William E. Golder's
Simple Biography

My birth is dated July 29, 1856. I was born a premature child one month earlier than nature’s requirement for a full developed male infant.

My mother has informed me that I laid in a coma or stupor for a month! The doctor and those in attendance said I wouldn’t live for with forced feeding and careful attention in keeping me warm, when 2 weeks old weighed 3 ½ lbs. and at the end of the month began to grow and became a normal baby and evidently started on a journey for a long life!

Thus came into this world the 1st of a family of 3, 2 sisters and myself. The youngest sister named Elma died in infancy the other sister Mrs. Annie G. Soper at the time of this writing is still living. An elderly woman 85 years old! The name given me was William Edgar but when a boy they all called me Eddie.

My father William J. Golder was a harness maker by trade in 1862 he enlisted in the Civil War in the 4th New York Heavy Artillery went south and was located at Fort Marcy Va. he contracted an illness on Picket duty and died of typhoid pneumonia in the Army Hospital in May 1863 age 33. My mother and Uncle Charles went south and had my father’s body brought back to Freeport and buried. A religious and Masonic order ritual service. His father Joseph Golder was a farmer, his father my Great Grand father
Jacobus Golder also was a farmer owning a large farm on the East side of Nassau Road north of the Southern Boulevard extending northward up the east side of Uniondale Road some distance. Family tradition records that the Golders were Holland Dutch and 6 brothers settled in Queens County and Jacobus was one of the brothers. One the material side descended from an English family called Raynors who were early settlers on Long Island. My mother Caroline Raynor was the youngest of a family of 6 children namely Ann who died at the age of 67, Washington who died at 65, Joseph died age 69; Elijah died age 74; Munroe died when a boy; my mother Caroline died at the age of nearly 85. Aunt Ann had one son Joseph J. who lived to be 88 years old he was a dear cousin of mine. Uncle Wash had 3 wives. By the 1st wife 2 children Elmira Ann & James Washington both lived to be more than 75 years of age. By the 2nd wife, 1 son named Hiram died with T.B. about the age of 35; by the 3rd wife, 4 daughters namely Libbie, Emma, Ella & Ida all lived to be married and have family. Uncle Joe was the father of 9 children namely: Carrie, Amelia, Mary & Martha twins, Jose, Frank, George, Clinton and Arthur at this writing 5 are still living.

Uncle Elijah had 3 wives, by the 1st wife 2 children James and Martin. James died in a Hospital on Ward’s Island at about the age of 40, Martin was drowned one night falling over board from a barge in the channel he was about 60 years old. By the 2nd wife, 2 children Elijah and Tilden, the 1st is still living (1944) Tilden died in infancy. By the 3rd wife, one daughter name Addie who is still living she has 4 or 5 living children.

My mother’s father James Raynor was a well to do farmer and market man engaged in driving to the New York Market weekly with fish, poultry & wild game also working his farm which covered a large area of Freeport property east of Main Street.
When a young man was a soldier in the 1812 War served at Fort Green, Brooklyn, N.Y., contracted an illness resulting in paralysis died at the age of 54. He had 2 brothers Joseph and Jacob also a sister Rebecca, Joseph’s son Hiram married his cousin Ann the daughter of James who was the father of my cousin Jose. Jacob died age 79, Rebecca died about 80 years old. Their father I believe was Whitehead Raynor and he was a descendant of one Edward Raynor who were of the first settlers of this section of Long Island.

My Grand Mother Elmira Sprague on my mother’s side was born in 1803 died in the house in which she was born at the age of 84. She had 2 brothers Elijah & Samuel. Elijah had 2 wives and 6 children namely Elizabeth, Amelia, Hattie, Ella, Eddie & Wesley. Elizabeth married Harvey T. Bedell and General Store Merchant. After 15 years in business went West and settled in Nebraska engaged in stock raising; they had 3 children. Amelia had 3 or 4 children. Hattie had one son; Ella had 3 or 4 children; Eddie died when a young man, Wesley married Annie Hegaman. An old school mate of mine they had one son Eddie Sprague who was my second cousin he was a farmer for 30 years on the same farm that his father and grand father had worked on before him, he sold the farm at a good price and became Vice President of the Second National Bank of Hempstead also a Trustee of Hofstra College. He had a foot affliction which became gangrenous and had to have the leg amputated at the knee. After the operation married the second wife and died 2 years later.

Samuel Sprague had 3 children Ann Eliza, Chauncey and Foster. Ann Eliza had 2 sons both died when young men of consumption as had the mother also before them. Chauncey when a young man went to Canada to escape the draft in the Civil War! On
returning from Canada learned the Black Smiths Trade not liking it gave it up and became a successful oyster dealer he had 2 children, Mamie is still living and has one daughter. Chauncey was a Director of the Freeport Bank sitting with me on the Board. After a session one night walking down Main Street together, I bade him good night at the corner of Merrick Road on reaching his home had a heart attack and died before morning. Forster Sprague had 2 wives, they were sisters. He had 2 or 3 children, they died when young. Foster had been a successful oyster planter, finally had reversed loosing in one winter $4,000.00 worth of oysters by a storm that covered the channel oysters with mud killing them, leaving only shells had other losses also, then he became a village employee died about 74 years of age. His father and mother died at the age of 69.

My mother's grand parents had no school education on account of the Revolutionary War. This record is as far back as I am able to trace as to my ancestry. My father had a sister and a brother Sarah Ann and Charles. When children their mother died, in a year or so, their father married bringing in the home a stepmother who was unkind to the children. Aunt Sarah went to work in a family by the name of Renards [illegible] she being young and handsome married a man some years older who fell in love with her. Mr. Cropsey being in poor health died one morning with a violent hemorrhage. During the Civil War she married the 2nd time to Benjamin W. Palmer, a Widower. My Aunt kept a boarding house in Brooklyn and her husband was City Weigher in New York City. He also was a master mason was taken ill and died at the age of 44. In due time my Aunt married again to a hardware merchant, on account of his sisters who were opposed to Mr. Pettits marriage they were obliged to separate as his sisters were living with him, a year or so later he died. Some years later, my Aunt married the 4th time to Mr.Rider who was an
employee in Bloomingdale’s Department Store, they lived happily in their old age. One night they were over come by gas fumes from an old defective gas jet a lighting fixture. They were taken to the Cumberland Street Hospital, my Aunt died there at the age of 78. I visited her at the hospital. She is interned at Greenfield Cemetery. Mr. Rider recovered and married a cousin of mine both died some years ago. My Aunt Sarah left no children. Uncle Charles Golder was a market man dealing mostly in fish. He had a fishing crew working for him he had a team of horses and would drive to the city for Friday morning’s market. In later years, was engaged in the coal business. He enjoyed sleigh riding in the winter. One morning when out for a ride was taken with an heart attack and died suddenly before reaching home at the age of 78.

