the ocean. It was quite an experience.

I remember one thing of course people getting seasick and then they would give us orange juice to drink or they would give us pickled herrings to suck on to kill the seasickness. I remember going to the bathroom and you could hear the rumble of the water below. As soon as I went to the bathroom, I couldn’t run fast enough out of the bathroom because I used to think the water was going to come up through the toilet. I had seen the fish jumping in the ocean and I thought the fish were going to come jump up through that toilet. I would run like a little scarecrow I would run out of that bathroom.

Of course when the engine started again and I was on deck. Just before the storm started, I had been sitting on deck and a big wave washed over me. Luckily I was a child and they had strapped me into the chair otherwise that wave would have thrown me right off the ship rather, yeah.

Then of course when the engine started again, we were allowed … During the storm they closed all the hatches. You were locked in down there. All the hatches were closed. I remember after the storm was over and the engine started again, I went up on deck and I was watching the propeller, the ship’s propeller make, passed through the ocean as we were going on our way to America. Those are my memories of that crossing.

**Janet:** Do you remember when the boat came into the New York harbor?

**Emmie:** Oh yes. Oh yes, I remember that. I remember we were standing on deck and I think it was Pier 90 something I think where we landed. I don’t remember the exact number. I know Pier 90 was a very famous pier at that time where ships used to land in Manhattan.

I remember a man standing there waving. My sister said to me, that’s our father. Our father in the meantime had had a bad accident in the sugar factory. It changed his complete looks that you would hardly recognize him. He had had such a bad accident but she recognized him waving and of course he came on the ship.

Now in the meantime, I don't know about my brothers and sisters but I know I had contacted lice on the ship. Then when our father came to pick us up, we were detained that we were told we had to go to Ellis Island to be examined again.

A smaller tender, a boat came and took us off the ship and drove us over to Ellis Island. That was my experience in Ellis Island where I had to go through a delousing process where they placed me … It seemed to me, my memory like into a shower and they sprayed all these sulfur fumes over me. I don't remember whether I left my clothes on or whether I had to take my clothes off. All I remember are these sulfur fumes smelled to me like match fumes, matches are made out of sulfur. That’s what it smelled like to me. They sprayed those all over me. I was coughing and choking.

I was thinking about the buttercups in Germany where I had, I said, “Gee, there are no buttercups here.” Only those fumes spraying me and I was coughing. I survived. I got through it. Then a short while later, we landed there in the morning. The ship docked in the morning. Then by, it was evening we were cleared. We were released. The fact that our father had already applied for his citizenship papers, we were able to leave. They didn’t detain us or keep us overnight.

**Janet:** What was it like for you to see your father at that time, when he came and picked you up?

**Emmie:** He was always so busy politicking in Germany. Then he was in the war. He was in World War I. He was gone for a couple of years. He was like a stranger. Even in later years, he was like a stranger to us.

**Janet:** How about the Statue of Liberty? Do you remember seeing it?

**Emmie:** That I remember. I remember that where the captain from the ship, we had no loudspeaker. They had those horns like megaphones, what do they call them?

**Janet:** Megaphones.

**Emmie:** He had something like that. He called everybody. He said, “Everybody, come up. Come up on board and see the,” Evidently, he must have seen it before. He just, “Come and see the Statue of Liberty.” Yes, I remember seeing the Statue of Liberty.

I also remember those tall buildings coming from a farm where you only had like a small farm. Then those tall buildings really made an impression on me. Plus the Statue of Liberty. Of course later on, I would, our father would take us over to see the Statue of Liberty. Then when we went to see the Statue of Liberty, I remember, I said, “Gee, this is what I saw when we first came to America.” I remember touching it. I said, “Gee, I’m actually touching the Statue.”

**Janet:** Do you have any other impressions Ellis Island?

**Emmie:** They gave us something to eat and something to drink and everybody was very nice to us. Yes. Yeah, no. I have no, only the sulfur fumes but outside that, no. I was sitting there on a bench and waiting to be called. I have that in my poem, in my song. No, outside of that, I have no other bad memories.

