**Janet:** I want to first say that it’s August 2nd 1994. I’m here at Mastic Beach at the home of Mrs. Emma Shulteis who came from Hungary when she was eight years old in 1921. I want to say that I’m very happy to be here, looking forward to hearing your story.

Why don’t we start at the very beginning, tell me where you were born in Hungary and the date you were born. Your birth date?

**Emma:** April 6th 1913.

**Janet:** Where in Hungary?

**Emma:** I was born in Miskolc, Hungary.

**Janet:** If you could spell any of those words I might not be familiar with.

**Emma:** M-I-S-C-O-L-C-S. Miskolc, Hungary. It’s near Budapest but not too close.

**Janet:** Did you live in Miskolc up until the time you left Hungary?

**Emma:** Yes we did. When I was born, I was a very happy child, raised by my mother and father until one day a disaster -I went to school, I did start school and I liked school very much.

One day we woke up and there was disaster because our streets were flooded with ammunition, artillery and soldiers. They were packed outside our street. They were Romanian soldiers, Romania and Hungary were not on very friendly terms.

They wanted the men, my father worked for the rail road at that time, they wanted to conscript all the men to join with them. They did not want to fight or join them to fight our own people. The men, I remember a little bit, they left. Where they went I’m not sure maybe in the woods, they hid in the woods, not to be joining them, the Romanian soldiers.

Therefore all the women and children were left unattended and we had to go and live in a cellar. There was a nearby house that had a cellar, otherwise it was little houses, little community, just like here in Mastic Beach. We had to go and live there, for a month or so, until the soldiers who were up there shooting. We heard the machine guns, the bullets, every once in a while more gunfire than other times. We were afraid to go out, we couldn’t go out.

Once in a while there was a low in the fighting, the women would go up to see how their household animals, the chickens. My mother had chickens only and other people had some other animals and they would go and see if they were fed.

When they did go up, the soldiers would grab the women and say, “I want you to kill this chicken and I want you to cook it for me.” Which my mother did, but some other women, younger girls were less fortunate because they were raped, it’s war time. They were afraid to come out anymore from the cellar. We were there for quite a long time.

**Janet:** Months?

**Emma:** Maybe about a month or so, I don’t remember now, I was about six, seven years old. This ended and we got back to our tried to normal life, living in Hungary. As I say, I went to school, I liked school.

Then one day we got a visitor that came to our home, he was my aunt and uncle from New York City, they came to visit us. They talked my mother and father into coming to America, which was a wonderful country. We said we would come if they would send for us. They started to get the visa going. I know I’m saying too much.

**Janet:** That’s fine. Let me ask a few questions. Do you remember what your aunt and uncle told about America?

**Emma:** That it was a wonderful country. They only came for a visit and they wanted to go back home.

**Janet:** Was there anything specific you remember they talked about?

**Emma:** I remember afterwards what happened. Finally we left Hungary because the visa came through and we were travelling to America. I remember that because I was eight years old. I remember travelling through Germany, and everything looks so clean and the countryside. I couldn’t believe I was leaving Hungary, I didn’t know any other place. We came to Hamburg, Germany.

**Janet:** It would be good if we could talk all about your life in Miskolc first before we talk about the trip here. Tell me about the house you lived in, what did that look like in Miskolc?

**Emma:** We lived in a little, it was like cottages, we had a very nice little house. My mother cried hard, that she didn’t want to leave her furniture, she didn’t want to leave her house. My father felt bad because that was his home. We were going to some place we were not able to realize what it was all about. It was sad.

**Janet:** What do you remember about the house? It was a little house, when you walked into the front door what did you see? Do you remember?

**Emma:** That I don’t remember too well.

**Janet:** What did people do in this town? Was there any kind of an industry or were they farmers?

**Emma:** They were farmers. My father worked for the rail road, but mostly farmers and they helped one another at harvest time. I remember very vividly I had two grandparents, I had my mother’s mother, she was alive and my father’s mother, she was alive. I would go and visit them each summer, each time.

