

Harriet Molineux

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Interviewer: Paula Bruno and Ruth Terwilliger
Transcribers: William A. Molineux, January 2008 and Laura Cabbage-Draper, March 2021
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Abstract: Harriet Leslie Molineux (1900-1991), the daughter of Leslie Edward Molineux and Susanna Hinckley (Bailey) Molineux, was born in Metuchen. Her father was superintendent of the Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Company in South Plainfield, and her mother was the first woman to serve on the Metuchen Board of Education. As one of seven children, Ms. Molineux grew up in the house at 31 Carlton Road, which was a frequent gathering place for bridge and local meetings. She graduated from St. Margaret's Boarding School in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1920, and briefly took sewing and cooking courses at Pratt Institute. Ms. Molineux attended nursing school at St. Luke's Hospital in New York in 1921. During the 1930s, she joined St. Margaret's Convent in Boston for four years with the goal of becoming a nun before returning to Metuchen.

Ms. Molineux was active at St. Luke's Episcopal Church as a Sunday school teacher and with the Junior Auxiliary. She also served as president of the St. Luke's Guild, as member of the Quiet Hour Club and the League of Women Voters, and as treasurer of the Metuchen Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Borough Improvement League, and the Matochshoning Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Ms. Molineux also worked as a Girl Scout leader and a member of the Metuchen Girl Scout Council for approximately twenty-five years. She moved to The Evergreens Home in Moorestown in 1973 where she remained until her death. Ms. Molineux never married and had no children; her ashes are buried in St. Luke's Episcopal Church Memorial Garden in Metuchen.

In this interview, Ms. Molineux discusses her parents, her education, and growing up in Metuchen. She also talks about her brief nursing career and becoming a nun, her involvement with St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and her work with the Girl Scouts and the Red Cross. She ends the interview by talking about her health and her life in The Evergreens Home.

Interview Note: An addendum attached to the transcription includes additional family history from Ms. Molineux's nephew and photographs related to the interview. Several sections of the interview are labeled as unclear due to multiple people speaking at the same time.

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P. Bruno: Today is April 11, 1978 and Ruth Terwilliger and Paul Bruno are interviewing Harriet Molineux [PHOTOGRAPHS 1 & 2], a resident of Metuchen, New Jersey who is now living in The Evergreens [Nursing] Home in Moorestown, New Jersey.

I'd like to start the interview by asking you to tell us a little bit about your parents and when they first came to Metuchen.

H. Molineux: They first came to Metuchen in—I have to figure—

R. Terwilliger: Well, just be natural, if you have forgotten. Eighteen something?

H. Molineux: Yes, it's 1892 on April the twentieth. They were married in Mechanicville, New York [PHOTOGRAPH 3]. [phone ringing] That's above Albany [New York]. And they were married [at St. Luke's Episcopal Church] [PHOTOGRAPHS 4 & 5]. Then [they] came right straight down and spent their first night in their own home in Metuchen.

R. Terwilliger: Harriet, now by what means of transportation?

H. Molineux: They came down by train.

R. Terwilliger: By train, uh-huh. Because they didn't have cars, of course.

H. Molineux: No, no, no. And they came down by train and came right on out to Metuchen.

P. Bruno: Why did they choose to settle in Metuchen?

H. Molineux: Because my father's business was with the Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Company in South Plainfield. They looked at Plainfield, but there's no transportation to South Plainfield unless you had a car or a bicycle. But from Metuchen, they could take the shortcut train that went from Perth Amboy to South Plainfield Junction (the main Lehigh Valley Railroad). That's why they settled in Metuchen. And they liked the looks of the community. My father [Leslie Edward Molineux] built the house and they had it—so it's a brand-new home for both of them.

R. Terwilliger: And then this was actually the first of the Molineux family to come from New York State down to New Jersey.

H. Molineux: Yes. My father was a Brooklyn person [PHOTOGRAPH 6]; he came from Brooklyn [New York]. He had been on the railroad, a caboose conductor, on the railroad from Albany, I think, to Niagara Falls [New York].

R. Terwilliger: Oh, that was a long run!

H. Molineux: And that's how he came to meet mother [Susanna Hinckley (Bailey) Molineux] when he was living up in the place. [PHOTOGRAPH 7]

R. Terwilliger: Oh, that's interesting! And then you say—where did they live while this house was being built?

- H. Molineux:** Well, they built it before they were married. It was completed and I guess they furnished what they wanted. She had taken some of the things and—
- R. Terwilliger: You don't remember who the carpenter was that built the house?
- H. Molineux:** No, I don't, no.
- R. Terwilliger: Because that was probably someone local?
- H. Molineux:** Yes.
- R. Terwilliger: Yeah. And it was a two-story?
- H. Molineux:** Yes.
- R. Terwilliger: Can you describe it a little bit? It was a two-story. It looks like four bedrooms at least [PHOTOGRAPHS 8 & 9]. Do you remember?
- H. Molineux:** Yes, I think so, yes.
- R. Terwilliger: And was there central heating at that time? How was it heated?
- H. Molineux:** I don't know; I think with coal.
- R. Terwilliger: With coal, uh-huh?
- H. Molineux:** Yes, because father always, up until his dying day, he always had coal.
- R. Terwilliger: And was there—there's no electric lights, right?
- H. Molineux:** No electric lights at the beginning.
- R. Terwilliger: No. You had kerosene lamps?
- H. Molineux:** Yes. Then when electricity came in, I don't know whether it was in this house, but I can remember how [unclear] was holding electricity. Within that day, we got electricity. We're pushing the buttons all the time. [laughter]
- R. Terwilliger: Oh, that's interesting.
- P. Bruno: Now, you say this house¹ burned down?
- H. Molineux:** Yes, and I think it was in eighteen—yes, it must have been in 1898 or very early part of [18]99, because my brother Walter² was a baby.
- P. Bruno: How did it happen?

¹ The original Molineux house was located along Graham Avenue at the southwestern corner with Franklyn Place. The house burned down prior to 1900 and was replaced by the house at present-day 23 Graham Avenue.

² Walter Lang Molinuex was the third oldest of the Molineux children, and he was born in 1898.

H. Molineux: Another house burned, and the wind was so strong, and before this went down—two houses went down the same night. It was awful.

P. Bruno: Oh my.

R. Terwilliger: That must have made them so sad because I mean this was their—

H. Molineux: Yes, they lost everything. They lost everything.

R. Terwilliger: Everything to them! And I wonder if there was insurance at that time?

H. Molineux: [unclear] so there was some, because I have been told that the laundry that they had sent out to be washed and ironed—because in those days you sent the laundry, you got a person that would do the laundry, you see, and do it at home and bring it back—had just come in that night and hadn't been taken upstairs. So that meant that the laundry got out. And they just really got out in their night clothes.

R. Terwilliger: Oh my. Oh, this was in the middle of the night too?

H. Molineux: Yes.

R. Terwilliger: Oh, they were lucky they didn't get burned in that.

H. Molineux: Yeah, Doctor [William] McKenzie [at 43 Graham Avenue], the McKenzies, took them in for the night because they lived on that same street [PHOTOGRAPH 10].

R. Terwilliger: And then where did they go?

H. Molineux: They went into Brooklyn and stayed with my father's parents, I think, two or three months. And then came out to the rectory (St. Luke's Rectory) and lived there with Father [Clarence Manning] Dunham. It was during the summer. Then in the fall, they went to a house on Home Street and lived there for two years. And then 1900, in April of 1900, they moved into this house [at 31 Carlton Road]. The owner of the property built this house for his wife and his wife refused to go in it because it was in the middle of a cornfield. [laughter] And so that's why I say I was born in a cornfield. [laughter] In those days, we all were born at home.

P. Bruno: So where was this house located, the one here—?

H. Molineux: That's the one [PHOTOGRAPH 11]. The present one that's now on Carlton Road at the head of Clinton Place.

R. Terwilliger: Right. [speaking to interviewer Paula Bruno] I can show you that. You can take pictures of it. It's a lovely house.

H. Molineux: Yeah. And the road came up from Main Street, turn around and went back again, the Main Street. You didn't go through to [unclear] because broke through Carlton Road, right straight through.

R. Terwilliger: I didn't know that.

- H. Molineux:** No, just came up in the front and back. And the Smith family were in the corner of Carlton. It was Henry Street then and we changed it to Carlton [Road]. Father worked on that because he found the other Henry Street was older. It was named Henry Street originally by Mr. [Nathan] Ayers³ for one son and Clinton Place for another son. Then he thought, *Well, why not change it to Carlton*, for another son so that it's all in the family name, from the Ayers family.
- R. Terwilliger: Right, yes. Who lived in the house on the corner there with the big stone wall that used to be [unclear]?
- H. Molineux:** That was Arnett Smith [at 299 Woodbridge Avenue].
- R. Terwilliger: Arnett Smith?
- H. Molineux:** Yes. His father lived on Middlesex Avenue, where the White Sisters [of Africa Convent] were at the very beginning.
- R. Terwilliger: Oh yes, yeah, right. Right next to the Edgar house [at 335 Middlesex Avenue].
- H. Molineux:** Yes, and Arnett Smith, they had—Mr. and Mrs. Smith on that, the parents, had three sons: Richard, Arnett, and I forget the name of the other one.
- R. Terwilliger: Would they be contemporaries of yours?
- H. Molineux:** No. Oh, they were older. Yes, the older generation. Arnett was a seaman and he married their cook. The parents built this house for him, and he did all these weird things sometimes in the yard there. [laughter] But they had a big family of seven and we were a family of six⁴. Then the Towle family [at 315 Woodbridge Avenue] were on the other side of Henry Street facing the [First] Presbyterian Church, which now has been divided, and they had a family of six or seven. And then over on Home Street, the Rule family was [at 44 Home Street], so we had a regular gang.
- R. Terwilliger: Right in your own neighborhood there.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, and that's why we never went out very much. I mean [we] did most our playing right in the yard.
- R. Terwilliger: Yeah, I could see that.
- H. Molineux:** Because we had everything. We had an uncle that was very—a single uncle [Lyman Burnham] that had had money and he was comfortably off. He sent us a merry-go-round with an organ on it! And it had four seats, and you had to pump yourself, and the organ would go with the cylinder music around and they were all patriotic ones. [laughter] And then he sold it. We had a playhouse with a sand box attached to it. So at the end of the playhouse, you push out and could cover the sandbox with shade.

³ The name was also spelled “Ayres” in many early twentieth-century documents.

⁴ The eldest child, Caroline Adams Molineux, died as a young girl. Harriet was the only daughter to survive to adulthood along with her five brothers.

R. Terwilliger: Oh my gracious!

P. Bruno: This was in your backyard?

H. Molineux: Yes, in our backyard. Everybody came to our backyard. We had most of the neighbors. And then if you played hide-and-go-seek, you'd go in the cornfield. You know at dusk time was a time we liked to—we had to make our own games. Not like today.