Uncle Charles had a family of 9 children namely: Emma, Sarah, Charlie, Laura, Alice, Frank, Lidia & Willie. One dying in infancy all are now deceased except Alice, Frank & William who was named after my father William J. Golder. Emma had a large family and lived to be about 80. Sarah died with consumption about 50 years old leaving 4 girls Margaret, Amelia, Edna and Laura. All were married and still living in 1944. Charlie who was a year younger than myself died of T.B. 30 years old. Laura died of T.B. at about 65 leaving 3 children. 2 are still living, a son & daughter. Mrs. Stella Boeger [illegible] who is a widow, she has one son who is married and has a family. Frank is a widower about 80 years old retired from business now living at Amsterdam or Gloerville, New York he has 2 married daughters. Alice has been blind for some years if living is now a widow. She had several children which are loving. Lidia when a young woman died of consumption. William J. called Willie and also J. He & wife Mamie lives in the house which was my mother’s home for many years. He kept a grocery store for a number of years, after was
traveling salesman for a cigar firm for some time then a salesman in a hardware store now retired had one child died when a year or two old. This concludes a brief record of my relatives. In writing about my relatives should have mentioned who they married is a little out of the regular order but will make note of it here and now, if my memory calls the names:

Elijah Sprague married Jane Snedeker [?] of Hempstead
Amelia Sprague married Miles Southard
Elizabeth Sprague married Henry J. Bedell
Hattie Sprague married Amos Thomas
Wesley Sprague married Amie Haggerman
Ella Sprague married [blank] Draker
Samuel Sprague married Mary Terry
Ann Eliza Sprague married Thomas Raynor
Chauncey Sprague married Anna Gusta Van De Water
Foster Sprague married Abbie Jane Cox, May Cox
James Raynor married Elmira Sprague
Ann Raynor married Hiram H. Raynor
Washington Raynor married Margaret Ann Bedell, Sarah Ann Abrams, Addeline Hulse
Joseph J. Raynor married Annie Post
James Washington married Sarah Ann Golder
Elmira A. Raynor married Bedell Raynor
[illegible] Raynor married Joseph Bedell
Emma Raynor married Alonzo Pettet [illegible]
Ella Raynor married Thomas Turner
Ida Raynor married Charles Turner
Joseph Raynor married Catherine
Carrie Raynor married William Cosuellins [illegible]
Amelia Raynor married Melvin Skidmore
Mary Raynor married Stephen Rider
Martha Raynor married Charles Smith
Joseph Raynor married Cora Fowler
Frank Raynor married Laura King, Libbie Dunlop
George Raynor married [blank]
Clinton Raynor married Kate Walters, Helen [blank]
Arthur Raynor married unknown
Elijah Raynor married Amanda Southold, Adelaid Moore, Adelaid Smith
James Raynor unmarried
Martin J. Raynor married Carrie Smith
Elijah Raynor, Jr. married a girl at [illegible] Island
Addie Raynor married Charles W. Knettel
Caroline Raynor married William J. Golder
William E. Golder married Clara A. Bedell
Annie J. Golder married George H. Soper
Millard W. Golder married Reba Allen
Earle V. Golder married Viola Bennett
Russell V. Golder married Flora McCasland [illegible]
Hazel C. Golder unmarried
Wm. E. Golder, Jr. married Lois Rodman
Aubrey Soper married Nellie Maxell
Aubrey Soper, Jr. married Marther Doyle
Munroe Raynor married Melia Beige
William P. Raynor married Alice Sunder
Charles Golder married Amelia Story
Emma Golder married George Combs
Sarah A. Golder married James W. Raynor
Charlie Golder unmarried
Laura Golder married James Hollaway
Alice Golder married Alvin Eldred
Frank Golder married Polly Hollaway
William J. Golder married Mamie Seaman
Margaret Raynor married Arthur Hicks
Amelia Golder married Joseph Pearsall
Laura Golder married Godfrey Rapp
Edna Golder married Henry Randall, Will Henderson

Will now proceed to write about what I remember concerning my boyhood days, my earliest recollection was living on the Merrick Road. What is now the corner of Church Street, then there were no houses between our home and the hotel on Main Street. Sister Dot and I were playmates in the house and outside when the weather permitted. Mother taught us the alphabet from the Bible using the large capital letters the beginning of the
Chapters saying A for Annie, B for boy, C for Cat and so on until we learned the letters perfectly and became familiar with the books of the Bible.

My father had his harness shop near the front of our home, often I would be in there, one day I picked a bumble bee from the floor and got stung for fair I never picked up any more bees but have been stung many times since not only by bees but [illegible]. Sometimes would get outside in the street and take a walk, my father would be looking for me and then would get whipped for running away. One day got wet wadding in Charlick’s Brook another went cedar balling near the Presbyterian Church. Cousin Jose was visiting at our home with his mother one day. Our calf being in the yard run into Jose and buck him down, many times in later life would mention it.

When the Presbyterian Church was being built, my father carried me over the floor beams before the floor were laid. One summer day my father took me to the beach with Uncle Charles party. Also, one day brought my dinner in a little basket to Elizabeth Southard’s school on lower Main Street. John Combs often would stop for [illegible] when going there to school this was in 1862.

My father enlisted in the Civil War, well, do I remember him showing mother his enlistment papers, mother cried making it a sad supper hour. The Sunday before his to war went with him to the Presbyterian Church with other men that had enlisted for them was a special service for the soldiers going to war. The next morning father kissed mother, sister and I, bade us good bye taking the stage waiting at the gateway. Then we moved to my Aunt Ann’s home on lower Main Street and Mother rented out the house on Merrick Road which we had vacated. May 1863 father died. The body was brought to my
Aunt Ann’s home, remember looking at my father in the casket but didn’t go to the funeral at the Presbyterian Church.

Some time later a trunk was left at the house containing father’s clothes and various articles. Mother gave me the pocket knife which I used until I lost it. We left Aunt Ann’s house and Mother moved to her mother’s house where she had lived in her girlhood days. We occupied the west part of the house consisting of 3 rooms, hallway and part of a large attic. We lived there happy and contented. A number of fruit trees around the house, the well with the old oaken bucket from which we drew our water supply. A large open lot as a play ground and the Freeport Creek adjourning, where boating and swimming was a pleasure in the summer Time.

My Grand Mother occupied the other part of the house with her son, grandson and grand daughter Annie. As time passed, Ann married Bedell Raynor a grist mill operator and left home; Uncle Elijah married and left; cousin Mart married bringing his wife Carried to live with Grandmother. My sister Dot & I married also and left to established our own homes. Leaving mother, grand mother, Mart and his wife in the old home. Then Grandmother was much of the time with my mother in her part of the house until Grandmother died at the age of 84. Then my mother left to occupy her own house on Smith Street. Living down on South Main Street at my Grand Mother’s house for more than 15 years, spent much of my time around the creeks, meadows, farms & woods in my boyhood days. When 8 years of age had the scarlet fever, also my sister, she had severe nose & throat complications, which required the use of a syringe in treatment. Grand Mother and Mother had much difficulty in performing the task under the doctor’s orders. Remember my cousin coming to the west window to take a look at me.
Before my father went to war, he took me to the city and left me with my Aunt Sarah for a visit, she did many things to amuse me, then when the visit was over sent me back to Freeport in care of the stage driver. In the fall of 1863, after my father’s death, Mother took Dot & I down to Brooklyn to make a visit at Aunt Sarah’s home on Franklin Avenue. We had our pictures taken standing together; also went to Fort Green which had just been vacated by soldiers going south to war. Went to Nancy’s school until she gave up teaching. One night 3 of us boys went in the yard in front of the house and called out Nancy is there going to be any school today? Nancy’s mother came to the door and said boy’s go away with your nonsense, you will have been out after you. We kept it up and finally open came the door and out came Uncle Ben in full chase after us, we out ran him and managed to get away safely. One day while at Nancy’s school, an officer called at the school enquiring [sic] if there were any new living in the house between the ages of 18 to 45. It was a house to house canvas to obtain a drafting list for men to serve in the Civil War. The Presidential Election of 1864, Cousin Charlie and I went up the street to the corner of Merrick Road & Main Street where there was drum music opposite the hotel where the voting took place. Market wagon’s filled with men to vote for Lincoln the Republican Candidate or General Geo. B. McClenan [sic], the Democratic Candidate. We staed [sic] to long and mother met me with a little switch. Sister and I slept together in a trumble bed until I was nearly 12 years old. Then went up to the attic to sleep. Cousin Mart who had been sleeping with his Grand Mother also went to the attic to sleep with his father. Mark got afraid came over the partition beam on my bed and down stairs he went on a [illegible] and I after him.
When about 4 years old, my mother wanted to have my picture taken by a traveling photographer that came through the country villages taking daguerreotype pictures which was the kind taken in those days, which was enclosed in a small case. The way the photographer attracted my attention, to watch the chicken come out of a hole he pointed to - my mother was so pleased with that picture she had it enlarged 50 years later and mounted on an easel and placed in her parlour! My Cousin Jose and I went to school together for at least 10 years or more. Our 1st man teacher was Toney Warren, one day Jose did something, the teacher tied him to the stove pipe which was a long one to conserve heat. The stove pipe came down then there was a seque [illegible] to keep the children in fear if they were at times some what unruly, would say “I’m hungry as a meat ax.”

