

**THE STILLWATER TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

Interview with Alexander McCord

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Interview conducted by Robert Jacoby
Transcribed by Maureen Block



Alexander McCord at age 13. (Photograph courtesy of Alexander McCord).



Jane McCord in Stillwater circa 1940. (Photograph courtesy of Alexander McCord).

Rob: My name is Robert Jacoby and I'm with the Stillwater Township Historical Society and this is part of an oral history project to record the experiences and memories of people that used to live or still live in Stillwater and I'm speaking this evening with Alexander McCord at his home in Newton. Thank you for participating with this. Tell me what year were you born and where you were born.

Alex: I was born in 1931 and because Newton Hospital wasn't around yet I was born in New York City. It was only a matter of making the trip in and back.

Rob: And what did your parents do in New York City?

Alex: Ok. My mother did a lot of things. She was a suffrage advocate for the 1914 campaign. She was a paid organizer for Gary Chapman Katz and she had New York state basically. She spoke all over New York State and organized chapters for the suffrage act. She was paid by...(?) Had an expense account. My father was a researcher at one of the New York universities but I don't remember offhand whether it was Columbia or NYU so he did research for Standard Oil and was like an assistant professor.

Rob: In chemistry?

Alex: He was in the chemical society and he was also an expert on crystallography and did research for oil companies. He was an expert in a number of fields. I don't know how he had the time actually. It was incredible the things that he did.

Rob: How old were you when you moved to Stillwater?

Alex: Well, I wasn't because they moved here in 1926 and I was born in 1931. My sister was 3 years old at the time. One of the reasons they moved was even in those days they said was the pollution but it may have been an excuse.

Rob: Had they always liked the country even when they lived in the big city?

Alex: He was an outdoorsman of sorts. He liked to go to the Adirondacks and fish. They had a canoe up there for many years. My mother had it shipped down in the middle of the 1930's. They had that up there supposedly in storage. She found out they were renting it out. I used that in Stillwater and I think I saw that canoe much refurbished at a garage sale here last summer.

Rob: Wow.

Alex: I'm not sure if it's the same one. Kind of asked around but nobody seems to know. It looked like the same one but it had been restored.

Rob: So even if you - even if they loved the outdoors it's quite a jump to go from being a chemist in New York City to running a mill in Stillwater. What happened?

Alex: I'm not sure. It's one of those things, I guess. They wanted to get away for a while. I guess from the rat race. My mother had circulated with the artistic types. In fact, for a short time she was married to an artist. Then shortly divorced. So I guess they just wanted to get away.

Rob: So they saw an opportunity when the mill was for sale or did they make an offer to the miller?

Alex: Well, they were looking through the (?) sheets that realtors have you know with the pictures and everything. They haven't changed much except now they're online. The real estate agent pulled a trick on them which they never realized but he went through and he came to this one and said you wouldn't be interested in that and instantly they were interested. It's a salesman's trick. And that one was the mill. And they said oh yeah, maybe we are. That how they got suckered into buying the mill.

Rob: And did you live in the miller's house next-door?

Alex: We lived in the house across from the Stillwater Inn. The smaller house that was on the corner which was next to the Paulinskill which was usually the miller's house. And for some years whoever lived in that house also helped with the mill but not necessarily. Gus Roof and his new bride lived in there in the 1940's but he had nothing to do with

the mill - he just rented it. \$12.50 a month.

Rob: So your dad and mom where obviously very intelligent. How did they learn how to run the mill?

Alex: Well there's not really that much to it. I guess, it was owned by Hendershot and Phelps were the people. I suppose they showed them how 'cause they bought it some inventory was included - grain - whatever. My father graduated from Brooklyn PolyTech in 1899. My mother graduated Mount Holyoke in 1909. So there was about 10 years age difference between them. So they learned very quickly how to run the mill. And there was no real money. Nobody's ever made a lot of money running a stone ground grist mill. They brought some money with them. That pretty much went with in the middle of the Depression. My father died in 1935 apparently without any insurance best I could (...). It was somewhat mysterious the circumstances because he was found (...)

Rob: And how old were you then?

Alex: I would have been about 3 ½ maybe 4 . It was early '35. I always thought I would have liked to dig out the coroner's report and see what it said but I never have. There was something suspicious about it.