My mother’s mother was a very kind woman. She would give me anything I wanted. They would take me to the fields where we would gather different vegetables and bring them home.

**Janet:** Did they live on a farm, your grandmother?

**Emma:** No, on the outskirts, but they had farms all around them. I remember my grandmother making butter, churn butter. They used to put it into grape leaves, put it between grape leaves and they would put it down in some cold storage place.

**Janet:** Would the storage place be dug into the ground?

**Emma:** Yes. It wasn’t a basement, it was maybe like a dug-out place. They had a well. My grandmother on my father’s side was blind, when she was a child she fell in the well where they lived. Due to that fall she became blind.

Maybe she was partially blind, because she was very cunning, she saw everything. For instance, they would take me to the fields to pick cherries. When I went to pick cherries I ate more cherries than I picked. I became very ill, they had to put me on the wagon and that’s where I was laying coming home from the trip.

Then I was staying with my grandmother for quite some time, my cousin came over, who was my age, his name was Nicholas. Nicholas and I, we would do bad things like we would go and shake all the trees that all the fruit came down.

My grandmother was very angry and told Nicholas not to come over any more. For me not to do that anymore because she saw -I thought she’s blind she don’t see what we’re doing and she says, “I know everything that how’re doing and if you don’t behave, you can’t come over any more.” This is our livelihood. These things that I do remember as a child, going to my grandparents and going to school.

One day my uncle made me a pair of shoes and gave it to me for Christmas. There was a lot of mud and rain at some times and my mother would carry me on her back to school so I don’t get the shoes muddy. That I remember.

My mother used to make dolls for me. It would be put two sticks together for a body and an arm and then wrap cloth around it and fix it up as a doll. That’s the only doll I had when I was a child, until much later I got my first doll, my …

**Janet:** Did you play any games or do you remember any other things that you did as a child for play?

**Emma:** I probably did but I don’t remember, maybe tag, that’s about all. We didn’t have any particular. One thing I do remember is going through the high corn and hide there. Between my cousin and I Nicholas, we would hide in the high corn. That’s about all that I remember. It could have been hide and seek in the high corn that he couldn’t find me.

**Janet:** How about, you mentioned Christmas, do you remember how you celebrated Christmas in Hungary?

**Emma:** Yes. I remember one particular Christmas time, we had Saint Nicholas in Hungary, Saint Nicholas not Santa Claus. He would come dressed up in his regalias outfit with a high hat and the …

**Janet:** His sack?

**Emma:** No, what they pull the sheep. The sheepers use this …

**Janet:** Like a rod?

**Emma:** Rod and staff. He would come with his rod and staff. We were so frightened of him because he always was a tall man, an all dressed up strange man.

**Janet:** What was his hat like?

**Emma:** Like a bishop. He had this staff and rod, I don’t know the name of it. He had that. He would bounce it on the table, I remember that, he used to come around from house to house. Christmas time, as I say my uncle gave me a pair of shoes for Christmas. I remember like Santa Claus came and gave me pen and pencils in a holder. To me that was so much, it was a big Christmas.

**Janet:** What did Saint Nicholas do when he came around from house to house? What was he doing when he was going to each house?

**Emma:** I guess they were singing hymns. I don’t remember what the hymns were but they were coming around singing hymns and talking to the people. I guess that was the …

**Janet:** Were you a religious family? So-so?

**Emma:** Yes.

**Janet:** What religion was your family?

**Emma:** That’s another story. My mother came from another town, she was a young woman my mother. Her name is Margaret.

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

**Emma:** Her maiden name was Andreschik, Margaret Andreschik.

**Janet:** How do you spell that?

**Emma:** A-N-D-R-E-S-C-H-I-K something like that. She was raised in a Catholic family. In the town she worked for the priests, cleaning house and taking care of different things. That’s what the young girls used to do, help in the church, whatever they can.