In after years, this teacher became a Police Justice in one of the southern towns of Kings County. Later was an employee on the Brooklyn Water Works, living in Freeport, one evening fell down stairs which caused his death. At the time, Mr. Warren taught in the Pubic School, Miss Mary Ann Raynor was the Assistant Teacher. I recited my lessons to her. She was our near neighbor when living on the Merrick Road and was a frequent visitor at our home when a girl, a friend to my mother and played with me! She married Geo. Wallace, a school teacher. When I first saw him he was a teacher at Lawrence, L.I. on a visit to the Freeport School later he became the Principal of this school he also started the South Side Observer then finally became a lawyer. Mrs. Wallace survived him a few years and died about 75 years of age on Ocean Ave.

Mr. A. L. Foot was my school teacher for several years, his ability as a teacher were in mathematics and penmanship; she was good in figures and a splendid penman;
but he was an inveterate chewer of tobacco! Remember a debate in the little brown school house on Main Street one evening when a boy. The subject was tobacco! Mr. Foot had written with chalk in beautiful scrip letters on the black board prior to the meeting: “Tobacco is an innocent luxury”. It was a very interesting debate pro and con. Next morning when at school noticed some one had written underneath the subject: “Tobacco is a filthy weed” – one day at school Mr. Foot was explaining an example in arithmetic.

One of the scholars stood up looking over his shoulder, when Cousin Jim stuck a pin in the scholar’s leg and he jumped on the teacher's back then there followed some reproof and correction. I got whipped more than once for misbehaviour [sic].

Mr. Foot became converted at the Merrick Camp Meeting. I heard he remained faithful into the end. I never played truant but once and that half a day was enough for me; that afternoon went over to the east where they Irishman were working with horses and carts on the new R.R. bed digging away a hill and carting the sand to fill in by the brook. From there went down to the old paper mill and from there went home feeling badly because I hadn’t gone to school.

My first school teacher Miss Elizabeth Southerd married Francis Raynor, had one son, a shoe salesman. Mrs. Raynor became weak mentally and one morning starting the fire in stove. Her dress took fire she ran to the street which fanned the blaze was so severely burned died from the effects. Miss. Nancy Raynor opened a private school on South Main Street, diagonally opposite the old Grist Mill. She taught school probably 2 years or longer. She married James Hill an employee in the New York Post Office. At the time of their marriage, I was a young man took part in the serenade that evening by making some noise shooting off a burrowed house pistol! The bridegroom sent out $5.00
which was spent by the boys in treating. Nancy in time sold her Freeport property went to
the city to live, had one child a daughter and when a young woman became nervous and
despondent, took an overdose of poison and died on the street in the attitude of prayer.
Her mother and father became financially embarrassed!
Mrs. Hill did work as a janitress and her husband sold books for a living and when death
came to them were interred in Greenfield Cemetery, Hempstead L.I.

When a boy walked often to Merrick on the Rail Road bed before the tracks were
laid, huckleberrying; also many times after the R.R. was finished and trains running. In
those days, so much swamp and woodland at Merrick huckleberries were plentiful! And if
I picked more than our family use would sell them at 10¢ a quart.

One day when berrying, Richard Henry a boy friend stepped into a ground hornets
nest got stung so badly sat down on the nest! We rushed up to him and dragged him a
way from the fury of the hornets whose nest had been disturbed. Before Merrick Avenue
was opened up, we would go through the woods on the Old Whole Neck Road. One day
we got lost and didn’t know the way back to the R.R. finally came out on a street at North
Merrick then enquired [sic] the way to the Rail Road. Adjourning the R.R. there was a
sugar pear tree it was up on a high embankment. My Cousin Jim shoved me off and
injured my neck evidently had a broken collar bone! For in after years, a doctor making an
examination, said at some time I had had a fractured collar bone!

Another day after a train had passed us, we resumed our walking on the Rail Road
discovered a broken rail it was nearly 6 P.M. We ran and notified the section men, they
came and repaired the broken rail and thus prevented a R.R. accident.
My sister Dot and I would occasionally go out and pick some black berries for supper. We found some very choice black berries in the center of Daddy Joe’s hedge which was completely hidden from the outside had several pickings there! South of the Rail Road near where Grove Street is now was a real jungle of bushes, small trees and vines. I picked luscious standing blackberries there. In the Autumn season, Cousin Jose & I would go hunting for chestnuts and walnuts in the large woods north of the Rail Road extending from Main Street to the north west to Bayview Avenue, the boys over that way called it Cedarville. We use to set rabbit traps and quail snares in the swamp and woods north of East Merrick Road! Also cut fish sticks and sold them at 10¢ a hundred to the fisherman to bunch up flounder 3 or 4 on a bunch according to size. Cousin Mart & I would get small oysters called shavings and sell them to the oyster saloons at 50¢ a bag.

One day Mart and I were building a play house down near the creek, we were doing some digging struck something hard and discovered it was a human skull! Grand Mother said was an Indian’s head.

My Mother often sent me to the store for articles needed one night on my way to get kerosene, oil can in my hand stopped to play Hunky Chunk with the boys on the street, in running across came in front of a horse, got knocked down the horse stepped over me and stopped suddenly so that the wheels of the farm wagon didn’t go over me! My chest was bruised slightly fortunately escaped being badly injured. Swimming was a great pleasure for it was from in my boyhood days: but before I could swim, got out in the middle of the creek at high tide and the water was over my head, I couldn’t get to the dock or bank. It happened that a man came out in a boat and hauled me in, if he hadn’t would have been drowned in sight of my home!
After I had learned to swim, could dive and float like a duck and many a day in the summer would be in swimming with the boys on the turn of the creek below Henry Smith’s dock; for there was a boat house in which we could take off and put on our clothes. A house had been moved down the street and a cellar was dug under the house and the sand was banked up in the rear of the house. Several boys were jumping out of the window from the 2nd floor on the sand and I did it one to many times, for I sprained my ankle in this sport.

In the winter time, it was fine and a lot of fun to go a skating. There were 4 ponds where we would go to stake. Also, there was a large pool of water along the board walk on the street between our home and Cousin Jose’s home where we did some skating. Henry Smith’s pond down to the south end of Main Street; Zophar Smith’s pond on Mill Road; the Grist Mill pond on Main Street and the Round Swamp what is now near the corner of Archer and Bedell Street which was a fine place to skate on a windy cold day. But the Mill pond was the popular place for skating for it was the largest and more boys and young people gathered there for where the crowd was would be more going on! Then too if feeling to cold would go in the Grist Mill to get warm. I would skate so much on Saturdays would be stiff and sore next day. One of my boy friends got run into and 2 or 3 front teeth knocked out. One day I came in collision with a young man with such force got knocked down falling on the ice striking my head it was a wonder didn’t get a fractured skull. When a boy earned my spending money & after I was 16 earned enough to buy my clothes but never paid board while living at home. When a boy we had 4 or 5 parties in the winter season. We would be invited by the parents of a son or daughter to attend a party given on some special evening.
There would usually be about 10 or 12 boys and girls who would meet for playing games, singing & refreshments. Those were happy events when children up to 14 years of age. Then too, there were 2 or 3 beach parties in the summer when we would go with our relatives for a pleasant and enjoyable day on the bay and beach with a bountiful dinner served which was arraigned on a large table ½ of the length of the boat!