Rob: Your mom took on the mill herself at that point?

Alex: Yes, she claimed she had 12 cents in her pocket but her credit was good. She started bringing in carloads of feed from Maritime Milling Company. We had to - they came into Stillwater Station and they had three days to load. When I got old enough, I helped.

Rob: Your mom and your father when he was still alive they hired local people to help them on the mill?

Alex: Yes, Bob Gebhardt helped run the mill for a while. He lived in the miller's house. He had a young daughter Albina who was a friend of my sister's. She may still be around but I haven't heard or seen anything of her in 50 years I guess. She may still be around somewhere. You might ask. She'd be 76 or so.

Rob: Did you used to play in the mill before - as a kid?

Alex: Yeah, after it got so it wasn't too dangerous when I got to be about 9 or 10 years old. I knew all the ins and outs of the trap doors.

Rob: Describe the mill to me - just whatever comes to you.

Alex: Ok, at that time it had two running stones but you only really had waterpower to run one. It may have had four at one time and at one time it was set up to make white flour. All that machinery – almost all that machinery is gone. You need a lot of waterpower to make white flour and on a number of stones. Over the years your dams depreciate and I think at one time the property just east of the mill property. There's about 18 acres in there. Just east of that was the old Emmons property was what is now a big island with trees on it. I think at one time I've seen that on maps listed as a mill pond which would have given them a lot more water to run the mill. That's all been filled in with trees.

Rob: How many people did it take to operate the mill?

Alex: One person and they didn't have to be there all the time - it would run itself. All that machinery was patented by I think his name was Oliver Evans. The patents go back to the 1900's so they are long gone but he designed it and patented all that machinery that moves grain so that you don't have to be there to move it - it moved itself.

Rob: All the pulleys, the chutes, everything.

Alex: The chutes, the pulleys would just dump it in a hopper and it feeds itself and takes care of itself for a while.

Rob: How many bags could be filled a day?

Alex: That only ground as I remember a couple hundred pounds a day - not a day - an hour - a couple hundred pounds an hour. At 10 or 15 cents a bag you didn't make much money, but you could do it while you were doing other things because it would pretty much like run itself. You would check it now and then and change the bag.

Rob: When it was operating was it noisy and dusty?

Alex: It rumbles and mostly the chutes are so tight that you don't get any dust except for the main chute which fills the bags because that comes down from up around the 3rd story. It's bigger than the other chutes. The ground grain comes down through that - the reason being it cools it because you can't put it away hot or it will mold. So it comes down there and that creates some dust. Dust is - the miller sweeps up the dust and feeds the chickens with it or puts it in the garden and feeds the worms. Nothing goes to waste.

Rob: Besides wheat what else was ground there?

Alex: We didn't make terrific corn meal. We also could crack corn. We were the only place in the county that could crack corn during the war. The government was sending people corn - whole corn and it had to be cracked to feed the animals. We got the job - some of the local businesses - to crack the corn for them because we could do it.

Rob: How old were you when you started working in the mill?

Alex: Oh, I could run that mill I guess when I was about 12 or 13 or so. You set it up and check the courses of the grain and make sure everything is full 'cause you can't run it empty. One person we had in there did go off and leave the stone and it ran dry and it blew its bands because those stones were - those were French stones that came from the Hardin Mill near Paulinskill Lake. Those stones came from France as the ships' ballast. They were put together and they had iron bands around them and if the stones overheated they would break the bands if you let that happen.

Rob: How do you cool those stones?

Alex: The grain pretty much cools it but if you let it run it without the grain. It's like running your car without oil so that happened to one of the stones. The pieces were around the property there - I guess they're still there. And we got another stone to put in there and it's cut in the wrong direction and was never used. I don't know if Gus ever did anything with that or not.

Rob: The river's going all the time so conceivably you could have been running the mill in the middle of the night. Did you ever do that?

Alex: Usually not because you would have to back up some water and the dams being in disrepair after years of floods you didn't have enough water to run it 24 hours a day usually. So normally and sometimes it made sense if the water was low you ran it in the morning and then took off for lunch and came back later. I have a picture. My sister took it in '40 or '41 and it shows the millrace is about as high as I've ever seen it. After that the dams deteriorated, trees fell and their roots had been holding the banks together. The water was never that high again. Not that I remember.