R. Terwilliger: No, no.

H. Molineux: No TV [television]. Nothing like that at all.

R. Terwilliger: You're right. It was just—maybe should have thought of doing more—you probably remember even paper dolls, sitting for hours and cutting your own.

H. Molineux: Yes. Well, I was in the—we had the [unclear].

R. Terwilliger: Right, you didn't play with dolls.

H. Molineux: Because I liked to play football or baseball with them. And I could beat the boys in jacks once in a while, and that was a great triumph for me.

P. Bruno: What was it? Mumblety peg⁵ or something? Wasn't that something you do with a knife where you threw it and cut your square out?

H. Molineux: No, I don't remember that. I played marbles with them.

R. Terwilliger: Oh, marbles!

P. Bruno: Marbles, yes!

H. Molineux: "Knuckle-down shoe hog," my brother would tell me all the time, my brother Paul [Rexford Molineux]. [chuckles] And we did things like that. We had everything, croquet sets, everything you could think of, and the neighbors all came to enjoy it.

R. Terwilliger: Now were you the youngest in this family?

H. Molineux: No. I had three older brothers, and two younger ones.

R. Terwilliger: Oh, and they took you right go along on all—?

H. Molineux: Not always.

R. Terwilliger: Uh-huh. They made you remember you were a girl once in a while?

H. Molineux: Yes, once in a while. That's right. [laughs] And I remember a time when we all wanted bicycles, and three of us did. And in those days, bicycles—you sent to

⁵ Mumblety peg is a game in which each player throws a knife from a series of positions, continuing until it fails to stick in the ground.

Chicago [Illinois] and they came unassembled; you had to put them together. Father said, "Well, if you wanted it, you have to take it [money] from your savings account." And so, each one of us took money out of our savings account, which every birthday and Christmas our grandparents gave money for. But I think it was a good thing, you appreciate it more. And they fixed theirs up and went off, and I had to wait until Saturday when father had time to fix mine together. You know the little things.

And I can remember as children that we had a pint (a jug) to make ice cream. And if we were able to get a piece of ice from the iceman—and if we were good, he always gave it—and then mother would make this melt (not much cream in it), but this melt ice cream. And we were going to work turning this thing. And we would only get about a mouthful. [laughter] But we were waiting around, and all the neighbors too. But I mean we had to do those kinds of things. And we had [unclear] all kinds of little animals. The boys did, I didn't.

R. Terwilliger: Do you remember shopping? Where did your mom grocery shopping?

H. Molineux: Well, there was on the corner of Amboy Avenue and Main Street, where that [Corner] Confectionary place [is] used to be Campbell's Grocery Store. But on the other side was the Robinson's Grocery Store [at 291-297 Main Street] and mother had always traded there.

R. Terwilliger: That's across from Gurshmans [at 280 Amboy Avenue]?

H. Molineux: Yes, across from Gurshmans. And we would go, she'd send us over. And if we went over and said we wanted a pound of cookies, Mr. Robinson said he knew that we were telling the truth because we never would get it. You know he knew other people, young people, would go in and get it and charge it to their families (cookies). But he knew that we couldn't get away with that. [chuckles] And the one thing we all loved to do, when mother needed molasses, in those days, she had a big jug with straw around it, and we have to go over there, and it would be poured into it. And every one of us, when we knew she wanted molasses, we were ready to go, because all the way home we would chug the [unclear] down and then lick it. [laughter] I mean there are things like that I can remember.

P. Bruno: What about school?

H. Molineux: Well, school, we had to go all the way down where the Franklin School is. We walked it; we walked it.

P. Bruno: How far was that from your house? Was that quite a distance?

H. Molineux: Well, I would—

R. Terwilliger: I would say a mile at least.

H. Molineux: And then we would go down New Street, and where the A&P [The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company] is [at corner with Pearl Street], that was a big field. You could see a track where everybody would walk over there because they played baseball in front of the school. Yes, that's where we walked, whether it was snowy

way up to your knees, we were sent to school. And no snowplows for us. I can remember a time when the snowplows—do you remember when there was one man that always did all the sidewalks? He would walk along with his horse and he had a pointed thing. The horse would go first and it was—

R. Terwilliger: Clear the walks?

H. Molineux: The walks.

R. Terwilliger: They could use that today. [laughs]

H. Molineux: They used through town. I can remember that.

R. Terwilliger: We could use that today. People just don't shovel their sidewalks like they used to.

H. Molineux: I thought they had to do the shoveling.

R. Terwilliger: Well, it is a town ordinance. And in fact, this year they had to get after them because you had to walk in the street, you just couldn't walk on plow.

H. Molineux: Isn't there a law that you have to after twenty-four hours? After it stopped snowing, you have twenty-four hours to get it cleared off.

R. Terwilliger: Well, they had to enforce it this year because, I guess, many people, if they were unable to do it themselves, had trouble finding people to do it because we had so much snow.

H. Molineux: Well, I know when my nephew, Tom [Molineux], he used to do a lot of snow shoveling.

R. Terwilliger: Oh yeah, it's good money.

H. Molineux: Sollace's younger one [brother]. And he gets big money for it. He'd come over last year to do mine when he wanted three or four dollars. I said, "Not again!" I said, "I'll get out and do it myself." [laughter] Because he didn't do it for me, he wanted us to save. And I knew there was one lady on Pleasant Place, they had just a short place, and she would give him a good thing and then he thought he could ask everyone.

R. Terwilliger: Right. [laughter]

H. Molineux: That's it. But you don't find the young people doing that.

R. Terwilliger: No, not as much anymore. Everything comes so much easier to them.

H. Molineux: Yeah, on the [unclear].

R. Terwilliger: Yeah, right, yes.

P. Bruno: Did you get a lot of snow in the winter?

H. Molineux: Yes! I think we had a lot more snow. But I think this winter we are paying upwards. But yes, I think we had much more snow. And the boys used to go up, and afternoon, afternoon—all the boys in the high school, they'd go up and pack that toboggan slide down from Daniels Hill [formerly located near present-day Hillside Avenue]. But there's no longer Daniels Hill there. On the top of Daniels Hill in the early days, you could see on a real clear night, you could see lights from New York. But you can't later with so much smoke going on and pollution, you never saw it, could see it.

P. Bruno: And everybody used to go—

H. Molineux: Yes, go up there. And at five o'clock, water it down because from five to eight, it would freeze. It was wonderful. [intercom announcement in background] I was only allowed once or twice up, to go up and just have one or two rides and then take them home. [laughter] The boys would stay longer.

P. Bruno: What about formal parties in Metuchen?

H. Molineux: Well, we had them in a way, more formal party. My mother gave—there was a group of us about twelve or more, and she would insist on having a luncheon or something in the formal way. And then we would—all of them would have parties. Mother would never have a party on her birthday. But they didn't approve of giving gifts, as if you're having a party for gifts, so I never had a party on my birthday. I had it some other time; we would have them.

P. Bruno: And you got to invite about twelve of your friends?

H. Molineux: Yes, yes. Every year I had quite a number of them.

R. Terwilliger: What about clothing and stuff like that? Did your mother sew a great deal?

H. Molineux: Well, she didn't do too much sewing. But she had a woman, a Mrs. Brown, that used come and make that. She'd come in once a week to help her with the mending. And then sometimes we'd make [unclear] dress or something like that.

R. Terwilliger: Or do you remember going shopping someplace for clothing?

H. Molineux: No, not very much.

R. Terwilliger: Not very much. [laughs]

H. Molineux: Well, I did go in once—twice a year I went with my grandmother.

R. Terwilliger: In the city?

H. Molineux: Yes. And this which—her son, who was very well off, I wouldn't say tremendously rich, but he was going set money and tell my grandmother to close the account and really go around then and she'd pick out, get me set-up for sitting. We did that about twice a year, you see, and took care because there weren't any clothes passed down to me at all. So you see that I was very fortunate. That was what

happened between six and ten maybe, and then that kind of dwindled off, but [unclear] got a lot of clothing.

R. Terwilliger: And you went to school then all through Franklin School?

H. Molineux: No, I had one year in the ninth grade. And then they thought that it was a good thing to send me away to boarding school, so I was sent to this school up in St. Margaret's in Waterbury, Connecticut. I was all set to come to St. Mary's here in Burlington, but when the doctor heard of it, he said, "Nothing doing, that's too near the river for her!"

R. Terwilliger: You had asthma then? As a child?

H. Molineux: Yes. And he said, "You've got to get to the mountains, or up higher." So then they picked St. Margaret's up in--

R. Terwilliger: And that was an Episcopal boarding school?

H. Molineux: Yes, it was an Episcopal boarding school.

R. Terwilliger: Now I noticed all through this, this strong religious tie. Were there religious people in your background or was it just--?

H. Molineux: Well, mother was very religious. I mean she was an Episcopalian all her life and she saw that we all went to church and Sunday school. Father was not an Episcopalian and his parents were Presbyterian. And he was brought up by some of his--see my father was born during the Civil War [on July 14, 1862] and my grandmother was only eighteen, you see. And therefore, Grandpa was away in the Civil War. He had three maiden sisters living on the same block [in Brooklyn], so they thought that they knew more how to bring up a boy--or bring up a child--than grandmother did. [chuckles] And so that when she had a second one, she just took care of that one [Roland Molineux, born 1866] and she let him have everything. Then the third one [Cecil Molineux, born 1876] was very much--see, they had three boys--and the third one was very, more or less, stricter. But father was brought up by three [unclear], the aunts or great-aunts.

So mother always went to church [unclear]. And we always had a maid in every--we're fortunate to have a maid. You take them in and pay them board and keep. So it was reasonable. I think that probably Grandpa helped them out on it. And she always saw this woman got to church on Sunday.

R. Terwilliger: Oh really, that's interesting.

H. Molineux: Yes, she always saw that she had a chance to go to early church, and then she'd come home and cook the Sunday dinner and then go off for the rest of the day. And then once in a while, mother would stay home and she would have the whole Sunday off. And she saw they went down to the Catholic church during Lent, and things like that.

R. Terwilliger: Oh, this woman was Catholic, I see. Do you remember her name Harriett?

- H. Molineux:** Tillie Dolan⁶ [phonetic].
- R. Terwilliger: Tillie Dolan [phonetic]. Did she live in our area?
- H. Molineux:** She had relatives living in Metuchen.
- R. Terwilliger: Because there are Dolans.
- H. Molineux:** And then she had a sister that wasn't very bright, and she came to live with her too, upstairs on the third floor. And this is when we were on Carlton Road, yes. And Nana stayed with us a long time.
- R. Terwilliger: [announcement intercom in background] You called her Nana?
- H. Molineux:** Yes, Nana.
- R. Terwilliger: Isn't that interesting? [speaking to interviewer Paula Bruno] Is it [tape recorder] still going? Okay.
- H. Molineux:** And she was—mother saw that she got to church, I think, both of them. So mother was very strict and took us, saw that we went. And father went with us every Sunday though he never would join the church [St. Luke's Episcopal Church].
- R. Terwilliger: Well, he was still presenting the good edge.
- H. Molineux:** He was treasurer of the church at one time; [unclear] with the church.
- R. Terwilliger: And he would never join?
- H. Molineux:** He would never join because he didn't believe in a certain part of the Creed.
- R. Terwilliger: Well, he was honest anyway.
- H. Molineux:** Yes. And even when Mr. [Harold Wall] Dunne came [in 1930], he said he was going to get him. I said, "If you can get him, mother would be happy⁷." [chuckling]
- R. Terwilliger: [speaking to interviewer Paula Bruno] Do you want to check that [tape recorder] to see how much more we have?
- P. Bruno: I think we have about like five more minutes.
- R. Terwilliger: Because when you mentioned before about after your house burned down that they took you to live in the rectory, I mean this was really beautiful.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, but that's the only place they could find that would take in three children.