**Janet:** Then once your father picked you up, where did he take you?

**Emmie:** 133 Coffee Street.

**Janet:** Where is that?

**Emmie:** Red Hook, Erie Basin, Brooklyn, New York. That’s where I grew up in Brooklyn.

**Janet:** Did you stay living on Coffee Street?

**Emmie:** No. My father, as I say, he was a widower. He had met another woman. She had agreed to take care of us, and plus my aunt. We had relatives, my aunt and uncle living, it was an apartment house. I think it was a three-story apartment house as I remember, three-story apartment house. My aunt and uncle lived on one floor. My father had rented another floor for us to have a home when we came to this country because he had signed a piece of paper with the government saying that he would create a home for us before he would bring us to America which he did. He had an apartment waiting for us.

Of course, then when he had that bad accident in a sugar factory and his case was coming up now in the meantime, he already had had the accident before we came to America. The sugar factory made a settlement of $3,000 which was at that time in 1920s a lot of money. With that money, he was able to provide a good living for us.

He opened up a bakery and restaurant business. The bakery and restaurant business was very successful. It was right near the Brooklyn docks. We had all the longshoremen coming in as customer because three years later my father had made enough money that we traveled all through Germany and we hired two chauffeurs. We had two chauffeurs three years later drive us all through Germany.

**Janet:** When you first arrived, do you remember, coming from a farm as you did, what other things struck you as new and different that those first few days and weeks and?

**Emmie:** You could get all the candy you wanted. Never had any candy in Germany. The only candy we had was my grandmother made sugar out of sugar beets. She would dry the beets and grind them up and made something sweet. You didn’t have those things. Coffee, I remember my grandmother making coffee out of rye beans, out of rye and another kind of a wheat that she burnt them on a stove and she made like chickaree out of it and that’s how we had our coffee. Of course, we had cows. I didn’t drink coffee. We had fresh milk from the cows. We had farm animals.

I do have one more memory talking about my grandfather. I remember after World War I, how there was very little food left in Germany because whoever is fighting the wars, one enemy will always surround the other one and starve the people out. I remember the government, German government coming to my grandfather for food. He had given as much as he could. He says, “I have four children to feed here.”

I remember him taking a little piglet and the government was going to come and take that little pig from us. I remember him digging a hole in the ground and putting that little pig into the hole and covering it with branches and leaves and tying a string around the pig’s snoot so the pig would make no noise so we would have meat to eat. This was shortly after World War I when food was very scarce. Talking about one thing leads to something else and brings back certain memories.

**Janet:** Yes, uh-huh. You started school right away after you came?

**Emmie:** Yes. I didn’t have no vacation time or anything like that. No, the next day I was registered into the school. Let’s see. P.S. 30, P.S. 30 in Brooklyn, New York. I started school. Of course, the first few weeks in school were rough because I didn’t speak no English, I don’t speak any English. The students in school, they were young. What did they know? They didn’t know anything about immigrants. They would tease me.

As I came out of the class on my way home, we lived not too far from the school. In fact, our bakery and restaurant business was two blocks away from the school. After school, I had to report to the bakery first, to my parents. Then the kids would follow me and call me heinie, heinie, heinie. I said, “What is heinie?” I didn’t know what heinie was.

The first day in school the teacher spoke to the class. She says, “I can’t relate to this young lady here. Does anyone speak German?” There was one girl and she hesitantly raised her hand saying yes she spoke German. This was not too long after World War I and nobody wanted to be associated with the word heinie.

America had been at war with Germany. She raised her hand reluctantly. It was through her that I learned my first words in English that we were able to make contact with the teacher. It was through her. To this day, we remain friends.

**Janet:** That’s wonderful.

**Emmie:** No, I remember those memories. I said, “Nobody is going to call me heinie. I’m going to learn English as fast.” Within a year’s time, I had learned how to speak English. I learned the American way. I was very proud to be in school especially on certain days when they had assembly days and we had to salute the flag. I remember they would always choose two boy scouts to be honorary boy scouts. Assembly time, they would bring out the American flag. One young boy would hold it and the other one would spread the flag out.