I must not forget the Sunday school picnics which were 2 events that we looked forward too with longing expectation of having a good time in Bedell’s Grove north of the Rail Road on the west side of Main Street. The ice cream, soda and a harty [sic] dinner of good things to eat, several times I made my self sick and had to go home!

In my boyhood days, never was a scrapper; but I did get in several scrimmages! Only on 2 occasions could you call it a real fight. There was a school boy who was a real bully, for some foolish reason was surly to me would punch me and push me going down the school house stairway, follow up on the street. One day he forced me to fight, I was afraid of him but this time I pulled off my coat and we went to the battle in the street in front of the school house! I much have done fighting for I knocked him down when he got up he had a black eye! He never troubled me anymore. Another time had a quarrel with a colored boy about my size, it was settled by a tussel in front of the old Grist Mill head of Freeport Creek. I guess he would have downed me if I hadn’t started to kick him in the shins which overcame him. I never like fighting so kept clear as much as possible for an active boy not to engage in such conflicts. When a young man one night at Baldwin some fellows came for me to give me a thrashing and I had to beg off as being innocent of some disturbance that they had at Freeport with a young man that looked like me! This fellow that resembled me in appearance when a boy was on a hay wagon going to the dock for
hay, as the wagon passed by home on South Main Street. A woman was talking with my mother at the street fence and she said Caroline where is Eddie going on Benedict’s wagon? My mother said that wasn’t Eddie. Why Caroline don’t you know your own boy?

The boys would often resort to the old oyster house to play, one day had a fall on some broken glass cutting me a cross the wrist leaving a scar which will remain with me as long as I live. Another day was pulling a pail filled with brick up to the ridge poll of the oyster house the rope broke down came the pail on my foot which caused the loss of my big toe nail. Again, on another day sitting on the outside of the oyster house one the boys threw a shell and knocked off Lester Thurston’s tin pail from the street fence he then fired a shell which hit me on the knee causing a bad cut. Cousin Jose and I use to sail a sharpie with a bed blanket for a sail, it was alright going before the wind which we enjoyed.

Is I became older it was a delight for me to put pull sail on a skiff and sail up and down the creek at full tide. One day was already to go on the bay, the boat capsized then I had to swim around to pick up the floatage; but this didn’t stop me from going clamming that day!

When a boy use to go a meadow hen egging, sometimes would get a dozen or more. Then too would go hunting duck eggs which would occasionally be found on the creek bottom laid by ducks swimming on the surface! When finding any, Mother would make an extra sponge cake. Also would earn a little money by working, I husked corn at 5¢ a shock in a lot where now the Grove Theater is located! Also, weeded onions for 50¢ a day where Newton Boulevard is now! On April evenings use to enjoying barbing eels on
the Freeport Creek also would sometimes spear them on the low meadow bank along the
creek.

My last and final public school teacher was Thomas H. Wheeler. He was a Civil
War Veteran, he enlisted in the armed forces with my father and was in the same
company at Fort Marcy, Va. but was transferred into the Navy and became a Petty Officer.
A few years after the close of the war, returned to Freeport and was engaged as a
Principal of the Public School and became my teacher for several years when in my teens.
Mr. Wheeler taught me mathematics, history, geography and bookkeeping. Attended
school 11 months in a year having only 1 month vacation which was in the month of
August! My Cousin Jose went to the Academy for a few months but was glad to return
saying he could learn more at the Public School than at the Academy! The only
advantage was being select it never turned out better scholars than the Public School. In
the winter sometimes there would be snow ball battles between the 2 schools but the
Public School would be the victors. Snow balling the academy boys back to there [sic]
quarters. There was no High School in Nassau County in those days, so my education
was as complete as could be received in a Gramer [sic] School.

I left school in the Spring of 1873 to be boatman on Capt. John C. Raynor’s sloop
engaged in freighting seed oysters for planting in South Hempstead Bay. We usually
made 2 trips a week from April 1st to June 15th, the laws of the state prohibited any
planting of seed oysters later. I sailed with Captain Raynor 2 seasons my pay was $3.00
a trip, bed and board included! The oysters were taken in off Tuckerton, Sayville and
Patchogue. When the sloop had received it cargo we would sail westward for our home
port. Usually, if the weather permitted would get under way when the setting sun would
be about an hour high. The Captain expected to reach Unqua Point so as to go down Morris Channel in the morning. If the sailing was fair would be there about 10 or 11 P.M. If the wind was light it would be after midnight. If the wind failed would come to anchor. My duty when sailing at night would be to keep watch forward. One night a fish pond piles loomed up head on our course and I cried out to the Captain keep hard away, hard away! Just in time to escape an accident in the darkness of night!

Another day off Babylon the throat halyard became jammed in the pully block at mast head, the Captain had to pull me aloft on a rider. I succeeded in adjusting the halyard, then slowly lowered me to the deck. Then we raised the sails and continued our journey. Sometimes would encounter rough weather and be obliged to make harbor in some in land cove for safety. One night the wind failed and became calm and in our drifting got entangled in a set net, the Captain tried to cut away but failed then anchored to wait for the morning, went down in the cabin to sleep. At day break the Captain was up and on deck, the sloop was surrounded by the net and a portion of it was fastened to the sloop's rudder! One morning the sloop was at anchor off Sayville taking in oysters from the oysterman’s boats that came alongside. An easterly wind blowing and the water rough, and oyster boat approached casting me a line, instead of making fast to a timber head, I fastened it to the mast and a sheet line was about to be fastened to the traveler at the stern of the sloop. My line slipped and the oyster boat swung around with the wind drifting rapidly away: one of their men was on the stern of the sloop about to fasten the sheet rope to our traveler he couldn’t hold it and the line went out that fast caught his leg, and overboard he went and under came to the surface caught hold of the tow boat pulled himself in went aboard of their boat, down in the cabin he hurried took of
his clothes came out in an overcoat to assist the other men in carrying the oyster aboard of our boat. I went on one trip as a fisherman with a new gill net. We set the net a cross Fort Necks Channel. Then did some thumping down the channel, when we hauled in the net over the side of our boat taking out the fish that were gilled, we were surprised with our success as fishermen for evidently we had taken in a school of weak fish!

The next day we packed the fish in boxes with ice and sent to the N.Y. City Fulton Fish Market. My share of the money received from the sale of the fish was $12.00. Will relate another experience that occurred while sailing with Captain Raynor on his sloop. One night we lost our direction in sailing and didn’t know where we were or the direction we were going. The Captain was confused, we came to anchor, he went in the cabin, rubbed his head, turned around several times laid down in his bunk for a while. Then came out on deck, looked around and said: now I know where we are this is Broad Creek! And in the morning sailed down channel toward Jones’ beach then westward.