⁶ The 1920 Census lists her name as Anna Dolan, age 27.

⁷ The parish history, *St. Luke's, 1868-1968* by Paul F. Fenton lists L.E. Molineux as serving on the vestry at some unspecified time between 1900 and 1930.

R. Terwilliger: Now this strong church, being a part of your life, has continued with you all your life. You were always very active.

H. Molineux: Yes, yes. In fact, we were—and her mother taught her that they were very [unclear].

R. Terwilliger: That's really beautiful. How about your brothers?

H. Molineux: Well, they've all, what should I say? No, they haven't all married Episcopalian girls. Because Edward [Leslie Molineux] married a Presbyterian girl, and he's down South and he went right to church and did everything for them [as a member of the congregation], but he couldn't get on their board, like the vestry—he couldn't and he's kept off it. But I thought that they, after my mother passed on, he might change [and become a Presbyterian], but he didn't.

And Walter married Episcopalian, and Paul married a Methodist and changed to Methodist. His wife wanted to join our church, but her family stopped her and said they would always be Methodist. So Paul went over, and somebody said to mother, "Aren't you disappointed?" Mother said, "No, as long as they go to church together. If they go together, then their children will go to church." And so that's what she kept to that. And then John [Bailey Molineux] married a girl that hadn't been confirmed, but was after she was married. And Howard [Otis Molineux], he married a Presbyterian [Margaret Ayers] and went to the Presbyterian Church as long as Mr. Ayers [William Henry, his father-in-law] lived. Then after he passed away [on December 9, 1959], and Margaret had died [on February 18, 1954], he came to Mr. Dunne and said, "How can I go back into the church?" He said, "You haven't left it. You've just been out for long—active list." And he was very active in the church⁸. So that leads ahead, it all comes from my mother's side of the family.

R. Terwilliger: Yes. Well, mothers have a great influence on things like that.

H. Molineux: Well, my family (Molineux) was very strict Presbyterians. So I mean she was faithful, very faithful.

R. Terwilliger: Well, it certainly seems to have built the family strength and unity in your own family.

H. Molineux: Yes. And then Grandmother [Caroline] Bailey was always writing to missionaries up in Alaska. And that's when I was a child [and] thought I want to go be a missionary in Alaska. [laughter] I thought that was the thing to do because she'd get these letters, she'd send—and we would be sending boxes to the same man, the archdeacon up there, and getting interesting letters.

R. Terwilliger: So then this is how, at any rate, that you went off to a girls' boarding school. This was strictly a girls' boarding school?

H. Molineux: Yes, it was strictly girls.

R. Terwilliger: And this was about at—you were?

⁸ Both John and Howard Molineux served on the St. Luke's vestry.

H. Molineux: It was in 1916. Yes, I went there in [19]16 and graduated in 1920.

P. Bruno: Did you like it?

H. Molineux: Yes. The first three months, I hated it. I cried every night, they used to tell me. And the principal used to take me for a walk just to get me tired because I was so homesick. But then I got over it and enjoyed it very much. But I guess it was about three months, she had me on a [unclear].

R. Terwilliger: Are you still friendly with any of the girls you went to school with there? Did you keep up with your [unclear]?

H. Molineux: No, I haven't kept up all. I kept up some, but not lately at all.

R. Terwilliger: And then when you left there—

H. Molineux: Then I came home in 1920 and I wanted to be a trained nurse. And I picked out St. Luke's Hospital in New York, and they don't take you at that time until you're twenty-one. So I had a year to spend and what to do? So I went into Pratt Institute [in Brooklyn] three days a week and took up dressmaking, millinery, and cooking.

R. Terwilliger: Oh my goodness!

P. Bruno: I think I'm going to turn the tape off. [recording ends]

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1]

H. Molineux: Is this [tape] coming back?

R. Terwilliger: No, it's playing on the other side now.

H. Molineux: Oh yeah.

P. Bruno: So for a year you studied at Pratt?

H. Molineux: Yes, went in, commuted in, getting up at seven—taking the seven o'clock train in the morning because that was a long trip way over into Brooklyn.

P. Bruno: Well, you were like a lot of Metuchenites. [laughter] A lot of people commuted to New York.

H. Molineux: Yes, oh yes. It was a regular commuting town, Metuchen was.

P. Bruno: So did you like your courses at Pratt?

H. Molineux: Yes, I enjoyed it. I learned a great deal from it. It was interesting to pass. Then in the fall of [19]21, I went into St. Luke's in September (St. Luke's Hospital⁹ in

⁹ St. Luke's Hospital is now named Mount Sinai Morningside.

New York), but I didn't last too long because that was the first year they started to put you on duty from seven in the morning to seven at night. Your only excuse was to go to classes. Before, they used to keep them for three months of just bookwork, you see, and no regular duties on the wards. And they found half the class broke down and couldn't stand that, so they went back to the old thing after. But my tonsils kicked up and so I had to leave. And I had my tonsils out. And I remember I was sent to California to a cousin for a couple of months doing that with him and that was the end of my nursing career.

P. Bruno: Just to go back a little bit, you told me last time, when you came home from boarding school, you had a coming-out party in Metuchen.

H. Molineux: [car running in background] **Yes, I did have a coming-out party in the Metuchen Club House, which is now the Masonic building [Mt. Zion Lodge No. 135 at 483 Middlesex Avenue].**

P. Bruno: Were your parents' members of the Metuchen Club?

H. Molineux: **I think so. I think they were in the early days.**

P. Bruno: Can you tell me a little bit about your party, what it was like?

H. Molineux: **Well, it was kind of formal. You had to stand and receive everybody. It was a tea dance. And they had a small orchestra from a group of boys at Rutgers College [Rutgers University in New Brunswick]. And there were boys and girls invited and all the older people too.**

P. Bruno: Their parents?

H. Molineux: **Yes. And all mother's and father's friends too. It's like they had a simple repast. My parents, mother especially, picked out—now Lou and Elsie [Litterst] were floaters. So was Almeda (Johnson) Baumann and I think Adele McKenzie. There were quite a number, but mother would have been older, floated around.**

R. Terwilliger: Now was this (the coming-out party)—was this because you came of a certain age?

H. Molineux: **Well, no, mother thought I'd been away four years from home, and I think that she thought that was something that—**

R. Terwilliger: Kind of get you back in circulation?

H. Molineux: **Yes, and especially being an only girl in with so many activities and that light, and it got me that.**

P. Bruno: Was it fashionable for other women in Metuchen to have a coming-out parties?

H. Molineux: **I don't know whether many did or not, but mother insisted. Mother lived in Scarsdale [New York] when she was young girl and she had—**

R. Terwilliger: Certain kind of flair for things.

- H. Molineux:** Yes, and she wanted those things done.
- R. Terwilliger: Right, yes. She sounds like a woman of good taste and manners.
- H. Molineux:** Yeah, she had and she was very active in things. Plus, she was very busy with us children, but she was very active in other things in the town. She was on the [Metuchen] Board of Education for nine years.
- R. Terwilliger: Oh, wonderful.
- H. Molineux:** Yeah, she was the first woman elected to the Board of Education¹⁰ in Metuchen.
- R. Terwilliger: Oh, I thought that was Ruth Mook, but it was your mother.
- H. Molineux:** No, my mother was the first one; it was elected.
- R. Terwilliger: Oh, isn't that interesting? And how was she accepted by all these men at that time? She must have seemed like—
- H. Molineux:** Well, she was appointed for one year, for an unexpired term. And then the next year, she was put in and everybody voted for her but three people. She lost out on three votes. So apparently there were three people that didn't approve of a white woman on her own.
- R. Terwilliger: Well, that was a little bit unusual though for that time.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, in those days it was unusual. You're quite right.
- R. Terwilliger: She must have been very progressive in her thinking there too.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, she was. And very interested in the school because she had so many of us going to school.
- R. Terwilliger: Right, yes. Well, she certainly did a good job in that area too, because all of her sons had very responsible careers.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, and then when my sister died¹¹, they had money put away for her college education. And that money they gave to the school to start—they called it the Caroline Collection. And it was the first library they had in the school for children, for anybody to use.
- R. Terwilliger: Oh, how wonderful!
- H. Molineux:** And they kept that up, and they bought—the teachers decided what they wanted. And Miss Seely [phonetic] was the great one that did that; I mean did most of the picking. But that was the beginning of the school library in town.

¹⁰ According to an article in the *Metuchen Recorder* from April 23, 1942, Susanna Molineux was the first female member of the Board of Education in the State of New Jersey. The article states, "She was first appointed to fill a vacancy and the service she rendered was so satisfactory that she then was elected for a full term of three years and was then re-elected but declined a third term."

¹¹ Caroline Adams Molineux, the eldest Molineux child, was born August 11, 1893 and died September 20, 1904.

R. Terwilliger: That's beautiful.

P. Bruno: Now you also taught Sunday school.

H. Molineux: Oh, yes. I taught Sunday school with Dr. [John F.] Fenton¹². But when Mr. Dunne came [in 1930], he wasn't going to allow me to teach school now. But he did.

P. Bruno: Why wasn't he going to allow you to teach?

H. Molineux: Well, he wasn't going to have a—did you remember Miss [Henrietta] Driggs?

R. Terwilliger: I remember the name.

H. Molineux: Yeah. So she was prim old lady, but she was a dear soul too. And he would say he wasn't going to have any of that in his Sunday school. [chuckling] But when they rationed gas, and the Menlo Park people couldn't come, then he sent me down there to start a Sunday School down there [in Menlo Park] because I was the only one using gas—you know could get the [ration] stamps bought. And so I went down in there, the school down there for eight years, at Sunday school.

R. Terwilliger: Now how old were you at this time?

H. Molineux: Well, that was a little bit later. Yes, that was later.

R. Terwilliger: I think we're skipping ahead.

H. Molineux: Yes, that's right. I think I got it.

R. Terwilliger: You know what I want to ask Harriet about was her father's business. Was that a private business?

H. Molineux: No, it was called the Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Company. And he was superintendent of the coal coming from the mine and left there. And then the orders would come from the agencies in New York so many—how much coal they wanted¹³.