Then we had to learn the pledge of allegiance. I remember if anybody in the assembly or in any of the classes didn’t have a necktie on, the teacher would get a crepe paper and make ties out of them and put them on the students to make sure they had a tie on when they went into assembly. This is how I remember the connection between they had to have respect for that American flag. I remember that. I wrote a poem about that too. I don't know if you’ve seen it, it’s called …

**Janet:** What’s the name of that one?

**Emmie:** Star-Spangled Banner. With the memory of that, I stood in front of the Elmont Town where I live, in Elmont Public Library. It reminded me of when I was young and I had to learn the pledge of allegiance. I was like, I wonder if anybody is in such a hurry nowadays, whether they ever look up at that flag. I’m going to go and ask people. Every time somebody came out of that library, I would stop them. I thought, “I hope they don’t get annoyed with me, why am I stopping them?”

Everybody was so cooperative. I had no problem. I said, “What do you think of the flag?” I got different responses. There was only one woman I didn’t like her answer. She could hardly talk any English. She says, “American flag, ooph.” I say, “What do you mean by that?” She, “No, no got the time. No got the time.” I said to her, “What are you doing in America if you don’t have time?”

**Janet:** You probably came by your patriotism in part here and was very proud to be here and to be …

**Emmie:** Oh yes, oh yeah. I remember he joined Veterans of Foreign Wars. He wanted to carry the American flag. Now, because he had such a big accident in a sugar factory, he had a silver plate in his head. He could not physically do too much heavy carrying.

One time when he carried an American flag in a parade in Beirut, Brooklyn where later on he lived and where he worked, he collapsed. I think there was, and I don't know if it was a Memorial Day or a 4th of July Parade. It was one of those parades. He collapsed when carrying that American flag. He never pushed another language at us. He says, “You’re here in America.” I remember him saying that, “You’re here in America and you speak English. You learn the American way.”

**Janet:** Was his new wife, his second wife German?

**Emmie:** The first wife, they were all German women in his life except the last one who was Mae West’s first cousin [inaudible 00:47:02]. The first one was his lady friend. She was already married and she would not get a divorce from her first husband. Their friendship lasted about seven years. He always felt that he wanted to do the right thing and marry her but no, she didn’t want to get married. Their friendship didn’t last much longer after that.

He then met a German woman, as I say, he was still a widower. He met a German woman on the steamship Bremen which was a luxury line like the Queen Elizabeth at that time. He had friends on board, the Bremen and he met her there. This woman was also a widow. He married her. He had another child from her, Hilda Gorde. We correspond to this day, her and I. My father was also a very handsome, tall, good-looking man. He had no problem attracting women friends. He divorced her. That marriage didn’t last very long.

He then married Anna. That marriage lasted. Then they stayed together all those years. She was Mae West’s first cousin. I think her mother, I don't know if you’ve ever heard of Mae West?

**Janet:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Emmie:** Her mother and Mae West’s mother were sisters, okay?

**Janet:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Emmie:** As I remember, she had all the mannerisms.

**Janet:** Mae West?

**Emmie:** Whenever Mae West was in town and she was on Broadway, she would contact her family, cousins. She would send them free tickets. They would go to visit her. I didn’t go. I never met her. I was too busy with being young I guess.

**Janet:** How was it that your father was on the Bremen?

**Emmie:**  He was in business in Brooklyn. He didn’t work on the Bremen.

**Janet:** No?

**Emmie:** No, he had quite a personality. He could attract people like flies. The fact that he was successful in business I guess helped. The money was there. He had all kinds of friends. Certain areas when there’s money, you also attract all different types of people. I guess some of the friends he made through business were on the Bremen.

The woman who he met on the Bremen and he married, she had a friend on the Bremen. He was head printer on the Bremen. He had control of the newspaper that you have on these luxury liners. They have ship’s newspapers, Conrad Walter I remember his name. He had charge of the newspaper on the Bremen. Whenever the Bremen was in port here in New York, they would go to visit him and he would stay with us for several weeks till the Bremen was ready to leave again.

I remember on one of the last trips when we saw him was when he came to stay with us and we heard about the rumblings in Europe going on now with Hitlerism on its way. I remember my father asking him, “Well, Conrad, how are things in Germany?” He said, “Oh, not so good. I can’t talk about it.” He said, “Well, what’s going on in Germany?” He said, “I can’t talk about it.