Between the boating seasons with Captain Raynor was engaged in various kinds of work, did some farming, worked in oysters and on the bay. After leaving Capt. Raynor in June 1874, in July same year, became an apprentice in a drug store to learn the drug business was then 18 years old. Dr. Geo. H. Hammond was the proprietor of the only drug store in Freeport, succeeding the original pharmacy which was established by Doctor Benedict in 1869 or early 70s who was a physician Doctor Hammond my preceptor. Also was a physician engaged in the practice of medicine he had had a German druggist in his employ; but he was so addicted to the drink habit the doctor was obliged to discharge him. Then took on a 14 year old boy to learn him the business, he was too much a boy disliked his job and left. On recommendation I was solicited to have an interview with the Doctor
which I did one Saturday evening. He related tome the position in which he was placed and that he could not neglect his medical practice and was greatly in need of help if he retained the store. He made some enquiry [sic] as to my education. Then we came to the following agreement I was to be taken on trial for 2 weeks, no wages! But the Doctor was to give me a lesson in pharmacy daily; at the end of the trial term if my services were suitable to the Doctor and I desired to continue would then receive $2.00 a week and the daily instruction as before. All drug stores have their characteristic odor, the first day I didn’t dislike the smell; but the second day became tired of it and before the last of the week could scarcely endure it! But the Doctor said William Jon will get use to. Sure enough the Doctor was right in about 2 weeks the odor didn’t bother me anymore for had become immuned! But I could quickly distinguished odors for that sense was one of the tests of identity with the Doctor’s instruction and my text book became acquainted with the English and Latin names of all the shelf bottles in less than 2 weeks, then with further instruction and study in time became acquainted with the various kinds of drugs and medicines the store contained.

After working in the store for 2 months, had an invitation to take a trip on a schooner up the Hudson River to Troy. I couldn’t miss the outing and had a delightful voyage on that beautiful scenic river and enjoyed it most wonderfully being away from the store 2 weeks. But while in Troy I spent part of one afternoon watching the raising and lowering canal boats in the locks and the mules on the tow path. One night I was with the crew of 2 schooners we were going over to East Troy as we came to the Ferry Dock, the boat had started; but the Pilot saw our company, backed up and took us aboard! Evidently reason for this kind of action; the Congress Street Bridge had just been opened
to the public and taken much of their patronage. It was after midnight when we returned to West Troy, the Ferry boat had stopped for the night and bridge had been closed! So we had to walk some distance and cross the river on the railroad bridge. One man missing who had got in the lockup for the night. After the schooner had received its lading of lumber it was taken in tow with several canal boats another schooner astern of our vessel. The schooner were to leave the tow at Albany; but before arriving there, one or two of the canal boats forward got aground althro [sic] we were attached to the canal boats with a long hawser the Captain couldn’t avoid running into the rear canal boat and in the collision our forward jibstay rigging was carried away and when we reached Gowanus Basin, Brooklyn our Captain had the damage repaired, I left the vessel and came home by train. On my return to the store, the Doctor was glad to greet me for I had been missed and he was pleased to have me return again to duty! The Doctor being away from the store ¾ of the time was obliged to take upon myself more responsibility than I cared for on account of his absence. But I was careful not to do, or undertake anything that was in doubt. The Doctor would show me and explain in the preparing and compounding medicine especially in prescription work; also would out line some particular work for me to do. In less than 6 months was putting up prescriptions! Those that I didn’t understand would hold over until the Doctor came. Thus the months passed by in regular routine in learning the Art of Pharmacy; the two books then was using in study was Biddle’s Materia Medica & the U.S. Dispensatory. In less than a year became associated with the Doctor as a partner in the business! We changed our location from West Merrick Road to Main Street just south of where King Kullen’s is now. The Doctor had his office in the adjourning building. The drug business was conducted at this location about a year. We
sold out to a German and the business was moved up Main Street in a large building occupied by Doctor Denton who was backing the German financially. Then I was out of business for 2 months. During this time, a vessel came ashore on the beach east of the Fire Island Light house. Cousin Jose and I with 2 other friends made a trip there in his sail boat, the ship was loaded with dyes, oranges and lemons. We succeeded in getting some oranges! This was in March 1876 and real cold; but we had an enjoyable time a warm cabin and plenty to eat. About April 1st, Doctor Denton came to see me, he said had got in trouble with the German in regard to the drug store that he was in competent, had no money; had run him in debt; had been ordered to vacate the store and it was closed and wanted me to come at once and take care of the store on my own terms and he would remain as a silent partner! I took charge of the store the same day having a half interest in the business – about 6 or 8 months later I bought the Doctor's interest and became sole owner of the business! Before taking over the drug store entirely while connected with Doctor Denton, I engaged Mr. Bushnell a Yale Graduate to give me lessons in Latin for about 2 months, which gave me some ideas of the [illegible] and a little better knowledge of English that had Latin roots. Also in November 1876, Doctor Denton, myself and several friends made a trip to Philadelphia to visit the Centennial World's Fair, had a delightful trip, Cousin Jose was with us. I had closed the store while away, when we returned the store door had been forced open! Whether anything had been taken didn’t know? The next day was the memorable Presidential Election when Samuel J Tilden, the Governor of New York was elected President of U.S. but was not seated! It was a stormy day, I closed the store at 9 p.m. went up to the R.R. station to hear the returns as they came in by telegram and the iguess [sic] were posted on a black board. Uncle Bill
Simmonson fell on the hotel stoop opposite the station and broke his leg. We got a spring wagon put him in carefully took him home he died 2 weeks later! At 21 years of age, I was the Freeport Village Druggists and sole owner of the only drug store having a large field of operation, no drug store on the east nearer than Amityville; Hempstead on the north, R.V. Centre on the west; but all of the grocery stores kept simple drugs which was a handicap to the drug store. Some people gathered roots and herbs and partly made their domestic remedies evidently lived without a drug store! So the demands for the service of the druggist in those days were limited. So I, endeavored to get some of the store trade by preparing essences and other domestic bottle sundries and selling to the local stores at wholesale. The cash receipts were small but as the village grew in population the drug business gradually increase also had no assistance in conducting the business of the store! Was the boss, clerk, boy and bottle washer; closed the sore to go to dinner, carried a lunch box for supper this I did for nearly 2 years! When obliged to go to the city, my mother would come to the store so as to keep it open and tell the customers when I would return. Having waited on, kept company with several young ladies during an interval of 4 years. I finally decided sometime after my conversion to the Christian Faith to select a young lady of like faith which succeeded in doing and after a happy courtship of 14 months, I married the young lady of my choice on Thanksgiving afternoon Nov. 28th, 1878. We started housekeeping April 1879 in a house nearly opposite my store, still had no assistance with me in business until Nov. 1880. Then my wife’s brother Charlie who was 16 came with me to learn the trade; he like the business an eventually became a respected and competent pharmacist.
In the summer of 1880, purchased a lot corner of Main Street and Merrick Road. A few months later entered into a contract for a building to be erected on the corner which was finished April 1881. Then moved my business to the new location, having occupied the store then vacated 5 years. At that time the new store was centrally located night bell and speaking tube were installed which made it convenient for the public and disturbed my rest at night. Also added to my drug business a full stock of painter’s supplies.