Rob: Did your family own the dam or was that on the Emmons' property?

Alex: We owned all the dams and the water rights up 'til as far as I know. The Big Brother Camp which is Saddleback Lake they started pumping water out to fill their lake and we went to court and the court's local lawyer said we would never win the case. We won the case and they paid us \$50 a year to use our water and they were regulated as to what times they could pump. They couldn't pump while we were running the mill. That's local history you will probably not see anywhere else.

Rob: I imagine that during the times...

Alex: I think Tom Bain was the lawyer in town - still could remember that. You might want to talk to him.

Rob: Oh, ok. I'll ask. I imagine that sometimes during the summer - late summer the water was pretty low and you couldn't run the mill.

Alex: Well, if you want to back up overnight you could run it. You remember without power.

Rob: And what about flood?

Alex: Flood, you couldn't run it. In fact, several of the floods caused considerable damage. You could get mud and it tears things up and

has to be all put back together. We actually had the floor bay in there which originally was oak planks. It was kind of torn up in one of the floods and they poured cement in there. It's probably still in there.

Rob: What's a floor bay?

Alex: That's the section just before the wheel paddles. That's where the turbine is. They had the turbine put in there – I don't remember the exact date – somewhere about 1886 or so. It's a Leffel turbine - one of the best made. They still have parts for it. I think they're up in Connecticut somewhere.

Rob: Is that still in the mill?

Alex: That's a turbine. As far as I know, it's still there. That ran about 6 or 7 horsepower which is enough to run a mill stone. That was a terrific turbine. One of the old-timers told me that he had seen the old water wheel in there but I never figured out where it was or how they ran it. It originally had a...

Rob: A vertical.

Alex: A vertical wheel...I should have picked his brain but he died in the 1940's and I never asked him that question.

Rob: I believe Keen's mill also had originally a vertical mill and then they switched to a turbine.

Alex: The mill at Lake Grinnell uses (...) I'm not sure how that ran. I never asked there either. That mill was there until fairly recently. It was a frame mill and eventually fell down. Some of the stones for the mill in Stillwater came out Lake Grinnell. Gus & Klem pulled it out of the river below the mill dam. They pulled it out with a wrecker. (...) The mill fell apart and basically none of the stones survived. Mrs. Lanterman (?) was an interesting lady. (indistinct talking) She's been dead I guess 30 years.

Rob: Tell me something about the village of Stillwater. What are your memories of what it looked like?

Alex: It was uh very quiet and everybody pretty much minded their own business but we all got together in the summer and played softball. It was all ages and in wintertime we ice-skated and that was various ages too.

Rob: Did the Kill freeze over? Is that where you ice-skated?

Alex: No, actually we used to use some of the local lakes and the pond at the (...) camp which is on the way to Blairstown. That was kind of made a rectangle so it was kind of like having a hockey rink. That's still there and I think they still skate on it. The local lakes were great and the Kill's a little dangerous though I have skated on it, it's not recommended.

Rob: Which was your school?

Alex: Stillwater. I went to the one-room schoolhouse for 5 or 6 - 5 years or so. Then they built a consolidated school. That was basically I think 3 rooms. Three rooms and it had a rec-room - a basement we used to play dodgeball in. Since then it has expanded.

Rob: Tell me about the one-room schoolhouse. Did it have heat?

Alex: It had a big round stove in the corner and the older boys would come in in the morning and fill it with wood to get it going and it heated very well. If you were naughty you might be sent to stand behind it which was - the boys always thought was interesting because they would take their elastic bands and newspaper and shoot the spitballs out from under and behind it and because they sat back at the teacher's left hand you really couldn't see back there.

Rob: And who kept the wood stove going?

Alex: Also, I don't really remember...once they got it going in the morning it was pretty much - it was big enough it pretty much ran all day. I don't know that anybody - I suppose the older boys threw wood on. They'd also occasionally throw chestnuts in there which would explode making things kind of interesting and occasionally a 22 rifle bullet which people think that they're going to fire somewhere but they don't. They just blow up and make things interesting.