Hitler had already created fear in the German people even though war had not been declared. He had already created such fear that even though this man was on American soil, he still already was afraid. This is how much power he was already getting in Germany. Nobody was aware of it at the time but I can still see that. “No, I can’t talk about it.”

**Janet:** Going back a little bit, talk about the trip that the family made back to Germany after you had been here three years.

**Emmie:** I was here three years. Was it my step-mother who wanted to go back and see her family? In the meantime my grandparents had been writing back and forth how they missed us and all that. My father came to me one day and he said to me, “Would you like to go back and see your grandmother?” I said, “Oh, I’d love to.”

Although when I was four years old and I had lost my mother, through my father’s doing, my father had a German school teacher friend in Germany who had no children. After I lost my mother, the teacher wanted to adopt me. It had a very traumatic effect on me to be taken off that farm where I had all my animals. They were really my companions, my playmates and to be placed some place into a city. The German school teacher lived in a city, and to be placed there.

When I went back to see my grandparents, again the second time, I didn’t feel very close to them because I felt that they had given me away. It wasn’t their doing really, my father was the one that gave the permission. He thought I could be placed into a home and be adopted. I was young and I was sort of maybe a little wild. My grandparents were getting older and they couldn’t control me as much as they would like to. I guess they thought it would be better off if I was placed in another home. I never got over that.

**Janet:** This was when you were about four years?

**Emmie:** Four years old. I tried to trace the records. I checked them out not too long ago. I must have been about three or four years old.

**Janet:** Did you stay with the school teacher for a while?

**Emmie:** I only have a brother living. I contacted my brother recently. I said to him, “How long did I?” Because I don’t remember too much. “How long did I stay there? Was it six months? Was it a year?” I know I was not happy there with them. I haven’t received no answer from him. Maybe, certain memories he doesn’t want to go back to either because I think he was placed in some kind of a home too at the time. It was I guess not easy for grandparents to take care of four children.

**Janet:** Then at some point you all came back and stayed with your grandparents while you were still in Germany or no?

**Emmie:** You mean before we came to America? Yes. My grandmother wanted me back. I was brought back. My brother came back again too. Yes, we were all together when we finally came to America. No, we were together as a family.

**Janet:** It sounds as though financially anyway the family was better off once you were here in America enough to be able to afford the trip back and the chauffer in Germany.

**Emmie:** We were quite successful, oh yeah. The business that we had was like a gold mine. My father was a very charismatic man. He was very good in business and in fact he sold the business and the people that he sold it to, couldn’t make out as good as he did. He went and bought the place back again. No, we were financially very secure. I had my silk dresses and I had my trips and whatever I wanted. Unfortunately, later on, the women that he married, they wound up with all the money.

**Janet:** Now, you were still in grade school or high school I guess maybe when you took the trip to Germany?

**Emmie:** No, I was in grade school. I was …

**Janet:** About 12 or 13?

**Emmie:** I was about 11 I think. Let’s see, I was in this country three years. Eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, I was 12 years old.

**Janet:** How long did you stay in Germany that time?

**Emmie:** About six months.

**Janet:** How did it seem to you having been here?

**Emmie:** The relatives, they treated us like we were millionaires coming from America. The rich relatives from America.

**Janet:** Did you ever have second thoughts about wanting to be in Germany rather than coming back here?

**Emmie:** No. No. In fact, I met someone from my hometown, near my hometown not too long ago. I said to him, “What would it be like for me to go back and live there?” No, even when we went back on that trip that time, I felt strange. I felt I didn’t belong anymore because when I went to visit one of my relatives, I was very bored. I wasn’t going to school. I wasn’t doing anything. They had me sit into a German classroom to participate and to see what it was like to be back in a German classroom again. No, I didn’t belong anymore. No, I had learned the American way of life.

In fact, when I went to see my grandparents, I said to my grandfather, and I sat on that same sofa that I had sat on as a child. I started crying. I said, “I want to go home.” America was now my home. My grandfather said, “But, this is your home here too.” I said, “No, no more. “I guess he maybe was hurt whatever but I had gotten used to the American way of life and that was it for me. I have some very pleasant memories of growing up in Brooklyn.