Sometime after my conversion took a course of study in the Chautanqua Literary Circle. It was a 4 years course, I kept up with study for nearly 2 years, then was obliged to give it up on account of not having the time to devote to the necessary study required. It was a valuable course of study and would have enjoyed to have continued on to completion. In the Spring of 1883 or 4 was called to serve on Jury duty at Long Island City at the Queens County Court house, served 2 weeks. Sometime later there was a law exempting druggist from jury duty providing they registered for exemption which I did in part when required. In 1884, being engaged in the drug business 10 years, was granted a New York State License to practice Pharmacy. My business steadily increased and needed more store room in 1886 made a contract with a builder to place a 2 story addition on the rear which gave more room for store and dwelling purposes. The same year my clerk and I took up & engaged in a valuable and instructive course of study in the National Institute of Pharmacy which consisted of the Sciences Materia Medica, Botany, Chemistry, Toxicology and the Art of Pharmacy and graduated in 1887 after 1 ½ years of study at the same time maintaining and conducting the drug business! This was home study being a correspondence school. March 12th 1888 was the memorable blizzard which afflicted business and traffic! My clerk went to the city on Sunday the 11th and wasn’t able to
return until the following Wednesday as there were no trains running to Freeport and no trains out to Riverhead for 2 weeks! No record of a snow storm like it before or since? August 1888 was stricken with Typhoid Fever was confined to my room for 9 weeks, the disease impaired my recovery to health, didn’t feel normal for more than 2 years. May 1890 sold my drug business for a period of 5 years in order to take a rest; but after an enjoyable relaxation took back the drug business in 4 years instead of 5. But in the interval my health being improved, I purchased a site or lot on Grand Avenue, Baldwin, 50 feet frontage 300 ft. deep and had a building erected calling it the Cottage Pharmacy, this was the 1st drug store for Baldwin, L.I., May or June 1892 I employed a young man who wanted to learn the trade, his name was Oliver L. Thomas he was the most conssiontious [sic] and faithful young man I ever had in my employ – while with me he became a Registered Pharmacist. I was in control of 2 drug stores, then the Baldwin store was a branch of the Freeport store. In 1896, a Garden City druggist wanted to buy the Baldwin store, I refused to accept his offer and sold the property and business to my faithful clerk Olley Thomas for $300.00 less than was offered by the Garden City Druggist! Olley Thomas was highly esteemed by the Baldwin people, his health failed went into a decline and died with tuberculoses. About 1885 or 6 purchased the large vacant lot in the rear of my Freeport store property extending to Henry Street and up that street quite a distance. In 1891, had a dwelling house erected on Henry Street which was handy to the drug store and lived there 15 years.

In 1893 or 4 was elected Treasurer of the Village of Freeport and served 4 years during my term of officer had charge of a $20,000 bond issue for the village. In the Spring of 1894, again resumed my drug business at the Freeport store and engaged Arthur
Gorman, a drug clerk from Fulton, N.Y. to assist me, he was with me for 2 full years, his family living on the 2nd floor. Also a relief man for me during the summer of 1896.

George Hague of Inwood, a nephew of Doctor Carman worked for me 3 summers. Then my son Millard was learning the trade with me and remained working in the store until 1903. While engaged in the drug business, usually managed to take a little recreation during the summer of possible? Had a skiff fitted up with Gaff sail and would some afternoons for a few hours be delighted to take sail on the bay; one time on Long Creek an extra breeze blew off a new hat was wearing before I could bring the boat around to it sank below the surface and disappeared. Also on the 1st week in September [illegible] for several years enjoyed an annual cruise on the Great South Bay the company would number 6 or 8 persons we would visit Patchogue, Bellport, Smith’s Point, Water Island, Raccoon Woods and Meadow Point. Sometimes would sail to West Hampton. One trip went through the canals into Peconic Bay to Sag Harbor, Greenpoint and Shelter Island all of these were delightful trips with my Consin Jose who was Captain his father Uncle Hiram enjoyed those trips most wonderful and would come to my store and talk about them 2 weeks in advance! 1899 or later William Kerr a Brooklyn Druggist worked for me; 1901 Mr. Hancock and Mr. Doty was in my employ one took chloral and the other got drunk while I was away on business in the city. In 1902, Mr. Rothsman and Mr. Thompson was in my imploy [sic]. The following named boys at a various times worked for me: Del Cooper, Mervin Golden, Alfred Hand, Everit Rider also my boys Earle & Russell.

One Autumn day the year do not remember! I visited Niagra Falls to look upon that wonderful and marvelous work of the created forces of nature. Also enjoyed the spray
and the trip on the Maid of the Mist then crossed over to Canada. There taking an electric train riding 9 miles down to Queenstown leaving the train desiring to cross over to Lewiston by ferry. Being after 6 p.m. the boat had stopped running for the day. There were 4 other persons; we engaged a boatman to row us over he was a good oarsman and landed us safely at Lewiston. There we boarded the trolley which carried us down along side of the rapids this was a thrilling ride that has not been forgotten. I met at the Imperial Hotel, Mr. Thurston a druggist from Rockville Centre! At Buffalo visited ex-President Fillmore’s home; also saw the Law Office of President Cleavland [sic]; saw Elliott Aracade which is beautiful architectural structure of glass, marble & iron containing various kinds of business on the public market plan.

In the Summer of 1902 had a severe attack of intestinal indigestion which produced a nervous condition. My doctor advised me to leave my business for a while and take a vacation by going south for a month. Left the store in charge of my son Millard & a druggist Mr. Thompson. Engaged passage on a steamship to Norfolk, Va. then by R.R. trains to Ashville, N.C., changing at Danville Va. and Salsbury N.C. then up the mountains to Ashville, staying there merely a month trying to get back my health. Ashville is beautifully located on a tableland in the mountains. It was modern and up-to-date. A summer place for city people a health resort for consumption and there were many living who had been cured and was [illegible] the city their home! The Vanderbilt Mansion and Estate was only a few miles away; we visited the estate one afternoon. It is supposed to be the finest estate in the United States. 1892, the Freeport Bank was organized. I was elected a director also the cashier! I resigned the cashiership preferring to remain in the drug business. They placed me on a committee to secure a cashier which was
accomplished to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors. There were 4 directors and I am the only surviving member of the original number! In 1931, I was elected President of the Freeport Bank and at the date of this writing 1944 am still holding this office altho [sic] 87 years old; am thankful have been able to attend the bank meetings and act as Chairman of the Board! In 1903 sold my drug business on acc’t of its close confinement need of assistance and responsibility so decided to make a change! My brother in law and I built a house at Point Lookout and spent the summer there with our families. The winter of 1904 my successor having some trouble trouble with help in the store he being a Physician. I took charge of the drug business for several months until he could secure a druggist to take control.