Rob: How many students were in that school at any one time?

Alex: My class had either 8 or 9. I was the only boy.

Rob: That must have been interesting.

Alex: And I suppose - let's see with eighth grade running I guess there were about 50-55 students. There weren't a lot. They fit in one room very nicely. Everybody had a desk. Most of which were carved on 'cause for years we put our initials on it - wrote things on it. Dr. Dalling was our first teacher there. He was a former minister – I think Presbyterian but maybe not. He was also the justice of the peace. He kept pretty good order. I'm not so sure he was all that great at teaching academics but everybody learned to read and write. Some of the students - my sister came out of that school and went to a private high school and then onto college so it worked out.

Rob: What were the hours of school back then?

Alex: I don't remember but I presume we were there from 9 to 4. I was close enough I could go home for lunch and usually did. Of course the danger was if you took your lunch it would be stolen because there were kids in that school that were a lot poorer than we - than I was. Sometimes people (...) lunch without too much complaint.

Rob: And how did the other students get there? Was there a bus back then?

Alex: I think everybody walked. I know the kids from East Stillwater walked which was a mile – I guess a good mile and a half away. They all walked. Some of them still lived there in East Stillwater until fairly recently. The Chammings family. They may still live there. Yeah, they walked up that back road to town. When I was a little older I rode my bike. It was easier and faster.

Rob: And then you went to high school in Newton?

Alex: Yeah, that - for that you had a bus. In fact, students from - students from Fredon back before there were buses used to go in to - I presume the ones from Stillwater too used to go in by horse and

wagon. They had a contract with the wagon driver just like you do with the bus company. The only exception is the wagon driver had to provide them with blankets. It was cold but that was before my time. We had buses.

Rob: What did you do when you graduated high school?

Alex: I went to college at Lehigh University, in Pennsylvania and though I am getting fairly on in age I have a child who is a student there now. He's home for the summer but he will go back and be in his third year. There's a long stretch between my father getting out of college in 1899 and my kids will be out in 2011 I guess.

Rob: Yeah, more than a century. Did you continue to help at the mill when you came home from college?

Alex: Yeah off and on until the '55 flood. That kind of put an end to everything. I had no real interest in running it. There wasn't any real money in running a mill.

Rob: Tell me about the last couple of years of the mill. Was it kind of clear to your mother that things were not going to last too much longer?

Alex: Yeah, she had a long time helper there. He was also a long time alcoholic. He kind of ran things for a while but he was not really – he was getting on in years. I think he died in '54 or '55 by the time I got out of college. He was quite an interesting man. He had had some college education I believe in horticulture. (indistinct comment) He had gone to WWI and (...) that his best-friend had been shot and he never recovered and needlessly became an alcoholic. He mostly drank and because my father was dead he was kind of a surrogate father which had its good points and bad points. I spent a lot of time in barrooms and I was 10 years old. I learned to eat pretzels and drink coke and pickled sausages. I also became an expert table shuffleboard player and which unfortunately I never pursued into the tournaments because I could beat anybody in Stillwater.

Rob: Where were there shuffleboards?

Alex: The Stillwater Inn had 2 shuffleboards. One of them was a 32 foot one

which is the longest made. And I was good on the 32 foot board. In the last 10 or 15 years I've tried shuffleboard again. Your mind still works but the body doesn't. You don't have that coordination anymore. You know what you want to do but the body doesn't do it anymore.

Rob: Where there many bars or taverns in town?

Alex: Yeah, we had two – Stillwater Inn and the one up the street run by an Italian family - Jaconi. That's not right but you can kind of figure it out.

Rob: Which building was it?

Alex: That was right on the street - it's the closest one to the street as you go up past the center of the town of Stillwater. It's near where the bank is now - in that area.

Rob: I see.

Alex: It's right there - it was right on the street. That was - he tended bar in the front and cut hair in the back. That was the other bar. He had a shuffleboard in there at one time too. That was the men's recreation - someplace you could go.

Rob: Women didn't go into the bars then?

Alex: Yes, some.

Rob: Some.

Alex: Yeah, there were always some. Some ended up married to women in the bar - things like that. It was a place to hang out. There wasn't any, uh - wintertime especially there wasn't any place to hang out.