R. Terwilliger: I see. And then he must have had railroad spurs or tracks that ran in there.

H. Molineux: Yes, all tracks.

R. Terwilliger: I think you could see them in these pictures [PHOTOGRAPH 12] that they would run in and—

H. Molineux: Yes, and bring the coal in.

R. Terwilliger: And you said on occasion, he would allow you to come?

¹² Dr. Fenton served as rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church from 1899 to 1930.

¹³ The yard had a capacity of 300,000 tons of anthracite coal.

H. Molineux: Yes. On Saturdays, he took us up there. You see that gave you an idea, these were always filled up.

R. Terwilliger: These are like hoppers?

H. Molineux: Yes, hoppers and then coal.

R. Terwilliger: That drop the coal into the cars. That must have been interesting to see. Where was this located? In South Plainfield?

H. Molineux: In South Plainfield.

R. Terwilliger: Does any of it remain today?

H. Molineux: I don't whether there is any¹⁴.

R. Terwilliger: Would be interesting to try to find out?

H. Molineux: It would be near the railroad station, the main station there.

R. Terwilliger: We'll have to take a look.

H. Molineux: But whether there's anything left there or not—

R. Terwilliger: And how long was he supervisor there?

H. Molineux: Well, he was there until he retired. And I don't know what year he retired. I couldn't tell you.

R. Terwilliger: Well then, most of all of his life as far as you can [unclear].

H. Molineux: Yes, as far as our lives, he was there.

R. Terwilliger: That's interesting, very interesting. And how did he come about to get a job like this?

H. Molineux: I don't know. He was hunting for something, I guess.

R. Terwilliger: And he had had it before you actually moved to Metuchen, right?

H. Molineux: Yes. He got the job before.

R. Terwilliger: Do you think he worked for the railroads up in Mechanicville? What did you say, Mechanicville?

H. Molineux: Mechanicville. No, he ran caboose train from Albany into Niagara. I think it was Niagara.

R. Terwilliger: Well, then he must have heard about this job through the railroad, came down.

H. Molineux: Yeah, and he wanted to go.

¹⁴ The coal yard closed in 1933.

R. Terwilliger: But that's interesting, he did that all his life. Never got any coal dust in his lungs, did he? They always say that—

H. Molineux: No, I don't think he—he did have a [unclear] heart there. I think he had some stroke once. He was quite sick one time.

R. Terwilliger: And did he work five days a week and was he home at five?

H. Molineux: He worked five days and a half because he had a half a day on Saturday, just like the bankers had. Remember in the old days how banks were open half a day on Saturdays? [chuckles] Yes, because Saturdays we used to go out.

R. Terwilliger: And what kind of a man was your father? Was he one that you could get close to?

H. Molineux: No. You never saw an affection. He was kind of cold, and so was mother. I mean they weren't—that's a picture of my father up there. [PHOTOGRAPH 6]

R. Terwilliger: Oh, that's a handsome picture.

H. Molineux: And when he—he did go into the [military] service during the First World War. But he wanted to go over [to Europe], and they wouldn't let him go because he had such a big family, I guess, but he was too old in a way. But lots of time, he was struggling with his hat on and he was taken for General Pershing¹⁵.

R. Terwilliger: He does, yes! You could see that resemblance.

H. Molineux: Many times, he was taken as General Pershing.

R. Terwilliger: Yeah. But then your mother and dad, neither one was openly affectionate people?

H. Molineux: No, no, openly [unclear]. We never saw any of that. And I think that's why I am probably cold.

R. Terwilliger: Oh, you're not cold. Don't say that.

H. Molineux: Well, all right. All these [unclear] I was so affectionate.

R. Terwilliger: Well, it's just not a part of you.

H. Molineux: No, it's not my make-up.

R. Terwilliger: Right, I mean if you are brought up that way, that's one thing. But you're certainly not impersonal. You might be a little reserved, I would say.

H. Molineux: Yes, yes.

R. Terwilliger: But you certainly always gave very much of your personal self in things you did, Harriet.

¹⁵ General John Joseph Pershing was most famous for serving as the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) on the Western Front during World War I from 1917 to 1918.

- H. Molineux:** Yes, I did things, when I did things like my—I'm more, in many ways, like my father. He would do a lot of things and people wouldn't know he's done it. They caught up on him anyway rather than—the church owed, and he'd go down and pay the tax bill, and say send the receipt up there to the church, and things like that. And he knew what should be done. And I am apt to do things and I don't want it [others] to know that I'm doing them.
- R. Terwilliger: Right, in just your own quiet little way.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, I do. When I know they're short certain things and I have a little extra, I'll give it. Say nothing to [unclear].
- R. Terwilliger: That sounds like you. I think one of the one things I can say, with the time I spent with you in scouting, is fairness and honesty meant so very much to you.
- H. Molineux:** Well, father brought us up that way. I got more spankings than anybody in the family.
- R. Terwilliger: I guess so! [laughs]
- H. Molineux:** Because my brother Paul got me into more—telling me to "do this, do that," and then I get caught and I'd get the spanking. [laughter] I really did.
- R. Terwilliger: You must have learned to do things in a quiet way.
- H. Molineux:** Well, that's the way I—
- R. Terwilliger: Was your mother the kind of woman you could sit and talk to?
- H. Molineux:** No, not very much.
- R. Terwilliger: That's interesting.
- H. Molineux:** I think they loved me just as much as the others, but outwardly it seemed the boys were getting more attention, which is natural with all boys.
- R. Terwilliger: Well, I think we all think of our boys, they have to be the head of families. You know they have to learn this kind of responsibility. So maybe it is we put a little more effort into our boys than our girls.
- H. Molineux:** Well, that maybe it.
- R. Terwilliger: But you know Grace Halsey¹⁶, when I interviewed her, I asked her about her—I think her father died very young.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, I think so, yes, yes.
- R. Terwilliger: See, she lived with her mother and aunts. And she said there was the same thing about, there was never any of this open affection. And she said even in the evening, they

¹⁶ Grace Halsey was the long-time head librarian at the Metuchen Public Library from 1946 to 1969.

would kind of go their separate ways and read or do hand work. She said there was none of this “we've got to talk now” kind of feeling. I mean this was that time.

H. Molineux: **Yes. I think a lot of it was at the time.**

R. Terwilliger: Yeah. Well, what's next?

H. Molineux: **She asked me about church work, didn't you?**

P. Bruno: Yes.

H. Molineux: **Well, before I taught Sunday school, as a child, we went to Junior Auxiliary.**

P. Bruno: In the Episcopal Church?

H. Molineux: **Yes, every Monday, boys and girls. And then Ms. Elsie Litterst had charge of a group of boys there. And we would learn something about the mission and we'd make something, and it would be sewing or doing something for missionary work. And that Miss Driggs did beautifully, and she worked on that and got all the latest news on any—now, I think Alaska being—we were studying Alaska one year and she got everything out on Alaska. And then she was pleased to know that we got letters from the archdeacon because we sent boxes to, you know.**

R. Terwilliger: What kind of things did you make and send?

H. Molineux: **Well, the one thing I can remember that we made—it was a cap. It's a cloth one, and it went peaking up here but there, and then with blankets stitched all the way around it, and put a pompom on the back and making those poms, and tie it and send nice warm caps for kids.**

R. Terwilliger: Oh, that's wonderful.

H. Molineux: **I mean we were—[coughing] Miss Driggs would have everything laid out and all prepared, and anybody that does that, it'd take a lot of time to do that.**

P. Bruno: How old were you at this time?

H. Molineux: **That was before I went to boarding school, we had the Junior Auxiliary.**

P. Bruno: So early teens?

H. Molineux: **Yes, and then when I came back from nursing, I took it over and I ran Junior Auxiliary with Mrs. [Mabel] Tucker. I think she's still alive. Somebody said she's—that's Hansen—oh, what is that? They lived on [14] Home Street. No, on Bounty [Street]?**

R. Terwilliger: Jonesdale [Avenue]?

H. Molineux: **No. Home Street.**

R. Terwilliger: She lived on Home Street?

H. Molineux: Yes.

P. Bruno: And is it Hansen?

H. Molineux: Hansen. Now near Amboy Avenue, as you go down from Grace Halsey [at 64 Home Street] on the same side, Ernie Hansen [Ernest Hansen].

P. Bruno: Ernie Hansen. Oh sure, yeah.

H. Molineux: Yes. Mrs. Tucker, her mother. She must be, I imagine, in her nineties now. But she used to help me with Junior Auxiliary with some of the [unclear] we had. That's where the old, old Parish House, the real old-fashioned one¹⁷.

R. Terwilliger: Yeah, I remember it, with the stucco sides. It was kind of English influence.

H. Molineux: Yes, and those windows. Those glass windows.

R. Terwilliger: [announcement intercom in the background] Right, they were beautiful. They really were. Was there ever any kind of work or career you went into, Harriet?

H. Molineux: No. I tried to be a nurse and that fell through. Then I was home for—it was in the—you got here late 1930. It was about [19]32 that I decided I wanted to be a Sister (Sisterhood). I went to a conference in Boston [Massachusetts], to a church conference at Wellesley—I say Boston, but really at Wellesley—a ten-day conference. And I took up subject and met a Sister then. Of course, I was young and all of that. And so it was in about 1933 that I went into the St. Margaret's Convent in Boston. I thought I was going to become a Sister. I was there four years and they didn't think I was strong enough for it. And then I came home then. So I never make any promises or anything. Well, I said three times, "I tried this out, I'm not going out for the third time now." [laughter] So that I was terribly disappointed.

R. Terwilliger: Of course, I can imagine after training for four years.

H. Molineux: Yes, and mother thought that was terrible, so that in the early thirties to have you out of circulation, so to speak, for about four years.

R. Terwilliger: Yes. That was just too late almost to start any other kind of serious commitment.

H. Molineux: Yes, and then I couldn't do it. I could never understand it.

R. Terwilliger: You sort of devoted your life to public service.

H. Molineux: Yes, and I tried to for the church too. And then when I came home, they got me into going into [Girl] Scouts. That's when I, about [19]35, around there, [19]34, [19]35, then I worked for Girl Scouts.

R. Terwilliger: And you really did like that.

¹⁷ The Old Parish House for the St. Luke's Episcopal Church was built in the 1890s and was remodeled in the 1920s. The building, located along Middlesex Avenue, was razed in 1967.

H. Molineux: They took me right away. I think somebody thought this and I thought this would be good for me. Helen Dana was one, and Mrs. Mook, she was head of the [Girl Scout] Council of Metuchen if I remember too.

R. Terwilliger: This is Ruth Mook you're talking about now?

H. Molineux: Yes. Ruth Mook, yes. Yes, and gradually I got into different things like I was treasurer of the Red Cross.

R. Terwilliger: I remember you at the Red Cross and the station wagon driving around.

H. Molineux: Yes, the station wagon around.

R. Terwilliger: That was the old wooden station wagon.

H. Molineux: Yes, that's the old wooden one. And then I was a volunteer driver over to [Camp] Kilmer back and forth to take the Gray Ladies¹⁸.