**Janet:** Are there any in particular that you want to mention?

**Emmie:** Yes. Not too far from where we lived there was a library. I lived in that library. I lived in that library. I was always reading. In fact, so much so that I was scold, and I was told not to read at night before going to bed. I had a searchlight and I would hide it under my blanket and get a book from the library so I could read it.

**Janet:** Was the experience you had in Germany similar for your brothers and sisters? Did they also feel out of place there when they went back or did [inaudible 00:59:20]?

**Emmie:** No, they never went back. I was the only one.

**Janet:** You were the only one?

**Emmie:** I was the chosen one to make the trip back, yeah.

**Janet:** Do you know why you were chosen?

**Emmie:** My sister had gotten married in the meantime. She married a musician. In fact, he was working as a piano player at that time in a very famous, notorious night club called the Texas [unclear 00:59:45] Night Club. He was a piano player there.

My brother, Henry, he later on went into the CC camps which was something that Roosevelt had started, CCNYU camps for the young people here in America, where if they weren’t working or, they were sent all over the country to build the roads that we have here in America. CCNYU I think it was called, CC camps, Civilian Conservation Corps. My brother was in there, yeah.

My younger brother, where did he work? He had gotten a job someplace or he worked in the bakery. We all had to work. We all had to help in the lunchroom and bakery.

**Janet:** What did you do?

**Emmie:** On my lunch hour when I go, our business was one block away from the school. Lunch time, when I went to the restaurant for lunch, I didn’t eat. I had to work. I had to help especially we were busy. It was a very busy place. I had to help wait on the tables.

**Janet:** Had you grown closer to your father at all by this time, by the time you took the trip to Germany?

**Emmie:** I thought I had but later years no. I never went to visit him very much. He had handed all his property and his money over to the women that he had married. No, I never really felt that close.

**Janet:** This is the beginning of the tape. Emmie Kremer came to write the poems that she’s written. Would you want to speak to that for me? Emmie Kremer came to write the poems that she’s written. Would you want to speak to that for me?

**Emmie:** It has been many years since that little girl sat on that bench in that Great Hall at Ellis Island waiting for her dream to come true. How did I start writing? As I say, when I was a young girl living in Brooklyn, I practically lived in the library. I always wanted to write. When I had retired for a year in Florida, down there the heat overcame me, I couldn’t write. I decided to come back to New York and start writing children’s stories.

Also, we had the celebration of the Statue of Liberty in 1986. I remembered coming from Europe and when I saw that Statue and the New York Skyline. I remember when I lived in Brooklyn, I used to sit. We were not too far from the Brooklyn docks, Todd Shipyard and Robinson Shipyard.

I used to look over at the Statue of Liberty and I said, “There she is.” All of a sudden, a mist would come and cover the statue. I don’t want to hurry up. I wish that mist would go away so I could see the statue again. I’d sit there by myself. I was always a loner. I guess maybe growing up on a farm in Germany had something to do with it, not too many children to play with. Then the mist would disappear and there I would see the statue again.

When they had the Statue of Liberty celebration, I said, “Maybe I can write a little something about it,” since I always wanted to be a writer. I wrote the poem Sweet Miss Liberty. I remember when I was 16 years old, my parents gave me a piano for a present. I had a few lessons at The Juilliard School of Music plus a private teacher. I said, “Well, maybe I can put music to the words that I had written.”

I had joined the Elmont Senior Center in Elmont, New York. There was a piano. I decided to sit down at that piano. In-between all the noise and conversation going on, I created a melody to go with the words that I had written about the Statue of Liberty. I had also worked part-time in a small restaurant in Franklin Square. Still in the restaurant business which I had grown up in, I was doing waitress work. Two men were sitting at the counter, young men well-dressed. They were talking about music. I said to the men, “Would you like to see what I wrote?” One of the men said, “This is great. May I have a copy of this?”

In the meantime, I had copyrighted. I said, because someone had said to me, “Always have your material copyrighted. I followed through with that. I said to him, “Sure. I have other copies at home. You can have this.” What I didn’t know was he was connected with someone working with Channel 4 over in New York. He was acquainted with the man, his name was Michael Drucker. He says, “I’m going to give this to Michael Drucker to look at. Maybe Channel 4 could use it.”