1905 having sold my interest in the beach house had another erected for my family which we occupied for 3 or 4 years. On account of the ocean washing away the beach had to have the bungalow moved twice to keep it being wrecked by the sea. For several summers spent much of the time on the beach when not away on business. Finally sold the bungalow. Having lived on Henry Street 15 years. Purchased a lot on Long Beach Avenue had a house erected we moved there in 1906 living at this place nearly 20 years; selling this house in 1925 had another house erected on East Woodbine Drive moving there in 1926 am still occupying it as my house at this date 1944. I think it was I October 1920 visited Washington the National Capitol city. Took a view of the Capitol building saw the Senate and House of Representatives chambers. The Congressional Library; the monument; U.S. Treasury; Smithsonian Institute; an art building; National Museum. Then went down the Potomac River on a steamer to Mount Vernon. Saw Washington’s Home & Tomb made stop at Alexandria Va. Went in the Episcopal Church and sat in the pews
of Washington & Lee. Also stopped at Baltimore, Md. walked through the market; also at Bruce Park. On one of the city streets in a large window of a factory saw the making of teaspoons by compression. Returning home was well satisfied with my trip. Decided not to enter again in the drug business as a proprietor and owner of a store but to work about half my time as a relief druggist engaged in taking charge of various drug stores during the absence of the druggists for a few days or a week or a longer period if required; but not to take a steady position as a drug clerk. My territory of operation was from Jamaica to Shelter Island; but my license covered the State as a practicing pharmacist but only once did I serve off L.I., and that was at Pleasantville, New York. Was engaged in relief work for 20 years or longer! This method of work enjoyed for it gave me ample time for recreation and other business. The names of the various druggist and the villages in which I served are listed as follows: E.J. Thurston, A.C. Howell, John Voailker [illegible] and Harry Sterling Rockville Centre; Dr. Fletcher, C.P. Smith and F. Plump Freeport; Dr. Steele, Mr. Ernest and Dr. Morgan Baldwin; Wm. Wolf & Mr. W. Golder Bellmore; Mr. Albertson and Dr. Robinson Amityville; Heffley Drug Company Babylon; A.C. Pickard & Mr. Hooper Roslyn; A. Howell Sea Cliff; Mr. Scudder Oyster Bay; John Conklin Patchogue, A. Howell Bellport; Thos. Rushman Mineola; Heffley Drug Co, & M.W. Golder Southold; Mr. Smith Shelter Island; G.V. Slost [illegible] & Coswith Pharmacy Southampton; White Pharmacy East Hampton; Mr. Brown Pharmacy Sag Harbor; Heffley Drug Co., Acinbrand, Carlstardt and Robbins Islip; Abrams & Ulmscheeder [illegible] Bay Shore; Caulwell, Fielding, Klein & Rowe Lynbrook; Murray Woodmere; Binkerhoff Marschuden [illegible] Hempstead; Hall of Pharmacy Jamaica; Roger Pharmacy, Funnell
For some years usually reserved if possible the month of August to remain on the beach with my family. I sailed my boat the White Gull and enjoyed many pleasant days sailing and fishing not only in August and other days during the summer if not otherwise engaged. In the Spring of 1889 Cousin Jose invited me to take a trip on a schooner to New Haven enjoyed the voyage also scenes on the ocean, river and sound. Our vessel got a jar on the rocks off City Island the Captain was some excited. At New Haven saw a drove of swine entering an Abbaton [illegible] to meet their death to provide food for humanity. My cousin & I returned home by train. October 1916 or 17 my daughter and I made a trip with an automobile to Boston, Mass. We left Freeport about 7 p.m. and arrived at Southold 11 P.M. Stayed with Millard over night. In the morning drove to Greenport there took passage on a steamer to New London. Lost my hat on the road had to buy a new one at Westerly R.D., arrived at Boston 7 P.M. Next day spent the time looking around Boston; visited various places of interest. The following day went by train to Worcester, Mass. There visited the Post Office and saw a Regiment of Soldiers which had just returned from Texas where there had been some trouble on the Mexican border. Then a train to New York & Freeport arriving home safely after a pleasant journey. For many years during the summer months my wife and I would make several trips each season to Point Lookout and Long Beach we would take our lunch and enjoy a delightful afternoon on the sea shore.

In August 1926 Hazel, Mandi [?], my wife and I made 2 weeks camping trip up state! Our 1st stop was at Earle’s home when we stayed over Sunday. Monday crossed
over the river at Hudson City; then up the west side to Albany then on to the foot hills of Saratoga, came on a heavy rain we put up at a road house for the night. Tuesday night arrived at Lake George and camped a few days while there I took a trip on a steamer on Lake George up to Paradise Bay most beautiful scenery. At Saranac [illegible] Camp Russell came to see us, had chicken dinner! Left Saranac [illegible] Camp arriving at Lake Champlain at 5 P.M. Monday Aug. 9th Tuesday visited Ausable [illegible] Cleasom [illegible]. Also made trip on steamer across lake to Burlington, Vt. Left Northern Pines and returned to Lake George. Left there on the 10th and camped for the night 10 miles south of Albany, Mama was afraid because she saw a colored man on the farm! Next night Cornwall on the Hudson, arriving home Saturday 5 P.M. Thankful to be home again after a 2 weeks absence. The next summer we had another enjoyable trip to New Hampshire, Vermont, Canada and New York. Left home on July 4th we spent some days at Indian Head, at Flander’s Beach near New Port, Vt. for 10 days, a very enjoyable outing lasting about a month. Have a brief record of these 2 trips in my diary 1926 & 1927. Mama, Hazel, Mandi (?) & I had several summer trips on holidays to various places along the water fronts on the north and south side of the island we enjoyed the scenery and our lunch and call it a day of enjoyable recreation and Mama knew how to fix the lunches. The Follett [illegible] family, Hazel and I would go somewhere on July 4th and Labor Days recall visiting the following Pleasure Resorts at various times Montauk, Orient Point, Cedar Beach, Hither Hills, Hamptons, Good Ground Canal, Sound Beach, The Shore Road, Farnstock’s State Park, Nassau Point, New Lebanon, Southold and other places for enjoyable days of recreation. Millard & I made several trips up the Hudson River to Poukeepsie [sic] and would have our dinner at Smith Brothers Famous Restaurant would
like to take another trip this summer 1944 if able? We also visited the World’s Fair in October 1939 & 40 many scenes were very interesting. About 1898 a company officials and other citizens had an outing on the bay and a dinner at the Hempstead Bay Yacht Club which was enjoyable all those present that day have passed on except the writer! The following is a casual summary of my various business investments exclusive of my professional drug business: the purchase of the drug store property and the Henry Street lots and dwelling were successful and profitable. Bought some mining stock small loss; bought a Western Mortgage which matured with profit; bought 5 shares Far Rockaway Bank stock sold at a handsome profit; N.Y. Bank Loan Association ½ loss; about 25 mortgage investments loss on 6; 7 note loans loss on 1; 6 speculative investments in real estate loss on 1; 6 stock investments loss on 3; had losses in 3 bank stocks; no loss on U.S. Treasury Bonds; no loss on commercial bonds; had 3 insurance policies loss on 1. It is said that most every one has some kind of hobby! If it be an innocent [sic] indulgence or pursuit, it may be beneficial as a pleasant past time in mental or physical recreation or employment [sic]. My hobby has been that of writing a habit that I have enjoyed which I believe has cultivated my mind in so doing? Have written many hundred business and social letters in my life time; have written articles for local papers; have contributed botanical articles for drug magazines; wrote about 20 articles on my remembrances of Freeport Village published in the Daily Review Star; published a booklet called: Selected Gems; another booklet The Golden Aniversary [sic] of the Freeport Bank; a record of the Ministers of the Freeport Methodist Church; a record of Christian Meditations and Memorials. Yearly diaries [sic] for nearly 40 years. The comic side of life in the drug business and another “Meditations & Local Memoirs and Record of Distinguished
Personalities”, a memoir of my dear wife Clara A. Golder. These records are in a large envelope in the dresser draw. The contributions to the local papers and drug magazines are pasted in a large scrap book. This book also when finished will be included with the others, mentioned. In the days of prosperity the Freeport Bank Directors would give an annual dinner to the employees which was appreciated for it was an enjoyable occasion.