R. Terwilliger: Yeah, to roll the bandages and the rest of it.

H. Molineux: And the bandages and Mrs. Edgar. Remember her? Not Charles Edgar but Mrs. Dolph [phonetic]; it was the one that lived out in Pumptown. Yeah, that Mrs. Edgar was the head of the sewing room, and doing all the cutting there, she and her friend that lived with her.

R. Terwilliger: Well, most of these women were all older than you though, weren't they?

H. Molineux: Yes. They were older.

R. Terwilliger: Oh yes, because I can vaguely remember you as a young girl, in that station wagon, especially. Little Perky Harriet here, always bubbling around! Well, wasn't Dolly [Helen Cordelia (Prickitt) Buchanan] then probably a contemporary of yours because she was very active?

H. Molineux: Yes, Dolly, yes. Yes, she was very active too.

R. Terwilliger: Yeah. Well, you two must have had a good time for yourselves doing that. Interesting years, those war years. Do you remember the blackouts we had in Metuchen?

H. Molineux: Yes. Oh, I remember those. My father had even a hose up in the attic that he could turn on if anything started on fire, but we had a slate roof. But he had everything up there, so if anything, we could turn on the water and spray the house down.

R. Terwilliger: Yeah. Well, we actually had air raid wardens. Remember?

H. Molineux: I remember that, yes.

¹⁸ The Gray Ladies were American Red Cross volunteers who worked in the hospitals, other health-care facilities, and private homes during World War I and World War II.

- R. Terwilliger: Because Mr. Ten Eyck (Russell Ten Eyck) was our air raid warden.
- H. Molineux: Oh, yes. Yes, father was very active in the Red Cross and all and that.**
- R. Terwilliger: The Civil Patrol.
- H. Molineux: Because when he retired, that's when he did—they all knew him downtown. He walked so fast, he did everything by walking and he was [unclear].**
- R. Terwilliger: Did you have a family car?
- H. Molineux: Yes. Yes, he eventually did get a car. [announcement intercom in the background] And it was one of these with a rumble seat in the back; our first car had a rumble seat. And Howard had to be signed up. Every weekend it was signed up with one of the boys, "I want it this weekend." And my father—**
- R. Terwilliger: How about your father as far as local politics go? Metuchen was a very strong Republican town.
- H. Molineux: Well, my father was a Prohibitionist.**
- R. Terwilliger: Was he really? [laughs]
- H. Molineux: Did you know that?**
- R. Terwilliger: No!
- H. Molineux: Yes, he was a Prohibitionist; he and Dr. [James Gilbert] Mason¹⁹. Dr. Mason ran for the President of the United States [nominated in 1913] and father ran for the Governor of New Jersey [in 1934].**
- R. Terwilliger: I didn't know that.
- H. Molineux: That's when I was in the convent, that happened that my mother said that's the only time she wanted to leave him. [laughter] She was a good Republican.**
- R. Terwilliger: Yeah, I guess that would be quite upsetting.
- H. Molineux: My father was a strict Prohibitionist.**
- R. Terwilliger: Isn't that interesting? Always all his life, or was there something he—?
- H. Molineux: Well, I think he saw it in some of his family. And that hurt him, you know, the bottle.**
- R. Terwilliger: Yeah, right. He saw the drinking, you mean?
- H. Molineux: Yes, the drinking.**

¹⁹ Dr. James Gilbert Mason was the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen from 1877 to 1925.

R. Terwilliger: So he was a very temperate man, is that what they call him? How about in your own home? Now, he would never come in with spirits.

H. Molineux: No, any drink at all. And when mother was supposed to have certain ale the doctor ordered, he went to Mr. Smith next door because his friend, the father, had this friend, made lots of money in the First War from running in booze into the country. And he went and he dropped bottles and, "Just get me half a case for." He brought out the chest of ale, a whole case for mother.

R. Terwilliger: You must have tasted it then too.

H. Molineux: Well, I never liked the smell of it. It was enough to make me sick. But anyway, mother had her ale.

R. Terwilliger: Well, quite often doctors did prescribe—?

H. Molineux: Yes, prescribed that, especially to women that had big families and run down.

R. Terwilliger: Right, yeah, I can remember Dr. King telling me that I should have a glass of wine before dinner because I tended to be anemic, and he said it would build my appetite and help build the red blood cells. And that was really the first time I ever had any kind of spirit like that. But it was good, I enjoyed it. [laughs]

H. Molineux: And mother was used to it. Her father always had a glass of wine before dinner. So she was very used to having that. And so that she wasn't as strict at that. But she never had it in for us. She wouldn't bring it in. I think since they both have died, I've drank more. Of course, when I got sick, they took it away from me absolutely. And when I had this crowd for Easter, we had sherry [wine]. They served sherry before Easter and New Year's and Christmas, and when it came, he said, "You have your sherry, I came here late," and you know it was [unclear] and I said, "No." And you start [unclear], "You can't have any." And he was very strict when I first came down here, he wouldn't allow me to have any.

R. Terwilliger: Well, I'm sure it was for your own well-being.

H. Molineux: Yes. It was for my good. And I wasn't going to take it anyway, but I wanted it. But he was very—

R. Terwilliger: That's interesting. Your father was a Prohibitionist. Well, did he actively belong to a group of others?

H. Molineux: I don't know that. There wasn't much of a group in Metuchen, but he did.

R. Terwilliger: But then he never involved himself in local politics, of course?

H. Molineux: No, no.

R. Terwilliger: And he wasn't interested really at all?

H. Molineux: Well, I think partway he was. He was on the Board of Education before mother was for just one term.

R. Terwilliger: [car running in background] It sounds like your family was then very oriented toward education.

H. Molineux: Yes. Well, there was a Mr. and Mrs. Ames [phonetic] that lived in Metuchen quite a while, they lived next door to us. And they had Sunday papers and we weren't supposed to go over and look at those Sunday papers. [unclear] we would sneak over, Mr. Ames [phonetic] had a—

R. Terwilliger: They were that strict?

H. Molineux: Yes. We didn't have newspapers.

R. Terwilliger: And was it the thing like you couldn't do any work on Sunday?

H. Molineux: No. We weren't supposed to do any work, do anything. Most of the dinner was prepared, laid out what to do the day before.

R. Terwilliger: [speaking to interviewer Paula Bruno] How's our tape doing?

P. Bruno: It's doing fine.

R. Terwilliger: Do we have a little left yet?

P. Bruno: Just a teeny bit, but—

R. Terwilliger: Okay. Well, let's just put in one and we'll wind this up because we have been making her talk for an hour. She must be getting worn out.

H. Molineux: No, I'm not getting—I'm getting it. [recording ends]

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2]

R. Terwilliger: You tell us when. You think it's [unclear] to start now?

Well, let's see, where did we end up? Even though your time to be a Sister didn't seem to work out, as I said before, your life has been a life of service to people, as long as I can remember.

H. Molineux: Well, as I think about it.

R. Terwilliger: Yes, it has. And so that must have been your calling in life.

H. Molineux: Yes, because every time when my brothers had a child, I'd say, "Well, I'll come and stay two weeks for you. That's my gift to the baby." You know all three weeks that they—when I went, when they were in the hospital and I stayed two weeks after, most of them took me up on it.

R. Terwilliger: Oh, I'm sure so. As a mother myself, I can understand why that would be the greatest gift you could give.

H. Molineux: Well, at that time, it was the only financially thing I could do for them.

R. Terwilliger: Right, yes. And then you stayed on and lived in your homestead.

H. Molineux: Yes, I lived there with my parents. My father died in [19]48—no, my mother died in [19]48²⁰ and my father in [19]43²¹. It was about five years that mother and I were alone there. Then I stayed in that house [at 31 Carlton Road] and made it two families, which is now still a two-family house. Well, did all kinds of things in town and try to keep my soul and body together, I mean.

R. Terwilliger: You were always scooting around.

H. Molineux: Yes, but everything went into the house, you see. I rented the [first floor] apartment, so I had someone there with me.

P. Bruno: And you're still active today in the church cooperative society?

H. Molineux: No. It is not church; it's the Evergreens Cooperative Society. So that's why I knew a lot about the [nursing] home here. I would come down three or four times a year to the co-op for meetings and was very active in pushing the work here—to get different churches to devote [unclear].

R. Terwilliger: Now can I ask you, without appearing to be too personal, you'd certainly say you've had a good life and one that you are satisfied with. If you had to do over, we could all say what changes we'd make.

H. Molineux: Yes, but we probably never would make the changes.

R. Terwilliger: Anyway, right.

H. Molineux: The only [thing that] dissatisfies me is that when you have the desire to do something, and then you don't get the—like going into nursing and going into the Sisterhood—then why is it you have the desire to do it, but God hasn't given you the strength in what to do it? You just have to accept it; you have to expect it.

R. Terwilliger: Well, your health always was a handicap too.

H. Molineux: Yes, that's it.

R. Terwilliger: But I mean, I think and I know a person of your faith that He had other things in mind for you. You know these other things might have brought you much more personal satisfaction, but where you gave of yourself was a help to people who really needed help.

H. Molineux: Well, there's a lot to that too.

²⁰ Susanna Molineux died on October 20, 1948.

²¹ Leslie Edward Molineux died on September 6, 1943.

- R. Terwilliger: And I think that everyone who knows you, and if you say you remember Harriet Molineux, it's always with this feeling of a great dedication to public service.
- H. Molineux: Yes, and I would roam down on Main Street by so many people. I'd go into Seldow's [Stationary Store at 410 Main Street], and they'd say "Hello, Harriet." And then I came out and whether or not [unclear] would say, "Do you let them call you Harriet?" I said, "What's the difference?"**
- R. Terwilliger: Well, you see, I call you Harriet. It's not out of disrespect.
- H. Molineux: No, it isn't. But they thought it was terrible that I let Mr. [Herbert] Seldow and they told me [unclear].**
- R. Terwilliger: Well, we called you Harriett when I was a Girl Scout. You don't want us calling you Miss Molineux! [laughs]
- H. Molineux: No, when I went to Girl Scouts, you know I was a daycare chairman for two years. I did the cooking, talking outside cooking. So the girls wanted to know what they call me. I said, "Well, why not call me Cookie." [laughter] And even five or ten years later, a car would go through, and I would be walking and, "Hey, Cookie!" [laughter] It was one of the boys calling me Cookie. So you know that gives you a little satisfaction to know that somebody remembered you as Cookie.**
- R. Terwilliger: Well, I think more than ever even thinking of you as a person much older than myself, you were a contemporary. I mean you were always so young at heart that I think this—you told us, "I don't want to be called Miss Molineux. Call me Harriet." And I think you were known in town as Harriet Molineux.
- H. Molineux: And it's right down here from the very beginning. See, they kind of knew me as Harriet. And he called me Harriet, so everybody calls me Harriet. And sometimes the waitresses slip up on it and say, "Not Miss Molineux." I have to look twice when they say it, but you know. [laughs]**
- R. Terwilliger: Well, do you think that—I mean you did overcome a lot of handicaps in your life, especially with your asthma and that was a terrible condition to have to live with. Do you think you are a very strong-willed person?
- H. Molineux: Some people say I am strong-willed, walk my own way, but I don't know. [chuckles] But I do think that if my sister [Caroline] lived, it would have been a different kind of life. I have a feeling there would have been.**
- R. Terwilliger: That you could have shared something in a more feminine way with her.
- H. Molineux: Yes, with her, and that it would be a different kind. She was very popular, I am told by everybody, by her classmates in school.**
- R. Terwilliger: And now you're happy here?
- H. Molineux: Yes, I'm happy here.**
- R. Terwilliger: Very comfortable, and your family keeps in touch?