He did. A few days later, I have no telephone but a friend of mine has a phone. I’d given them the phone number if for any reason they were interested in it. I got a phone call saying Channel 4 was going to come to my house that night, that very night. That they liked what they had read. They wanted to use it in a show. I was overwhelmed so quick in a few hours that my material was so well-liked.

My girlfriend said, she says, “You can stay here and I will take any messages.” That night, she came running over to my house. She said, “Channel 4 is going to come to your house tonight. The Senior Producer, Lucia Suarez is going to come to visit you with her assistant Michael Drucker.” I said, “Well, how will I handle this?” I wasn’t prepared for anything like that.

They called back. They used her phone and they called back. I waited there for the call. I said, “I’m not prepared for anything like this.” “We will only stay 15 minutes. We only want to use your permission that we can use the material that you wrote. We’re making a half-hour show called Portraits of Freedom. It was about all these successful women in America that have contributed to the American way of life and you were chosen as one of them.”

I said, “I’m not prepared for anything like that.” That night they did come, they insisted on coming where I lived. I only had a small studio apartment. I had been in Florida for a year and I had no furniture for them to sit on. I said, “I really don’t have a place where I can entertain you.” She said, “We’ll sit on the floor. We’ll wear our jeans and we’ll sit on the floor. We just want to have your permission to use your material.”

I agreed. They came. I only had one chair because I had put all my stuff in storage. They interviewed me for three hours. They asked me many questions which they wanted to use in their show. When I gave them the answers, she didn’t believe some of the answers that I gave her. I said to her, “But you weren’t there, I was.” She said, “Oh, come on. You can’t tell me those are your answers.” She was a little rough on me. I wasn’t prepared for it.

I still wanted to respect her. She had a job to do. She seemed to doubt some of my answers. I said, “I’ll tell you what, give me a week to think it over about the show.” I said, “I’ll let you know.” She said to me, “Why? Do you have money?” I said, “Yeah.” I says, “I found five pennies today.” Then I said to myself, “What does my having money or not having money got to do with my material? I thought the material is what they were after, what they wanted.” I said, “I’ll tell you what, give me a week to think it over.” She says, “Emmie, we’ll come and pick you up.” She says, “We’ll take you over to New York to tape the show and all that.”

In the meantime, they had already planned the whole show within a few hours that I was not even aware of even without my permission. Finally, I said to her, “I’ll tell you what, let me think about it.” She says, “You have money.” I said, “Yeah. I found five pennies. I have money.” I says, “I’ve been wealthy when I was younger.” I said, “I know what it’s like to have money.” I wasn’t at all impressed whether I had money or I didn’t have money.

**Janet:** Do you remember what it was that she was questioning [inaudible 01:10:12]?

**Emmie:** About how my grandparents used to say, “Oh, there’s gold on the streets in America.” There was gold on the streets in America but you had to work for it. There was gold there. There were opportunities there but you weren’t going to get it overnight. You had to work for those, step-by-step you had to work for those opportunities. They were there.

When I had given her some of these answers, she was a lovely lady. I realized later on when I started over, I realized they came all the way from New York, really. They had a show to do but they were going to do the show their way. They sent me a lovely letter in return. I have it in my desk at home. As I said, they had a job to do.

In the meantime, they gave me a week to think it over. I waited a whole week. I wasn’t going to be pressured into something that, where she wanted me to give certain answers that were not going to be mine. At the end of the week, I called back. I called Michael Drucker who was her assistant. He said to me, “I’m sorry, I have to tell you but you were canceled out. You took too long to make up your mind.” I says, “Well, you gave me a week to think about it.” I realize they had a job to do.

What I also realized was when I saw the show, “Dr. Ruth was put into my place and to take my place. Dr. Ruth’s part of the show was where she’s talking to a naked statue. To me, I didn’t think that was very patriotic. I thought it was strictly a patriotic theme about how women in America made it. Then when I saw the show, the people that they had, Channel 4 had put on the show were all millionaires. I was not a millionaire. I may have been close to it when I was younger but I was not anymore.