Rob: Where there any bars on Swartswood Lake?

Alex: I believe there were but not that I knew of. The one out here in Fredon has been there as long as I can remember. That was a station on the old stagecoach route many years ago. I guess they stopped that here. Same place is Steponzie's (?) now - they call it. Yeah, that was there -

it's been there a long time.

Rob: Let me ask you about your mom. She was college educated and lived in New York City and came out to Stillwater. She must have still had interest in the arts or reading. How did she satisfy that living out here?

Alex: Uh, they always had to have a school of books. They had all the classes and everything else. When I was sick – I used to learn more when I was sick than when I was in school because I read the classics. Yeah, she had a lot of people that she wrote - corresponded for many, many years.

Rob: Do you remember what any of those classic books were?

Alex: Well, yeah, almost all of them. Some of them I still have. Edgar Allen Poe and Charles Dickens.

Rob: Did she ever.....

Alex: And some of them you never heard of like Kingsley. Yeah and they still corres.. - she still corresponded with people in New York and Virginia - Ex-college people and her family of course. Her mother lived until 19... I think 52. She was 90 some years old.

Rob: Did she come out to visit you often?

Alex: No, my grandmother lived in Ogden, VA and we did go down. I did go down to see her. We used to stay at the old house. That was the new house - the old house burned around 1900.

Rob: Do you remember your first visit into New York City?

Alex: I went in to see– my mother took me in to see the Joan of Arc movie which had to be in the late 30's whenever that was made – it was just out. I remember going to that. Other than that I went in once or twice when we were in high school to the Metropolitan Museum and one other museum - The Museum of Natural History on a class trip so we got in occasionally. It was quite a drive and the roads weren't so good. My sister went to college in New York for a while but she commuted from Westfield on the train. She stayed with an aunt - my father's

sisters both lived in Westfield.

Rob: What about going into Newark or Paterson or New Jersey cities?

Alex: We didn't do that much. Some of the people used to go in. It would be an excursion. They would drive in to have dinner or something.

Rob: The train still ran back then?

Alex: Yeah, I remember taking the train into Westfield to see my aunts who were quite well off so I got to visit my rich uncle down there. My aunts were debutants in the 1900's - Brooklyn. If you go online and look up the Brooklyn Eagle you'll find their names in there. That's the Brooklyn Eagle - for some reason they decided to put it all online even though it's 100-110 years old.

Rob: What were your aunts' names?

Alex: I had a Maude McCord. She became a Polmeroy. Her husband was an executive type on the railroads and Aunt Theo which was actually Theodotia who married a Jarvis who had an insurance agency. I think that insurance agency may still exist in the family. That was in Westfield. The rich uncle had a big (...) house. The architect design. It was made out of brick.

Rob: Did you follow your parents' love of the outdoors?

Alex: Not particularly. My idea of going tanning is to go to a hotel with a heated pool - ah none of this. They had all the camping equipment. A lot of their stuff was leftover WWI surplus which I regret I don't have because I could have sold it on Ebay. They had all the camping equipment - the tents and the cots and the utensils and pots and pans from WWI surplus.

Rob: So, your mom closed the mill in 1955?

Alex: Yeah, more or less. It kind of ran off and on.

Rob: And did she stay in Stillwater?

Alex: Yes, I took her to uh - I took her to her aunt's in Arlington about 1960 and she never returned after that. I came back. I lived in Hawaii for a couple of years. I came back and pretty much auctioned off some of the house. Cleaned it out and sold (...)

Rob: You were able to sell the mill?

Alex: Yes, eventually - to Gus and Klemm bought (...)

Rob: Okay, but quite a bit later?

Alex: Yeah, it was around '71 I think. I went there off and on a year in the big house and for a while the smaller one. Eventually we sold - I rented the big house for a while to a lady that had dogs. She wanted a place to keep her dogs.

Rob: What were you doing at that time?

Alex: I was working in Newton. I had worked at the Bank of Hawaii for about 2 years. When I came back to Stillwater I went to work in Newton for what then was Seaport Finance which interestingly enough it had been started in Hawaii a few years before. I drove back and forth until I bought this house which I thought I would stay here temporarily but it's 30 something - almost 40 years ago.