H. Molineux: Well, John did. When I came down here, he always came to see me about every five weeks²². But I don't see anybody up in Metuchen. Father [Edmund Walton] Zolley [Jr.] comes down, he's been very [unclear]. When I was here, he always come down at least three times a year to see me. At Christmastime, at Easter time, and then at my birthday time, they would come down and see me and take me out.

R. Terwilliger: He and his wife?

H. Molineux: Sometimes his wife came.

R. Terwilliger: Milbrey?

H. Molineux: Yes, Milbrey, and the children came down sometimes. He stopped in yesterday to see—he had to bring the little girl down to the orthodontist here. I think his brother is in that business, the dentist. And so anyways [unclear] and they stopped here.

R. Terwilliger: Oh, that was very thoughtful.

H. Molineux: And said hello to the girls because they had to go to Haddonfield. So he does. Of course, we don't see quite as much; oh, the first year I did, he was here. He and Father [unclear] was here about every ten days for a while. But he was coming down to get his father and his mother here, you see, and her parents. But his father was killed in an accident, his mother [unclear], he had a heart attack driving the car. But his mother and Milbrey's father married.

R. Terwilliger: Oh, I didn't know that. How interesting!

H. Molineux: Yes, they married. They were married in St. Luke's. And as he said to me, "My children didn't get anything. But all the other cousins got either a new grandmother or a new grandfather. But my children didn't get anything new." [laughter] Yes, his children were [unclear].

R. Terwilliger: Oh, yes, they're very nice children. I'm quite friendly with Milbrey because she teaches at the high school. And I too have always had an interest in education, and Milbrey and I compare notes. And I never knew that she was from the South. She has no Southern accent and she's from Georgia!

H. Molineux: I did not realize that.

R. Terwilliger: Isn't that interesting?

H. Molineux: Yes, that is, yes.

R. Terwilliger: Because there's not a trace of Southern accent in her.

H. Molineux: No, you're right.

²² John Bailey Molineux died on July 6, 1974.

- R. Terwilliger: And I interviewed—do you remember the Letsingers? The black family in town? Perry Letsinger?
- H. Molineux: Oh, yes! Yes, yes.**
- R. Terwilliger: Just a lovely gentleman. Well, we did a tape with him on—what day did we call the day when we celebrate—?
- P. Bruno: It was part of a Brotherhood
- R. Terwilliger: Brotherhood Week. I played the tape and showed some slides to this group of people and Milbrey was there. And Mr. Letsinger was born and raised in the town where she lived down South. So they just had a wonderful time getting together and talking about the area. And she said he knew people that she had forgotten about and it was like *Roots* all over again.
- H. Molineux: Yes, yes; that's it.**
- R. Terwilliger: She had a really great time with him, yeah. And then of course, through Kathy's wedding at the church, we became very friendly. And my Kathy is an Episcopalian now. She joined there up in Hackettstown in their church.
- H. Molineux: Yes. Then she goes to St.—what's the church up in—the little church up there?**
- R. Terwilliger: Yeah, I can't remember the name of it, but she's very fond of it.
- H. Molineux: Mrs. Shoe [phonetic] is a [unclear] St. Luke's when they moved up there. When he was dying, she stayed there. And she is very active in the church and all to give.**
- R. Terwilliger: I'll have to tell Kathy.
- H. Molineux: Yes, tell her that she speak to her because she was—**
- R. Terwilliger: Because Randy just recently at one of their programs they had, he went in and spoke to them about preparing for old age and some of the legal aids that are available. And he said it was just the loveliest group of older women, and she was probably part of it.
- H. Molineux: Yes, she was probably because she has, since her husband's dead, nobody thought she would stay there. She's got this big house. But she's staying there and very active in the church.**
- R. Terwilliger: Well, the church must be very nice.
- H. Molineux: I may get up there. She wrote me a letter. She's done it twice and said that she hopes to have me up, but they don't say, "Can you come now or make a date?"**
- R. Terwilliger: Next week or something like that, yeah. Well, you don't drive anymore, do you?
- H. Molineux: No, I don't drive, but I would have to get transportation. I know Father Zellely would come down and get me and take me up there.**

- R. Terwilliger: That would be lovely. Make sure you go over a weekend so I can tell Kathy. She can look for you in church then.
- H. Molineux:** **Yes, yes. I've been up there once. The last time she was doing [unclear]. Oh yes, I did go for three days. He came down, Father, to take me up to see Mrs. [Myrtle] Fryer, we went and got Mrs. Shoe [phonetic], and then we drove up to Bethlehem [Pennsylvania]. We were supposed to be there at a certain time, but I only [unclear]. You can always plan to be an hour later. [laughter] We did that, and we got there, and then he took me back there and I stayed two nights with her. And then she brought me back, but then she wants me to come again. I hope she'll like me.**
- R. Terwilliger: Yeah. Well, we'll have to hope she does too. That would be very nice.
- H. Molineux:** **Yes, because I like her.**
- R. Terwilliger: Do you get lonely, Harriet?
- H. Molineux:** **At times I get kind of lonely. But the nicest thing here is that if you want to be by yourself, you can come in your own room and close the door, and you have your own. If you want company, you can go out and find someone.**
- R. Terwilliger: Yeah. Well, that seems like a good balance anyway.
- H. Molineux:** **Yes, it does.**
- P. Bruno: It seems like a very active place to be though.
- H. Molineux:** **Oh, yes, very active.**
- P. Bruno: This being the second time that I'm here, a lot is going on.
- H. Molineux:** **Yes, it's a hospital. Now, today, the church, Christ [Episcopal] Church in Riverton, not far from here, is having a fashion show and a card party, I think, or something of that sort. And I was invited with a group to go for lunch at someone's house and then go on to the party, but I said no, that I expected two people down [unclear] and I understand this is family. The bishop and his wife live here on the ground, and she's taking a party of three or four over to it. So I mean, people do take us. And then another thing, the Presbyterian church down at the corner here, they always had us down for one of their concerts on a Sunday afternoon.**
- P. Bruno: Oh, how nice!
- R. Terwilliger: That's a beautiful church.
- H. Molineux:** **Yes, and then they have some kind of—it's about seven o'clock concert and then they have a song and some coffee and cake. And they get their drivers to come and get us and take us down and bring us back. I mean other churches do things.**

P. Bruno: That's very nice.

R. Terwilliger: Yeah, it is lovely.

P. Bruno: Moorestown seems to be a nice area too.

H. Molineux: Yeah, I think it is. You know this is a town where you can't buy any liquor.

R. Terwilliger: Is that right?

H. Molineux: You can't buy any liquor here or in Haddonfield.

R. Terwilliger: I didn't know that.

H. Molineux: They're two places that you can't do it.

R. Terwilliger: Is that a town ordinance?

H. Molineux: Yes. I think it is.

R. Terwilliger: My goodness, that's almost unheard of.

P. Bruno: Just driving down Main Street, it seems very quaint.

H. Molineux: Yes, and they're trying to get it back to the--there's one new building down there on that side, you would know it was just put up. It's just made with the--it's set in and back.

P. Bruno: It's very colonial looking, yeah.

R. Terwilliger: Well, I think you have done very well for yourself. And this is a lovely place. I'll have to get the word out that more people should come down to visit you and see how nice it is.

H. Molineux: [coughs] Well, it is nice. We're always [unclear] show people off, because I think this is unusual. And I have been told by this dietician that we're the best in health.

R. Terwilliger: Well, you all certainly look it.

H. Molineux: And you know another thing is that there were twenty-five homes throughout the whole United States as model homes, we were one of the first ones. And the first year we write about that, that summer, we had two or three parties from Washington and all would come in and wanted to see it, to be rather here [unclear] home. They had heard about--imagine they were people that ran homes and wanted to see what--

P. Bruno: Well, it's easy to understand why this would be one of the best in the country.

- H. Molineux:** Yes, I think so and I understood that in some of the homes, they even—people when they finished their dinner (a paper bag with a sandwich or something) and that's their supper, but we don't.
- R. Terwilliger: Harriet, I just happened to think, did you have a place at the shore?
- H. Molineux:** We did, yes. I had it. I sold it to my nephew [Ross Molineux]. And he has held it for five or six years, he sold it to [unclear] lump sum.
- R. Terwilliger: And where is it again?
- H. Molineux:** In Normandy Beach.
- R. Terwilliger: Normandy Beach, yes.
- H. Molineux:** Near, down in Seaside, but this side, in [unclear]. Yes, I had a home there.
- R. Terwilliger: Yes, Lavallette area too. Well, I thought I remembered that and I meant to ask you while we were doing the tape. We are going to wind this up now. Do you have anything else you'd like to say to close it off?
- H. Molineux:** Well, I don't know. Is there any more you want to know? Have you got enough of the old Metuchen?
- P. Bruno: I think so. Can you think of anything that stands out maybe in your childhood that you know?
- H. Molineux:** Well, I think of my childhood that we had to think up games and things of ourselves. I did tell you about the ice cream pint. And we did things like that, we didn't—
- P. Bruno: I think it was a more creative time.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, than they all have now. I think young people get things.
- R. Terwilliger: Did you have chores? Did you all have chores?
- H. Molineux:** Oh, yes. We had chores to do in the house! Each boy had something to do. If father was away, find they had to take care of the furnace and you know.
- R. Terwilliger: How about you? Did you have feminine or masculine chores?
- H. Molineux:** Oh, feminine. [laughter] And then, what always griped me, during Lent we always get money for our mite box. And mother would find jobs for us. And I was allowed to do the inside of the windows and they did the outside. I got three cents a window, they got four cents. [laughter] I mean they always got something more than I did.
- R. Terwilliger: You were discriminated against for a long time!