Then she got a little older and she had to leave look for a job, she went into the city of Miskolc. There she met my father, who was a Protestant. When she brought my father back home to introduce him to the family, she said she wanted to marry him, they want to get married.

She went to the church, spoke to the priest and he said, “No, we cannot marry you and your boyfriend because he is not a Catholic.” My mother got very angry about that, knowing that she was raised in that town and with the church. She went back to the city with my father to work and they got married over there.

When my mother and father got married, they had to vow that the children will be brought up as Protestants like my father was. Therefore, I was a Protestant until I came to this country and I met my husband who was a Episcopalian, now I’m a Episcopalian.

**Janet:** Did you ever hear the story about how your mother and father met?

**Emma:** No, they worked in the city that I know, they worked together.

**Janet:** How about your father’s name?

**Emma:** My father’s name in Hungarian is Ferenc, it’s a Hungarian name, Ferenc is Frank in this country.

**Janet:** How do you spell Ferenc?

**Emma:** F-E-R-E-N-C, Ferenc, that’s Frank.

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

**Emma:** No, I was the only child.

**Janet:** Do you remember any food that your mother or your grandmothers prepared that you liked when you were a little girl before you left Hungary?

**Emma:** We had traditional Hungarian food, which was very, is still very common. We didn’t have too much food. We did have a lot of noodles with everything, we had noodles with cottage cheese and little onion on it, fried onion. We had noodles in cabbage, cabbage soup, we had stuffed cabbage. We had goulash, beef goulash and we had a lot of chicken.

I particularly liked rice pudding. Every wedding there was a lot of rice pudding. I urged my mother that I wanted to go to the wedding so I can have rice pudding.

**Janet:** Do you remember any occasions like weddings, funerals, anything that was a ceremony that you remember from Hungary?

**Emma:** Talking about rice pudding we went to a nearby wedding, the girl got married. They served rice pudding there, that’s the only wedding that I remember. Also we had a wedding of my aunt in Hungary when I was a little girl. It was time for her to get out of the house and get married.

She married this older man I wasn’t very happy about. He wasn’t a younger person like she was. I don’t know that worked out, but those two weddings that I remember.

**Janet:** Do you remember any ceremonies? Were they different from here? Do you remember at all weddings or funerals or?

**Emma:** I’ll tell you one thing, I don’t know whether they had in this country many years later, is Easter time. We had Easter eggs, and early in the morning, the young fellows would come to the house, knock at the door of a girl and sprinkle them with perfume.

**Janet:** The fellow would sprinkle the girl with perfume?

**Emma:** Yes. It was an honor that somebody came courting or calling on you, that I remember. That was a custom around Easter time, besides all the good food. Outside of that I don’t remember too much about -We did go to church, my father would always take me to church. My mother …

**Janet:** You were going to the Protestant church then Episcopal?

**Emma:** Yes.

**Janet:** No, you became a Episcopalian here?

**Emma:** Here yes, much later.

**Janet:** Is there anything else you can think of, customs of Hungary that you experienced as a little girl?

**Emma:** I don’t think so. I think I told you everything about going to my grandparents’ house and going to school and the war.

**Janet:** What was school like?

**Emma:** I liked the school, I liked the teacher.

**Janet:** How did it compare with the school after you got here?

**Emma:** I liked it better there.

**Janet:** Why?

**Emma:** I’ll tell you later on. I don’t want to jump the story, but it’s a big change for me.

**Janet:** We’ll talk about school after you get here.

**Emma:** Yeah.

**Janet:** Can you think of any attitudes or values that your mother or father or grandmothers tried to instill in you? Any ideas about how you should be or how you should live or what was important?

**Emma:** They were very simple plain people, hardworking people. That’s all I know that they were hardworking people and honest people. We didn’t, there was no one in trouble.