July 29th 1941 was my 85th birthday day the afternoon and evening was celebrated by a visit to Long Beach by the Directors of the Freeport Bank we had a fine dinner at the Lido Hotel which was arranged by Mr. Nixon our cashier. Mr. Siddon the proprietor of the Lido who was a depositor in our bank came to our table with congratulations! Also a photographer from the Daily Review came and took a picture of the Directors at the table in the elegant dining room at the Lido which was published in the Daily Review! My friend Jay Randall Vice President of Freeport Bank for several years gave the Bank Directors an afternoon sail on the bay in his yacht “Marjay”. There would be some fishing and a real good tasty lunch served on the yacht which all enjoyed. These trips would be on or near my birthdays. In September 1938, the Eastern part of Long Island was hit by a West Indian Hurricane which crossed the Island and entered Rhode Island & Massachusetts causing loss of life and destruction of property. The Follett family, Hazel & I visited some of the wreckage scenes along the Hampton water frontage; the wind blew down many trees around Freeport. William E. Golder Jr. my grandson was born at Southampton, L.I. on July 4th 1916. Mama & I visited the hospital on the 5th to see our only grand child and his mother Reba they were apparently doing fine. Billy grew up a very active boy full of vigor, fond of the water, fishing & Indian reliefs he graduated from the Bellmore Grammar School; the Amityville High School; Columbia University receiving Ph. G. & B.S. degrees.
Billy following in the footsteps of his father and grand father being a pharmacist making the 3rd generation of druggist in the Golder family! Billy enlisted in the U.S. Navy Nov. 1942 serving in the naval hospital, Brooklyn for a year was transferred to Notre Dame College Indiana for naval training to become an ensign. Then was sent to Fort Pierce Florida to practice barge landings off the coast his work was so proficient in boat management was promoted as a Assistant Comander [sic] to give instruction in sea practice at Fort Pierce, Florida.

Sunday afternoon Aug. 4th 1940 Bill was married to Miss. Lois Rodman in the Episcopal Church Hempstead, L.I. I attended the marriage service at the church; but did not attend the reception. Lois was a graduate of Adelphi College also rec’d her masters degree from the New York University. She is now with her husband at Fort Pierce Florida. Have always remembered Billy on his birthdays and at Christmas. After 22 years ago, I acted for Lawyer Swezey [illegible] in getting signatures to clear up a title did some traveling in order to do it. Was appointed administrator to settle up the estate of my father in law John Wesley Bedell.
A brief record of remembrances of my children as I recall the past.

My oldest son, Millard W. Golder was born Oct. 3rd 1879 in Freeport, L.I. on Main Street where Webber's Store is located. He spent his boyhood days on the drug store corner Main St. & Merrick Road & Henry Street. I owned the large lot between the drug store and my dwelling on Henry Street which was a fine playground for my boys and others that came to play with them. Millard on leaving school worked in the drug store learning the trade with me. Then when I sold the business he worked for Dr. Fletcher also at Thurston's Drug Store at R.V.C. later was engaged in selling drug specialties. Married in June 1906 to Miss Reba Allen of Brooklyn, N.Y. he passed his examination before the State Board of Pharmacy and was licensed to practice
He acted as a relief for McBridge at Patchogue; then as a drug clerk at Riker’s Drug Store Brooklyn; then with Howell of Rockville Centre. Then conducted his own drug store for 14 years at Southold. Then was a drug clerk for 4 years at Bellmore L.I. with Mr. Wolfe on his decease; then purchased the business with no opposition now in 1944 with 4 other competitors is still the leading drug store doing a large and successful pharmaceutical and prescription business! I assist at the store a few hours every week to keep my hand in and help a little if able in my old age for I have always liked the drug business!

My second son Earle Vernon Golder was born Feb’y [sic] 20, 1883 at Freeport on the corner of Main Street and Merrick Road. [H]e spent his boyhood days in the same locality with his brother Millard. When Earle left the High School went to work in a bakery driving a delivery wagon. Sometime later graduated from the Bryant & Straton Business College, Brooklyn; worked about a year for Butler Bros. New York City; studied for 2 terms chemistry at Cooper Union in N.Y. City; worked in my drug store for awhile; served 5 years in N.Y. State Militia; served regular term in the Freeport Fire Department; was employed in the Brooklyn City Water Works for about 10 years; also for about 10 years with the Otis Elevator Company in both of the places directed men under him in their work! Earle bought a farm upstate with buildings 125 acres at [illegible] Columbia County when he has been making his home for the last 20 years altho [sic] the farm has not produced for him a living the way he has managed it! Earle married Viola Bennett of Lynbrook a cousin, not living happily separated. While on his farm got work in a Ginger Ale Bottling Concern [sic] one summer. Also for some months on road construction. In Nov. 1943 was elected Justice of Peace in his township, he evidently is having a difficult time with his surrounding conditions. My 3rd son Russell Vincent Golder was born Aug. 4 1886 at
Freeport on the drug store corner main Street & Merrick Road he spent his boyhood days with the surrounding conditions as his brothers. The open lot near their home was the playground. Russell was more devoted to his home than his brothers were preferring to amuse himself around the house than with the boys. Apparently was interested in things of nature and mechanics than his brothers he made a kite a day if needed and if away from home rather be with his parents than with the boys. On leaving High School went to work in a machine shop also was employed for a while with the Davison Pump Works, Greenpoint. He was with me for some time in the store. Russell worked for the L.I.R.R. also with the New York Central. He graduated in Mechanical Dentistry [sic]; also in salesmanship. Sept. 1918 was drafted in the 1st World War training in camp at Saratoga N.Y. & Fort Harrison Indianapolis, Indiana. Served 3 years in N.Y. State Militia; also with the Freeport Fire Department. Returned to the R.R. working for the Pennsylvania & Erie R.R.’s then was summer man at Lake Placid for the N.Y. Central. Finally took the position as City Agent at Lake Placid remaining there 14 years. Nov. 1942 was transferred to Buffalo & Rochester where he was been engaged as Passenger Agent and also traveling with troop trains to various camps and ports. 1926 Russell married Miss Flora McCasland a nurse at Saranac [illegible] New York. She is very much devoted to Russell and it appears that it is a pleasure for her to give every attention as to his general welfare as housekeeper, companion and nurse.

Hazel C. Golder was 4th child and the youngest in the family and the only daughter. Born Dec. 16th 1891 in the Henry Street dwelling Freeport, L.I., she had her playthings and her pet cats old mother cat & Winkie, had a play house and her little girl associates that came to play with her and they had delightful times with their house keeping and playing
games. Hazel when a girl enjoyed being on the beach in the summer with her friend Rennie, the row boat swimming and crabbing engaged much of their time, also gather wood along the shore for a bonfire at night! Hazel was a good scholar and graduated from Freeport High School when she was 16! Her mother and Mrs. Ida Powell taught her music and she became a good organist and pianist. She engaged in home study in drawing. Also played the clarinet and later the saxophone! Hazel had an old [illegible] canoe which afforded much pleasure on the bay in the summer time. Hazel & her mother had bicycles and would go riding when bicycling was popular. Hazel was engaged as a bookkeeper in the Bronze Propeller Corporation for five & one half years, was taken ill and was obliged to give up the position. She had a chronic muscle condition resulted in being an invalid for several years! Hazel’s 1st automobile was a Marathon which she & Russell enjoyed. A year or so later he mother gave her a Buick. After a while she sold it; then I gave her a Studibacker after driving it several years sold it to her bother Earle. In 1926 I gave her an Overland a year later traded it in for Essec. 1934 I gave her a [illegible] which she sold in Nov. 1943 and is now using the Delux Buick. In 1925 Hazel worked with Maude in a garment factory as bookkeeper at Poukeepsie [sic] for several months until the business was destroyed by fire. Hazel kept a cafeteria at Oceanside for one year then sold out to her Uncle. For several summers, Hazel and Maude would take a vacation trip upstate or New England way for a week or so. For about 20 years Hazel has been engaged in mission work. She served as nurse to her mother for nearly 3 years giving her the very best attention and care with commendable praise and approval by the attending physician! Hazel passed an examination at the Triboro hospital Jamaica in 1942 and was granted a Practical Nurse Certificate License for New York State. She served as Associate
Supervisor at the South Shore Convalescent Home, Patchogue, N.Y. until it was transferred to new ownership. She has now care of an invalid privately in her Freeport home. Mrs. Follett & Hazel had many pleasant auto trips to various places west, north & south for their enjoyment & recreation.