I realized, but Michael Drucker, a lovely person, we remained friends. He wrote to me several times later on. He says, “Your material is great.” I have the letters. He says, “Stay with it.” He says, “For the whole world to hear, to see and to read.” The letter that he wrote gave me such a lift that I think it helped me stay with it a little bit. Then when they …

**Janet:** I’m sorry. Okay, we’re stopping. Okay, we’re resuming now after a few interruptions. We were talking about Michael Drucker and that you’ve remained friends with him.

**Emmie:** Yeah, I still, I send him Hanukkah cards and he sends me Hanukkah cards. His family too, his mother Mrs. Drucker, yeah because she gave me such encouragement. A beautiful young man, beautiful. He is now in the producing business. He works for a producer hoping to be an actor. I wish him lots of luck. He had his own show on TV later on too. Fast forward.

**Janet:** What [unclear 01:13:32]?

**Emmie:** He gave it to Channel 4. He says to me, “Continue with what you’re doing.” Then, I don't know which I did first now. The, Our American Flag or Ellis Island. I’d have to check back the dates on either one. I know the American, I wrote about the American Flag interviewing people as they came out of the Elmont Library and how the American Legion hang up the Star-Spangled Banner poem. They have it hanging up in their hall and how one night they had the State troopers and [inaudible 01:14:20] Candia Police, firemen. They had a special awards night and my name was chosen. They gave me an award for contributing towards Americanism.

Then Ellis Island, they had the renovation of Ellis Island. I wrote to Lee Iacocca asking if in any way I can make a contribution in any way. I think I sent him $1. In return, I got the certificate which was awarded to people who ever gave a contribution which I was very proud of.

**Janet:** The [unclear 01:15:12]?

**Emmie:** No, not the [unclear 01:15:13], that was the Statue of Liberty. I think that Lee Iacocca gave out awards for the Statue of Liberty. I’m jumping ahead now. Then when Ellis Island had a notice in the paper that they were going to renovate the place and then I had my memories of Ellis Island and I thought I’d write about it. Also they were looking for contributions. I thought, “Well, I’ll send them,” I think it was $100 the first one. I sent in $100 as a contributor to have the name put up there. Just mine alone not the other members of my family which later on I added on when they had another addition on to the wall.

Then in the meantime, I received a notice in the mail from Ellis Island, “If I had any old poem at home, would I like to contribute them and if they were in good condition?” I said, “Yes. I have some of them at home.” They told me how to wrap them and how to send them. Then I received a thank you letter in return with a gift release form for me to sign the case over there. I think they have it in the case over there.

Getting around, around the time too, I wrote, how did I get started with the plaque, the song of Ellis Island? In-between I had composed the song of Ellis Island. I had written the words and then I went to the Elmont Senior Center where they have a piano. I composed the music to go with the words. I’m trying to remember now how I …

**Janet:** Okay, we’re pausing here.

**Emmie:** Yeah, how I started with the plaque. After I had written the words in music to the song of Ellis Island, I met a perfect stranger in a parking lot. Another senior, a man around my age. We became acquainted. He said, “You’re into patriotic material?” I said, “I love it.” I said, “I thrive on it.” What he did was, which I didn’t know, he sent my name into the National Flag Foundation Newspaper. The National Flag Foundation Newspaper printed an article about me in their National newsletter.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars in Dallas, Texas, a man Leo Cyrian from Dallas, Texas, read the article in the newspaper and contacted me and sent me $1 so he could have a copy of the poem which I had postcards made out of it. I sent him the postcard and he said, “The Veterans of Foreign Wars that he was connected with in Dallas, Texas loved it. Would I give them permission to make a bronze plaque from it?”

If I would get the words together, make it very brief, not too lengthy, something that they could put on a plaque, which I did. I sent it to them. I gave them written permission. They, this Leo Cyrian, a very patriotic man contacted many organizations including the Dallas Cowboys to get donations. I think a US General contributed, a radio station contributed, so many people contributed towards the project of having a bronze plaque made with part of my song of Ellis Island on it.