Rob: Where is your father buried?

Alex: In Stillwater. He was cremated so his remnants are there. I didn't know but for many years they were in a lead box in a desk in my house. I guess your mother doesn't tell you when you're six years old that your father is in the desk. I found out later. Yeah, my mother and father are buried here and the tombstone is marked for me and my brother Mike.

Rob: Do you go visit the cemetery?

Alex: Every now and then. We should go see the stone. We used to like to go out there and see what's going on in Stillwater and then go on to see Ronnie Ronaldson. She used to live in Stillwater and she used to deal in antiques, but she just died 4 or 5 years ago so we haven't been by there much although I think the shop is still there. That shop is down

in uh - on the way to Delaware Water Gap in a little town I can't remember the name of it. Ronnie was uh - as a teenager she was a Barbazon Model but unfortunately she smoked and got cancer. Ronaldson's lived in that little house across from the school that sits on the corner for many years. .

Rob: Do you stay in contact with any of the people that you grew up with or knew in Stillwater?

Alex: Well, I used to stay in contact with Ronnie until – it was very inconsiderate of her – she went and died. Uh, yeah, I talk to Roxanne Perona whose father - step-father and mother owned the Stillwater Inn for many years. Interesting enough - last I heard which was a months ago her step-father was still alive. He's in his 90's. And everyone in Stillwater would know that he (...) for many years from 1945 to '65 I guess.

Rob: Have you been keeping track of what's been going on with the mill in the last several years?

Alex: I ask once in a while and they said it's one of those things they're working on. Apparently they've gotten - according to the newsletter - they've gotten some money back from the government. That field above the uh - above the bridge I used to keep cows and horses in there and have it mowed occasionally and that was a gorgeous pasture and now that the state owns it's a mess. Nobody takes care of it. I don't know if they'll ever get it back the way it was.

Rob: What would you like to see happen with the mill?

Alex: I would like to see it get running again. It's easy to run if its all in repair, but every year that goes by it gets worse.

Rob: You must be one of the few people around who really knows the ins and outs of it.

Alex: Yeah, I can run a mill. I can also dress a millstone.

Rob: What does that take?

Alex: Well, it takes a very heavy sharp hammer basically...

Rob: and a chisel?

Alex: a chisel and a pair of - you have to wear goggles. Because those stone chips - as it is if you do it enough you will get stone chips in your hand. I never did that much of it.

Rob: And how often does the stone need to be resharpened?

Alex: Well it depends on how much you use it, but those would only need it every 3 or 4 years. Those are good French stones. They kept their age. They are very very hard. They're a little like glass. That's why they flew them all the way from France.

Rob: Wouldn't little pieces of stone get cut off and get broken off and into the flour now and then?

Alex: Well, I suppose there's always a little dust in there, but it was never a bad thing. Of course, when we made cornmeal it was sifted because you only wanted the meal and not the other parts that came through so that was all run through the sifter.

Rob: When you sold the bags of flour from the mill did the bags say Stillwater Grist Mill or..?

Alex: We used to sell 5 pound bags of cornmeal through the Garris store and they would be in bags that said Stillwater and some of those may be still - I don't have any anymore but I think - I think the Historical Society may have one or two. Ronnie Ronaldson tended to keep that kind of thing and then she would pass it onto whoever wanted it. She lived up in Stillwater.

Rob: You mentioned a couple of times that there's not much money to be made in running a grist mill but your mother and father before that maintained it for 25 years or so or 30 years.

Alex: Well through the 20's and early 30's they had some money – now they brought it from Brooklyn with them.

Rob: I see, it was like a subsidy - their savings.

Alex: The family - they came from family that had some money. They were executive types. Had a few bucks. So they had some money but it almost all went during the recession and with my father's death. It was a struggle after that. My mother used to borrow money. I have checks from Mrs. Kilmer who – uh, Joyce Kilmer's widow lived in Stillwater - I don't know if you know that - probably.

Rob: The poet? The poet's wife.