- H. Molineux:** No, but it was so sad! But it was just when you're a child—of course, all this money had to go in our mite box (Lenten mite box).
- R. Terwilliger: This was your devotion or offering rather.
- H. Molineux:** Yes, yes. And I can remember all during Lent, not a bit of candy was in the house. But all the money mother would have spent for candy, was set aside and divided into mite boxes. That's the true way of doing it, otherwise—I mean my family, my mother said, "Well, to get enough candy, then we'll put the money aside for it."
- R. Terwilliger: Right. It wasn't just the giving up candy.
- H. Molineux:** No, it was just that you made your sacrifice. And you were allowed about once a week, my older brother would make fudge and you know a pan of fudge didn't last long with nine people there. We got two pieces. And another thing, when we were children, until everyone could [unclear], we had one prayer, an evening prayer, every night up in mother's bedroom, her bedroom. And there would be a reading of the Bible in the New Testament, I think, in the morning or the Old [Testament] as well as the others. And then if you were real good, then we all had to kneel down and say the Lord's Prayer together. And if we're real good, father would have these little—no bigger than that [gesturing to size]—round peppermints, small as they could be. And he would smash it, and it was just a little tiny piece to everybody. [laughter] I mean even in the summer, we went to the shore, he had to go through the—we had that. See, we had that ritual engounded as a child. And that's all from my mother. That's my mother!
- R. Terwilliger: Well, I've seen Bible-belting Baptists that lived like this, but I really and truly never heard of—or never thought that [of] Episcopalians. And even as a Catholic, now we said grace before meals at night.
- H. Molineux:** Oh, we did too.
- R. Terwilliger: And then, of course, you were expected to either do stations or go to some of the special Lenten services.
- H. Molineux:** Oh yes. We had to go to the children's Lenten service Dr. Fenton had every Friday afternoon.
- R. Terwilliger: And we always had an Advent wreath before Christmas.
- H. Molineux:** No, we never had an Advent wreath. That's something I've come into within the last fifteen years when we bought them.
- R. Terwilliger: Well, my mother always did. And she was not a Catholic; she changed for my father. And she was a Presbyterian too, but we never formally said prayer morning and evening.
- H. Molineux:** Well, we had that as a child. I remember that, so it was good for him before we were allowed to go out and play in the evening.
- R. Terwilliger: You had to do it before you went out to play.

H. Molineux: Yes, in the evening.

R. Terwilliger: And everyone came, no one was ever—? How did you ever get that gang together?

H. Molineux: Well, it was something that was done right after supper.

R. Terwilliger: And were you responsible for cleaning up?

H. Molineux: Cleaning up? No, we did happen to have help that you paid fifteen dollars a month at that time, just staying in.

R. Terwilliger: Oh my goodness! I can work that in a day!

H. Molineux: I know you do. I think my grandmother did.

R. Terwilliger: Of course, that in comparison to the cost to everything else was probably a very worthy range.

H. Molineux: Yeah. Mother always said she was fortunate. While we were young, she was able to have a maid in the house that did general. Then if you had, near high school, you got someone else in to help. But she was very thankful. And then another thing I should have mentioned, we had beautiful Thanksgiving dinners because the family when we had twenty-three, twenty-seven for dinner, the uncles and aunts in New York would come out. And we had a dash and dinner with two turkeys, one at either end of the table, carved and everything, even the fried oysters and creamed onions. You know all those extras that children don't like.

R. Terwilliger: Did your mom have help days before Thanksgiving preparing for this?

H. Molineux: Yes, she had these two women: Mrs. Ida White and then Mrs. Mulligan came with her to cook. [announcement intercom in background] And she had them the day before and the day of. And the Drakes that lived next door, they were all the way Thanksgiving with one turkey, which cooked over there and there, yeah. [laughter] But we had, excuse me, we had wonderful Thanksgivings. Then Christmas was very quiet.

R. Terwilliger: Oh really?

H. Molineux: Yes, it was very quiet. Well, until after the boys got married. It was very quiet.

R. Terwilliger: Did you have a tree?

H. Molineux: Yes, we had a tree; it had the trimmings. And oh, as kids, we weren't allowed downstairs until father went down and lit the candles and then the doors were opened. We were sitting on the staircase, all of us waiting.

R. Terwilliger: Uh-huh. And were there presents exchanged?

H. Molineux: Oh, yes! There are presents from aunts and uncles. You know there was lot of that when we were real small.

- R. Terwilliger: Of course, you had to remember it was Christ's birthday too.
- H. Molineux: Yes. Oh, yes, we had to go to church. We weren't allowed to just stay home. Even if it was a weekday, we went to church.**
- R. Terwilliger: Well, that really sounds like you had a very strong bringing up as far as your religion and family unity.
- H. Molineux: Yes, we did.**
- R. Terwilliger: And you always remained a close family, all of them?
- H. Molineux: Yes, we have.**
- R. Terwilliger: Well, that's a beautiful story.
- H. Molineux: Yes, it's a wonderful thing to think about.**
- R. Terwilliger: And your mother and father must have been extremely strong people.
- H. Molineux: I think mother was very strong in those days. And so was father. They were.**
- R. Terwilliger: And they got on well together, supported one another.
- H. Molineux: Yeah, they got along. You never heard them scrap or anything. Once in a while, father would go downstairs and he'd be hit in the head. There was one pipe that could blow. They didn't hear it or something, you know he'd hit his head right there. [laughter] You know something like that where he—and the boys had to help with the screens up and everything like that, and wash the front porch.**
- R. Terwilliger: It's a great story. It really is, Harriet.
- H. Molineux: It was a very nice, happy home.**
- R. Terwilliger: That's wonderful. Well, it certainly shows in you.
- H. Molineux: Well, thank you.**
- R. Terwilliger: And I think we'll end it on that note, okay. That's beautiful.
- P. Bruno: Thank you very much.
- H. Molineux: Okay, I hope it—**
- R. Terwilliger: Oh, it's fine ... [recording ends]

[END OF INTERVIEW]

ADDENDUM

The original draft of this transcription was transcribed by Harriet Molineux's nephew, William A. Molineux in January 2008. His transcription included the enclosed family history:

Susanna Molineux was instrumental in founding the Women's Auxiliary at St. Luke's and was its first president from 1914 to 1919. In addition to serving on the Metuchen Board of Education from 1914 to 1924, she was a trustee of the Metuchen Public Library from 1929 to 1936, and a member of the Quiet Hour Club from 1895 to 1948, and at one time served as president.

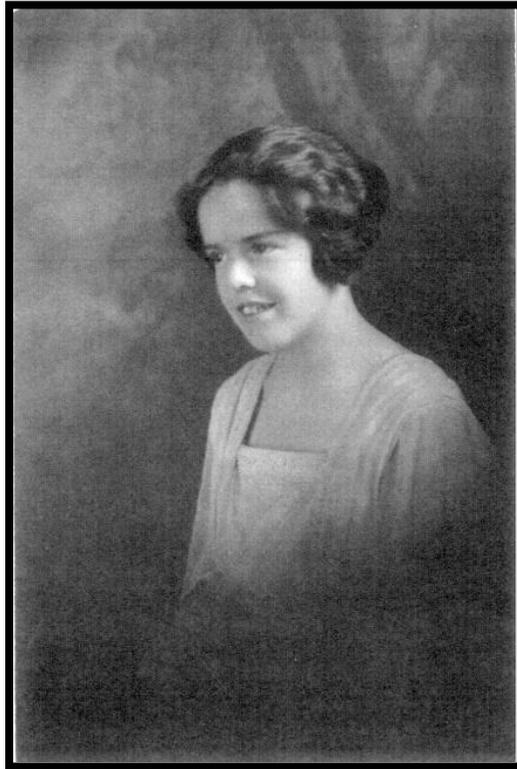
Leslie Edward Molineux was privately educated and attended Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. After working as an office boy and clerk in New York, he was employed by the West Shore Rail Road Company and the Adirondack Railway Company. He went to work for the Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Company in 1891. As a young man, he served five years in the New York National Guard, rising to the rank of captain. In 1917, he worked in New York City in the Army Quartermaster Depot—first as a civilian and then as a commissioned officer, second lieutenant, first lieutenant and leaving the service in August 1919 as a captain. In the fall of that year, he was commissioned a major in the Reserve Corps. His duties during World War I were as a purchasing agent for large amounts of gasoline and other materials. In addition to his civic responsibilities that are mentioned by Harriet, he served a term as president of the Metuchen Board of Health and was an organizer of the Metuchen Public Library. He also was a member of the Emergency Relief Committee. Because of his financial support of the Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Kappa Sigma at Rutgers, to which all five sons belonged, he was made an honorary member of the fraternity. He and his sons attended the 1927 Kappa Sigma national conclave in Boston.

Not mentioned in the interview is the fact that Susanna and Leslie Molineux traveled extensively throughout the United States, and to Canada, Puerto Rico, and Europe. In 1930, they made a trip around the world in a tramp steamer.

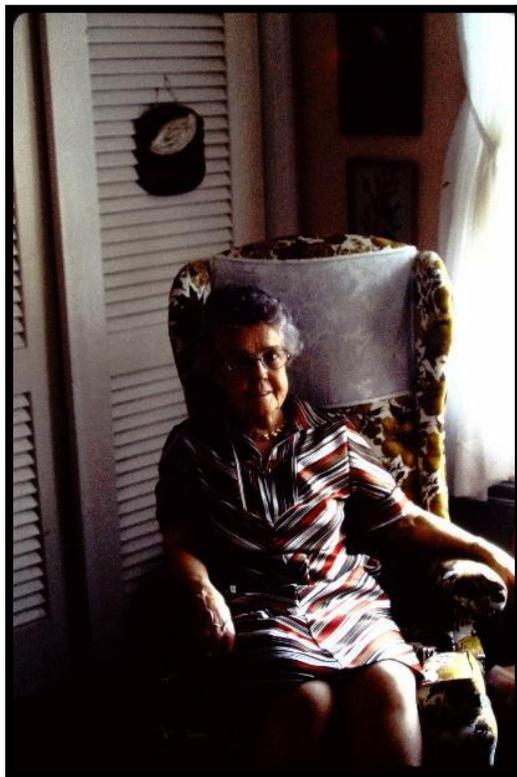
Harriet doesn't mention it, but the St. Luke's History reports she reactivated the Junior Guild in 1944 and that she was president of the St. Luke's Guild from the 1960-62 term. She also fails to mention one of the most memorable events in her life—a long-wished-for trip to Europe in 1966 to see the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany. On that trip, she visited England, stopping at Shakespeare's birthplace, and spent two days in Berlin, with a side venture into East Berlin, and Monaco where on one night she went to a casino. [All this is recorded in post cards she sent her nephew, Will].

Harriet's recollection of Dr. James Gilbert Mason, D.D., the noted Metuchen Prohibitionist, should be clarified: Dr. Mason was pastor of First Presbyterian Church from 1877 to 1925. At the time of his death in 1938, he was ninety-seven and the church session, in a resolution commemorating his life, praised him as "a champion of Prohibition and a convincing advocate of benevolence." Dr. Mason ran as a Prohibition candidate for State Senate from Middlesex County in 1912 and the following year, the county delegation to the Prohibitionists' State Convention proposed that he be the national party's candidate for president. He did not receive the nomination. In 1916, he did run unsuccessfully for governor of New Jersey. Because of his age, it is unlikely he was active in politics in 1934, which wasn't a presidential election year. In the gubernatorial election that year, the National Prohibition Party candidates, Leslie E. Molineux, was on the ballot along with candidates from the following parties: Republican, Democratic, Socialist, Communist, Social Labor, Plenty for Everybody, and Tax Reduction. [I didn't bother to look for the election results. It should be noted that the 21st Amendment was repealed in 1933, hence interest in the Prohibitionist platform had become virtually irrelevant].