When the plaque was completed, it was shipped. No, first they contacted Ellis Island to see if it would be approved and accepted. Diana Pardue was her maiden name at the time okayed it and approved it. When the plaque was completed, it was shipped to Ellis Island. It was standing in the library at Ellis Island locked away. I called up Mr. Barry Moreno wanting to know what was going to be done with the plaque. He said, “Well in time, they were going to make a special display room.” The plaque was going to be placed at the entrance to that display room which would be a great honor.

In the meantime, I think Miss Pardue contacted me through the mail and she said, “What is needed is a stand for the plaque.” I went around and I tried to get donations the second time around. The first time was for the plaque itself. For the stand now, people weren’t that enthused about it. I decided to pay for the stand to make sure that it would be shown to the American public. This was my way of showing my true patriotic feeling towards America.

**Janet:** How did you feel when the American Flag improved in Texas? How did you feel when they approached you about having a plaque? Making a plaque of your poem?

**Emmie:** This larger group of men and they were all in accord and they all agreed. I have the letters at home, they were so enthusiastic about the project that I felt that they were on board. That these veterans were on board. It was a great, great feeling. I never thought that from my little Sweet Miss Liberty poem that I would have something placed in a national monument. To this day it’s unbelievable. I’ve had so many people along the way help me. I always said it wasn’t me alone, it was the American people with me that were with me in it.

**Janet:** This is a big question but what does it mean to you to be patriotic?

**Emmie:** What does it mean to me to be patriotic? I’ve had that great feeling like during World War II, during that war, I didn’t go into the defense work right away because in a way I didn’t believe in killing. I don't think anyone should be killed.

Towards the end of World War II, when I have had some friends coming out of the service and some of them are wounded and all that. I told myself, “I’ve got to do my part too to, not just to feel patriotic but to do something about it.” I got a job in a defense plant. I worked for the Ranger Aircraft Company. That was another way of my contributing to this country that I had adopted as mine.

**Janet:** What kind of other responses can you think of that people have had to your writing these poems and songs?

**Emmie:** What other responses to my writing? I’ve had people say to me, “Oh, you’re so talented, you’re going to be so famous.” I say to myself, “Those are just words. It’s what you do and what you should for this country, to keep this country safe.” To me, that’s important. Whatever way you can contribute. You can do it step-by-step but it doesn’t come overnight.

**Janet:** Why do you think you wrote them to begin with and you?

**Emmie:** Why was I chosen?

**Janet:** Yeah.

**Emmie:** I have no idea. I have no idea. From the little immigrant that sat on that bench at Ellis Island waiting for be called, when I see the movie The Godfather and I see that little boy sitting there, sometimes I feel that’s me sitting there waiting to be called, but not to go into that area into a world of crime and hatred. There’s so much good here in America if you only look around you and reach out for you. I’m still reaching out. I’m still trying. You have to try. You have to do your best. Give whatever you can give.

**Janet:** How did it feel to you to go to Ellis Island and to see it again?

**Emmie:** I can’t wait to go and see it. I have not seen the plaque. I have not been there to see. I’m waiting for when the plaque is in a special display room, when it’s there …

**Janet:** I’ll send it to you.

**Emmie:** If it’s placed where the public can view it, I’d like to share it with everyone that goes there to share that. Of course, I’d like to share that and through that plaque and through my writing, this is my way of saying thank you to America.

**Janet:** That’s a beautiful place to end unless you could think of anything else you might want to add that we haven’t covered. I just want to say that we have a lot of written material and some photos. We’re going to have that in file in the Oral History Library. That anyone who wants to make use of that can contact you before they do so.

**Emmie:** They need to contact me only if they decide to use it into a commercial area. Otherwise I gave it as a gift to Ellis Island, to Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Monument. As I said, that’s my contribution as an American. For anyone to use it in a commercial area, no. I gave it as a gift to the US Government.

**Janet:** I think we’ll close here. I want to thank you Emmie Kremer very much.

**Emmie:** Thank you.

**Janet:** It’s been a privilege.

**Emmie:** Thank you for coming all the way over here to give me your time.

**Janet:** It’s been a pleasure and I thank you very much. This is Janet Levine for the National Park Service. It’s January 23rd 1996. We’re in Elmont, New York and I’m signing off.