**Janet:** What kind of a little girl were you? How would you describe yourself? Tell me how you would describe yourself as a little girl of eight years old when you were coming to this country? What did you look like? What did you act like? What kind of a temperament did you have?

**Emma:** As I was the only child, I was a cute little girl, eight years old. That’s all I could remember.

**Janet:** Do you remember what personality you had?

**Emma:** Mild, shy. My friends still laugh about me because I say I’m a shy person and knowing me is the opposite, now.

**Janet:** Tell me anything else you remember about the First World War? Any other firsthand experience that is connected with that?

**Emma:** Only that the soldiers invaded our town. We had artillery, soldiers all around us for a long time and we were frightened of them.

**Janet:** Did you yourself see any violence or any kind of fighting?

**Emma:** No just heard the shooting. I don’t think there was any physical fighting that I know of, maybe the territory was obtained by fire.

**Janet:** The raping of the women, the soldiers coming into town?

**Emma:** That’s the only thing I heard that they came back and they were crying that the soldiers hurt them. They gave them a nice scarf for it.

**Janet:** The soldiers gave the girls?

**Emma:** Yes. That’s all I would remember. That is war and I guess it’s all over, same way, but that’s what I remember. Being a little girl I was an innocent little kid.

**Janet:** Your aunt and uncle came from America and they told your mother and father that this was the country to come to? Then they arranged for your papers?

**Emma:** Yes, the visa to come to this country.

**Janet:** Then what happened? Do you remember packing up to leave?

**Emma:** Yes I told you that my mother was crying, my father felt bad, and I felt bad. I didn’t realize what was happening as much as my parents did. I remember a lot about the trip.

**Janet:** Why don’t you tell about the trip, from the time you left Miskolc to getting to the ship?

**Emma:** We travelled on train through different countries, maybe Austria. All I remember is travelling through Germany, everything looks so neat and clean, the back of the houses everybody had a yard and flowers. That I remember a little bit about Germany, this is from the train.

We got to Hamburg, Germany, where we had to stay overnight to be checked out. The men went into one section, the women went to another section. There they told us to go into this big hall. They told us to take our clothes off and put them on a pile.

We were standing there naked and they would give us some soap in our hand, liquid soap in our hand. They told us to go in the shower and it would be like 15, 20 minutes. Everybody went to get washed and then they shut the water off, whether we were washed or not, but we had to take a bath.

**Janet:** There was a shower with lots of different people?

**Emma:** Yes.

**Janet:** In at the same time with different showers?

**Emma:** Yeah different stalls. Then when we came back our clothes were fumigated and we got our clothes back. Then they examined us. My mother was always afraid of me because I had long reddish brown hair, it was very long. She was afraid that they would say, “She’s got lice in her hair.”

If they did find lice, we would have to stay over and maybe my father would be sent ahead to America without us. My mother was always afraid, but when I got the examination they would say in German [inaudible 00:32:02], that it was okay.

**Janet:** Then you passed the examinations and you went on to the ship?

**Emma:** Yes.

**Janet:** What was the name of the ship?

**Emma:** The ship was the Cunard line, Berengaria I think so, Berengaria in 1921.

**Janet:** You came on the Berengaria, what do you remember about the ship ride?

**Emma:** I think it took us one week to get here. I was very sea sick. I forgot to tell one more thing about my trip coming here, I think that’s important. That is leaving Hamburg we came to Schaumburg, France where the canal is now.

Then from Schaumburg France, we crossed the English Channel and we went to Liverpool. Where in Liverpool we were met by a horse and wagon, we sat side by side in an open wagon. We were escorted into the hotel where we were going to stay overnight.

The people in Liverpool, they seemed to know who we were and they would throw everything at us. Just like making fun of the green horns, I thought, these are real nasty people, I don’t know what country this is, but they are nasty, because that’s the first thing that affected me, violence, when we were traveling to the hotel.