Alex: Yeah, his widow lived there in what they call Whitehall now - that great big house. Dr. Cherian (?) bought that and the estate when she died in '41. She used to be good for 50 bucks now and then. My mother always paid her back. I have the cancelled checks with the Kilmer name on them which I probably should put it on Ebay and sell. I don't know if they would bring anything. My mother's suffrage ad material sells. I've sold a lot of that on Ebay. She didn't keep enough of it unfortunately.

Rob: Did she tell you much about that experience?

Alex: Uh, somewhat, yes.

Rob: Did she march?

Alex: Well she was more of the organizer than the marcher. And she spoke at conferences and... Yeah, it was 1914 when they had the big campaign. Cary Cat - Cary Chapman Cat who ran that campaign - somebody had either left her in a will or donated \$100,000 to that campaign. That was a lot of money. So my mother was hired to (...) that. They were successful but 5 years later or so they weren't. Yeah, she told me some of that, but I had all her expense accounts and notes and things so it told me a lot more which I sold them all. I knew if they stayed around here eventually they would just get thrown out so might as well sell them. We sold a lot of stuff on Ebay.

Rob: So, they were very involved in political activities. Did that continue when they were in Stillwater?

Alex: Not as far as I know. My mother helped on the hospital auxiliary. She started that when the hospital started. She raised money for the hospital. I am not sure if she donated a lot of her own but she raised it from other people. Her name was on a plaque at the hospital. Last time I was up there and I looked I couldn't find it but they move things around but it must still be up there somewhere.

Rob: Do you remember what the politics of Stillwater was like when you were a kid or a teenager?

Alex: Other than that you could buy a vote for 5 bucks, I don't remember. (indistinct comments) A lot of votes changed hands in the local bars. You could be persuaded for 5 bucks.

Rob: Were you church goers?

Alex: No. My mother liked to come to Newton for the Episcopal Church but it was kind of a rare thing. I went off and on - once or twice to the Sunday School at the Presbyterian Church. They did something I didn't like so I never went back. The first time I went there, they had a Sunday School where actually I had to read the text and have a lesson but then when I went back next week they had like crayons. I wouldn't put up with any crayons - I was too old for that. I was too smart for that actually so I never went back.

Rob: Was there competition between the Presbyterian and the Methodists?

Alex: I suppose but not that I noticed. I know the Methodists - their Harvest Home dinner had great food. I went to that a couple of times and ate myself into oblivion. I didn't get really involved in politics and I don't think my parents got involved either.

Rob: She got it out of her system after being a suffragette.

Alex: Yeah, she was a suffragette. She corresponded with some of those people for a while.

Rob: Well, she looked tough. I saw the picture of her that appeared in the newspaper. When was that in the late '40's or so?

Alex: Yeah, in the Star Ledger or something. Yeah the uh - my mother had some very radical friends because of the suffrage movement. One of them was a John Mooney - a Marxist. She corresponded with him and he shows up in the 1940's in San Francisco as one of these workers - union guys with his brother. She also worked for a while for a newspaper called the Artisan which was a radical labor newspaper. She wasn't there long. I still have some copies of that but they're in bad shape. Yeah, she said she was young and foolish with her radical politics. Some of the letters to her start out "Dear Comrade".

Rob: You were 10 or 11 when World War II started. Did you follow the war news closely?

Alex: Oh yeah, yes we always did.

Rob: Tell me something about what it was like...

Alex: Well, when it first happened on that December my mother thought it was another one of the War of the Worlds things.

Rob: Oh, Orson Welles?

Alex: Yeah, Orson Welles. And then finally decided it wasn't. There was a lot of things going on. A number of Stillwater boys served and got killed. I don't remember the number. I think the Historical Society has that.

Rob: Did you have a radio?

Alex: Oh, yeah, in fact we also had a radio which ran on batteries. It was a desk with a radio on top and batteries underneath because Stillwater didn't have any electricity. They didn't have electricity or uh we didn't have inside plumbing until the 1940's. Not sure when the electricity went through. It came in here about 1898. I suppose Stillwater was a long time after that.

Rob: What newspapers did you get if any?

Alex: The best one we got was the Blairstown Press and they sent that to me after my mother died and it had nothing on there but her name. It had

no address and I still got it. And then in the 1960's I wanted to run an ad with them and they said you haven't paid for this newspaper in years. I had to pay them. They had taken the address off but I still got it. Blairstown Press was...? Yeah, I uh - I lost my train of thought before.