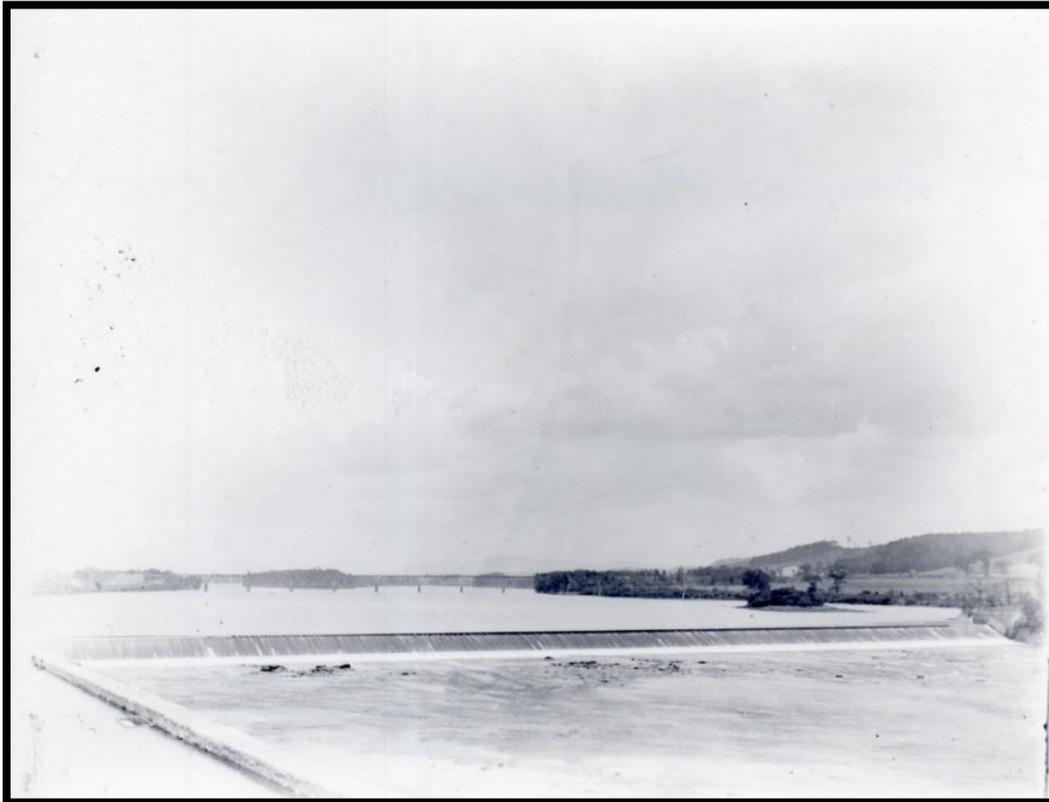
INTERVIEW PHOTOGRAPHS



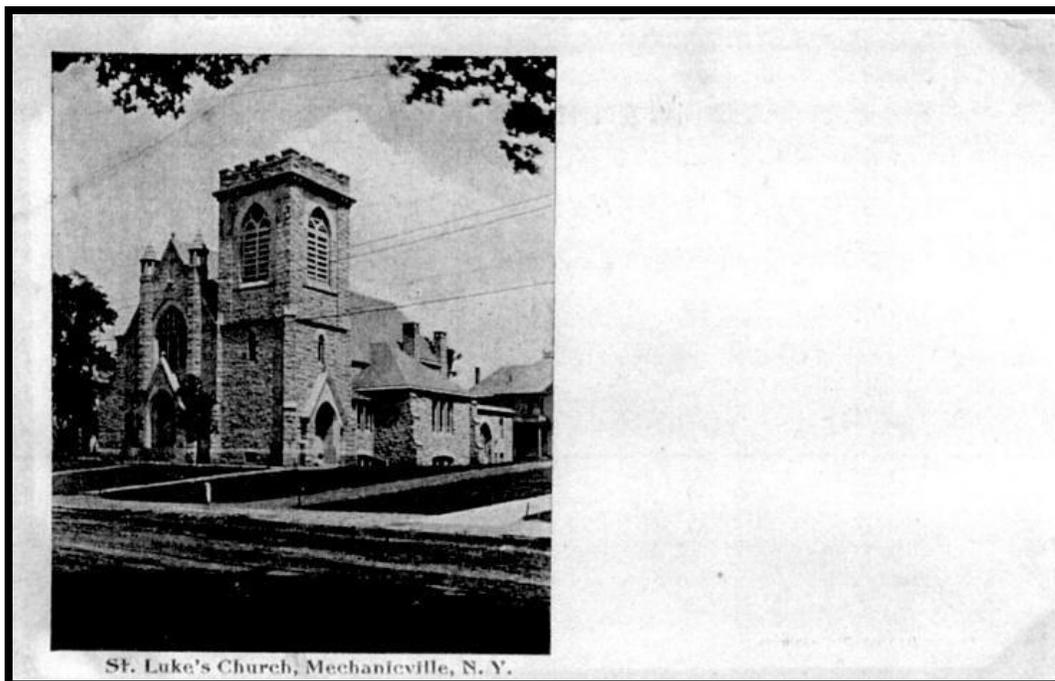
PHOTOGRAPH 1: Portrait of a young Harriet Molineux, who was born on July 18, 1900.



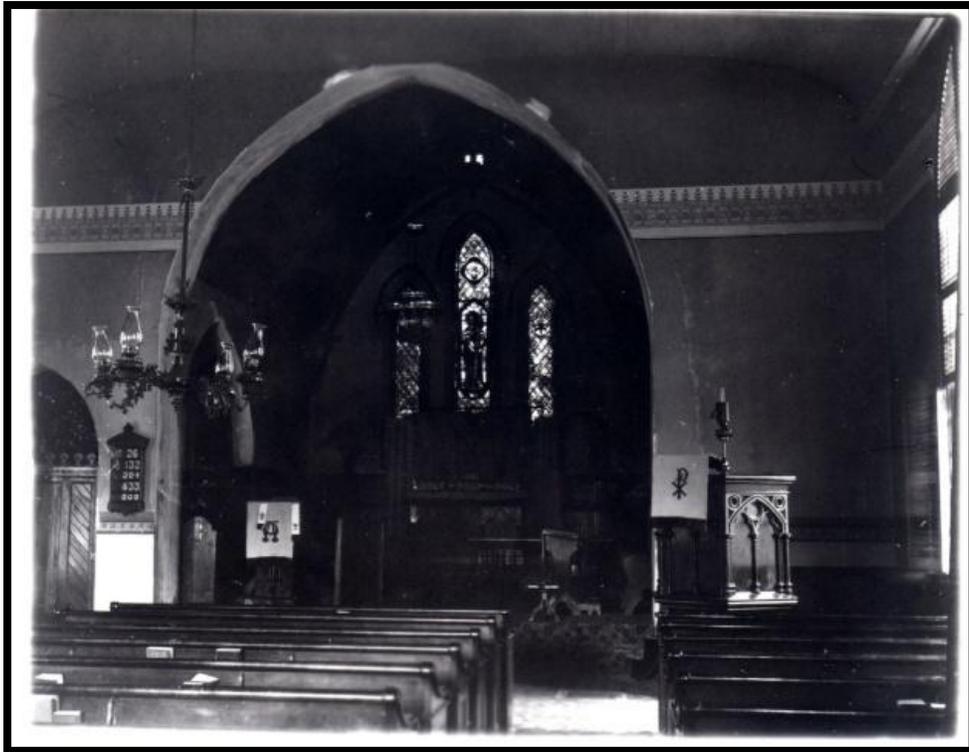
PHOTOGRAPH 2: Harriet Molineux during oral history interview with Paula Bruno and Ruth Terwilliger at The Evergreens Nursing Home in Moorestown, New Jersey on April 11, 1978.



PHOTOGRAPH 3: View of dam along the Hudson River at Mechanicville, New York in 1895. Harriet Molineux's parents were married in Mechanicville.



PHOTOGRAPH 4: Postcard of the exterior of St. Luke's Church in Mechanicville, New York. The postcard is dated 1896, four years after Leslie Edward Molineux and Susanna Hinckley Bailey were married in this church on April 20, 1892.



PHOTOGRAPH 5: Interior of St. Luke's Church in Mechanicville, New York, taken in 1895. Harriet Molineux's parents were married here on April 20, 1892.



PHOTOGRAPH 6: Portrait of Leslie Edward Molineux, father of Harriet Molineux. He was said to bear a striking resemblance to General Pershing.



PHOTOGRAPH 7: Portrait of Susanna Hinckley (Bailey) Molineux, mother of Harriet Molineux. She was the first female member of the Board of the Education in the State of New Jersey.



PHOTOGRAPH 8: Front façade of the original Molineux house in Metuchen along Graham Avenue at the southwest corner with Franklyn Place. The house burned down before 1900 and the Molineuxes briefly moved to Brooklyn before returning to Metuchen to live at 31 Carlton Road.



PHOTOGRAPH 9: Side façade of the original Molineux house along Graham Avenue from the intersection with Franklyn Place. The Molineux would eventually settle at 31 Carlton Road after this home burned down before the twentieth century.



PHOTOGRAPH 10: View along Graham Avenue from High Street during the late-nineteenth century. The Molineux house is located at the front left.



PHOTOGRAPH 11: View of Molineux family house at 31 Carlton Road in Metuchen where Harriet Molineux was born and where she grew up. This photograph was taken on July 4, 1903.



PHOTOGRAPH 12: View of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Coal Storage Facility in South Plainfield, 1895. This is where Harriet Molineux's father, Leslie Edward Molineux, worked when he moved to Metuchen.



PHOTOGRAPH 13: View of Susanna Molineux with her young children, Caroline Adams Molineux and Edward Leslie Molineux, in their family house in Mechanicville, New York, 1895.



PHOTOGRAPH 14: View of Leslie Edward Molineux with his young children, Caroline Adams Molineux and Edward Leslie Molineux, in their family house in Mechanicville, New York, 1895.



PHOTOGRAPH 15: View of Harriet Molineux's siblings, Caroline Adams Molineux and Edward Leslie Molineux, in their family house in Mechanicville, New York, 1895. Caroline, the eldest child, died as a young girl. The Molineux family later donated money in her name for the first school library in Metuchen.



PHOTOGRAPH 16: View of Susanna Molineux with her young children, Caroline Adams Molineux and Edward Leslie Molineux, outside in Mechanicville, New York, 1895.