We were there maybe overnight in Liverpool. Then we got on to the ship there. We were coming to this country and I was very sea sick, the whole while, we were all laying there on the hold, whatever.

**Janet:** The deck or were you in steerage?

**Emma:** Steerage yes. Where they had a top to this wherever. We were all laying there sea sick, but I remember a few things on this ship. For instance, one of the men that was traveling with us was a little Jewish man.

He was bringing his two grandchildren to America. He was the one that was hit with a corn cob or something or a rock in his mouth and he lost his tooth. This I remember.

**Janet:** You mean on the ship?

**Emma:** No, in Liverpool when we were traveling in that wagon. This little Jewish man, they hit him in the mouth.

**Janet:** You mean people were throwing things at you in the wagon?

**Emma:** Yes. I guess it was a joke for them, it was fun. To me, I was frightened. This Jewish little man, he got sick on the ship, he got so sick that he passed away. I remember going up on the deck where they had buried him at sea with …

**Janet:** What did you see there?

**Emma:** He was wrapped up in a sack or whatever, tarpaulin or, whatever it was he was wrapped up well I know. They slid him right into the sea, that I remember.

**Janet:** What became of his grandchildren, were they … ?

**Emma:** They probably came here the rest of the trip on their own and their relatives probably met them. It was sad, but I felt so bad. As a child I couldn’t believe that after this trip that anybody would want to go back, experience the same thing because to us it was -We were sick the whole entire time.

**Janet:** Anything else about the ship, the voyage?

**Emma:** One day as we were getting closer to America, there is a lot of excitement on the ship, everybody was excited. Everybody is running up to the top and was like The Star-Spangled Banner says, on the dawn’s early light. It was dawning, it was early in the morning and everybody was running up to the ship and my parents were there too.

I didn’t know what it was all about, they said, “We came up to see the light of freedom, that’s what we came here for.” They were all excited and we came close, because we were pretty close, we did see the lady with her arms up and we did see the light. It was still dark, but we saw the light and everybody was crying and happy and cheering.

It was a wonderful time that I remember. That’s why today I feel very close to the Statue of Liberty. To me, I came here as a little girl, but today I’m 80 years old and I love this country. I try to be a good citizen and to do my best.

**Janet:** What do you remember about Ellis Island?

**Emma:** When we got to Ellis Island, we got off the ship and we went to Ellis Island. We were briefed over there, I don’t remember too much about it, but it was paperwork to see where we were going. We already traveled all this time, there wasn’t too much to do, just to brief us.

I remember getting on the ferry and crossing from Ellis Island into South Ferry, New York City, I remember that. My relatives were there waiting for us and we got onto the elevator, they had elevators in South Ferry. The elevator took us from South Ferry to East 18th Street Manhattan. That’s where my aunt and uncle lived.

**Janet:** This is the same aunt and uncle that came to Hungary for the visit?

**Emma:** Yes, that brought us here.

**Janet:** Do you remember things that struck you in these first hours, days, weeks of being in Manhattan?

**Emma:** Yes I’ll tell you all about it, it wasn’t very pleasant from there on. We came to this country to live with my aunt and uncle on East 18th Street. My aunt and uncle were janitors of this 30 building house, they were caretakers of this house. Right away they got my mother and my father cleaning for them.

They did have two children, my aunt and uncle, my age. I was strange with them, we lived together, but I don’t know somehow I was lost, I didn’t have anybody.

I remember all these people on the street, I wasn’t used to all the people on the street. This is lower Manhattan East side, is a lot of people, they were all on the street. That I remember, where did all these people come from? I was used to a little town, quiet.

My aunt and uncle got my mother and father a job. They got my mother a job in a rabbi’s house, to go and clean for the rabbi and his wife. My father they got him some other job.

At the end of the week, they would take the pay envelope from them and say, “You owe so much for the visa, you owe us so much for the food and the rest is yours.” My father protested quite a lot, he said to my mother that, “Margaret let’s go back, I don’t like it here, this is not for me.” We endured this here for quite a while.

They enrolled me into a German Catholic School. I did not know how to speak German, I was not a Catholic. They were drumming this religion into my head I did not know anything about.

The nuns were mean and strict, because I did not understand them. If they told me something I did not know what they were telling me, that she would take me out in the hall and put your hand out and they hit me with the ruler.

I would go home and cry to my mother that I don’t like this country, I don’t like the school, I don’t like my cousins, I didn’t like anything about it. We were very unhappy. One day the rabbi’s wife said to my mother, “Margaret, your daughter does not belong in that school, get her out of there and put her in a public school.” Which my mother did.

Soon after I went to the public school, I picked up a little bit on the English. I wasn’t taught that religion because before school started we had to go into church to pray and talk about religion. We had to do that before school started, in the Catholic school, but over here in public school everybody was free and much better. I started to pick up English.

In the meantime somebody was moving out of an apartment on East 16th Street. We lived on 18th Street and on East 16th Street somebody was giving up their apartment. My mother and father had the opportunity to get this apartment, furniture and all. We moved into this apartment and we started our life in America by the three of us, my mother, my father and I.

I went to school, I had lot of friends. It happened to be across the street from a playground where there was a lot of kids coming to the playground and a boys club was right there. I had a lot of friends on East 16th Street.

One of the friends that I had, was the Shulteis family, they had four children and the two girls and two boys. The two girls were my friends, we’d go to school together and we would be friends. The two boys, I didn’t know too well but later on, I got to like the little fellow and his name was Ali. That is my husband today.

**Janet:** You said you met him in grade school?

**Emma:** Yes we were in grade school. I was maybe about 11, 12, 13 that we knew each other, but the boys, I didn’t bother with at all too much. They were working, they were doing large jobs in the neighborhood. I didn’t bother with them until much later on.

We’d go to school together and we’d go to different, like a boat ride, he would be there. Going to school, I would see him, but we didn’t go to same school, he went into a boys’ school and I went into a girls’ school.

In our plays and in our encounter each day I would see him and he liked me, I liked other boys, but he was the one. We are together I think from 13 years we were 13 years old.

I didn’t think I was going to marry him, he’s only a kid. We didn’t have any intentions of that, but we were friends until seven years later that we got married. We have been married for 60 years.

**Janet:** Congratulations.

**Emma:** I’m still on our honeymoon.

**Janet:** That’s something.

**Emma:** No, I mean we have a love and friendship and understanding, that’s the main thing. We have our health. We are very occupied in different things, which I think God is good to us and gives us our health.

**Janet:** Just a point of clarification, why was it that you went to a German Catholic School in the beginning?

**Emma:** The thing is this here that my cousins, the two cousins that we lived with that’s where they went.

**Janet:** They weren’t German either or were they?

**Emma:** No, but it was a German Catholic School, this is in New York City now. It was a German taught, German Catholic School and they went to this school. They thought, they would put me in the same school.

**Janet:** That part of the family was Catholic, is that right?

**Emma:** Yeah.

**Janet:** When you got in the public school, how did that compare with your school in Hungary? Was that similar in some ways or different?

**Emma:** I had to learn a lot in this country, the language, the homework. Where in Hungary it was the basic of school, the basic of school learning, the arithmetic. There’s a lot of things because six, seven years of age, it was just the beginning of school for me.

This here was the beginning also, because I was in an ungraded class first, ungraded all different ages, different people. Then they would put you into the right class.

**Janet:** Were there a lot of other immigrant children in your school here?

**Emma:** They might have been a few yes, because I think that’s where the ungraded came from. It wasn’t that they were something wrong with their mind that they were retarded. It was just ungraded for a while until they saw where we belonged. It was hard for me, but I picked up. I was a good student, I picked up and I was pretty good in school.

**Janet:** Do you remember any experiences learning English, when it clicked in for you?

**Emma:** It came on gradually the English language. I’m glad I haven’t got the accent left as you can …

**Janet:** Yeah, you don’t have an accent. Tell me about your mother and father and you, it started out you were very unhappy in this country, did that turn around at some point?

**Emma:** Yes it did. I’ll go back to my mother and father, we lived on 16th Street and I was the only child. Then I went to school, I was happy, this was maybe about 11, 12 years of age. One day another relative came to us from New Jersey to visit us, they talked, my mother and father, of going to live in New Jersey.

It was like a country, we lived in East Side of New York City and they said it was wonderful living in and so forth and so on. Don’t you think that my father talked him up. We gathered all our possession and we moved to New Jersey.

We moved there around the end of school time. This is the summer months that we lived in New Jersey maybe for two months.

My father did not speak, maybe did not understand but he spoke English, but he would take me early in the morning to look for jobs in New Jersey, that I would understand more than he would.

We’d go looking for work every day. He came home very despondent and very upset. The money we owe, we moved into, almost, a new building, we lived on the top floor, it was maybe about three floors.

**Janet:** This is New Jersey?

**Emma:** Garfield, New Jersey. We moved into this barely new house. I had made friends very hard because it was summer time, but I had made some friends, but my father looking for a job. First of all Garfield, New Jersey is a fabric, what do they call that?

**Janet:** Textile?

**Emma:** Textile …

**Janet:** Mill?

**Emma:** They had mills and textile mills all over. It was summer time and also they were striking, there was no jobs to be had at all. The textile mills were shut down, there was no work. Although we lived in a nice neighborhood, a nice house, there was no money coming in, they had no money.

Then my mother found out that she was pregnant. We had to move back, and we moved from one house to another until we moved back to 16th Street. There my sister was born, March 14th 1926 I think, 26 she was born. We are 13 years apart in age, she’s 13 years younger than I am.

My mother was taking care of this big house where we took over, where we lived, because the caretaker of this house passed away. The agent was Chase Manhattan Bank, asked my mother and father to take care of this house because there was no one that they can trust.

In the meantime my sister was born. I was pushing baby carriages all over, taking care of my sister. I was the big sister so I took care of her. My mother took care of this house until my father passed away. Then my mother said, please to me and my husband took care of this building and we did.

**Janet:** You were married by then?

**Emma:** I’m skipping about my marriage. What happened was after we moved back from New Jersey growing up I was about 13 years old. I met my girlfriend, my friends again and renewed my friendship.

My boyfriend at that time, I had many boys, but this one I liked better because we could fight and punch and I can hit him. He liked me and I liked him. We kept company, we knew each other almost seven years and then we got married.

It was this quiet wedding, just us, him and I, and our family. We went to church, went to Episcopalian Church, I’m trying to think about it now. We got married there. About a year later I had a boy, a little boy.

**Janet:** What was his name?

**Emma:** Alvin, he is Alvin is the sixth. We have seventh generation of Alvin’s.

**Janet:** Did you have other children after that? We are just about out, I want you to quickly say, do you have other children?

**Emma:** Yes. When my son was 18 years old I became pregnant with Alice. I have also a grandson Alvin, the seventh and I have a brand new baby, Alice. After 18 years, I became a mother and a grandmother at the same time.

**Janet:** That’s wonderful.

**Emma:** We are very happy. I’m very happy with my husband, I’m very happy to be in this country. I have many good memories, more good memories than sad ones, but that is life.

**Janet:** That’s a wonderful place to end. I want to thank you very much for a most interesting interview. You were wonderful.

**Emma:** I hope it was.

**Janet:** It was. This is Janet Levine, I’ve been speaking with Emma Shulteis here in Mr. & Mrs. Shulteis home in Mastic Beach Long Island, New York. It’s August 2nd 1994 and this is Janet Levine for the National Park Service and I’m signing off.