Rob: We were talking about World War II and following the news on the radio.

Alex: Oh yeah. They had classes up at the grammar school for people who were supposed to watch for airplanes. They had a name for them. People went around at night and made sure your lights were out. It was all organized. They had a bell that signaled an air-raid made out of a - it was the bell from a locomotive. It hung up there. I wish they had saved that. Somewhere over the last 30 years somebody got rid of it. That hung up there next to the garage for some time. And if there was an air raid we would start a drill. Somebody would come out with a sledgehammer and pound on that and you could hear it all over town.

Rob: Do you remember such events as the Invasion of Normandy, D-Day?

Alex: Yeah, one of those - at the end of one of those - I can't remember which year. Germany or Japan. At one of those times I was in camp and I went a couple of years I went to camp at the top of the hill. The Boy Scout camp which is no longer there. You can't even get there anymore. That's where I learned to shoot a rifle. Other than that I didn't learn much up there.

Rob: That's up by the Appalachian Trail?

Alex: Yeah, it's up on the mountain there.

Rob: Was the Appalachian Trail under way when you were still..?

Alex: Well it was always there. It just wasn't well marked. There's a couple other trails up there too - I can't remember the names of them.

Rob: Did you go hiking?

Alex: Only with the Boy Scouts. I'm not really a hiker.

Rob: What about fishing?

Alex: I uh, my father was an expert fisherman. He tied his own dry flies and he left some antique rods which would have been worth a fortune except that they've been either lost or stolen. I have a few left. And three or four boxes of flies. I have a few of them left - they walked off - put them under their coat and walked off. He was an expert in many fields. He collected butterflies which we sold at the auction. They were all mounted on a pin with their Latin names. How he had time for all this - I don't know but he did.

Rob: How did they preserve them so they don't just fall apart?

Alex: I'm not sure. Eventually insects get them but it depends on the box. If the box is sealed real well they are gorgeous - museum quality. I don't know. They were all mounted, had a little slip of paper with the Latin names. How he had time for all this I don't know. Eventually if he had stayed in Stillwater he would have surveyed the insect world of the Paulinskill but he didn't live long enough.

Rob: Did you ever find Indian arrowheads or other artifacts as you were walking around the fields?

Alex: I found a stone - a round stone with a dimple in it once and I took it to Mr. Beagle [Hiram Beagle] a gentleman who had that sort of museum and he said they hold that over a stick when they make a fire. Just holds the end of the stick so I gave it to him. That was about the length of my (...) I never pattered around much. If I figured it was out there I might dig more. Gus Roof plowed out a coin which I think was like Mexican or something in one of his fields.

Rob: What would you say was the biggest way that Stillwater has changed from the time that you were a child 'til to today?

Alex: Well, the grocery stores as far as I can tell are gone. You had two. The one that was part of the Post Office and then Joy and Bud ran one. And during the war Bud Story he also opened a soda fountain which was a great place to go after you had a ballgame or doing something.

The kids could hang out especially in the summertime. I suspect that Charlie opened that as a public service because I don't think he made a lot of money at it but he was kind - make an accommodation even if he didn't make a lot of money. Teenagers especially in the summer time.

Rob: Do you think Stillwater still has a small town feel?

Alex: I presume. I don't live there anymore. There was a time when our - when the entire town would turn out virtually to watch a softball game. Or they'd go down to sit on the banks of the Paulinskill and fish.

Rob: Tell me about July 4th. Were there parades and things like that?

Alex: I don't remember except the ones they had in the late 60's. And I don't know if they had them in Newton or not. I suppose they did.

Rob: And at Christmas time were there many parties? Did people get together?

Alex: As I remember I was always away at Christmas going to see the uncles and aunts and things. What was going on I don't know. I know that the schoolhouse was always decorated inside. They made the - they put up the - I don't know what the word is

Rob: The crèche.

Alex: And little houses and the mirrors for a skating rink. And the older students - sometimes I think I went too would go out in the woods and gather the greenery that would grow in the wintertime. The ground pine and there were some other ones that were still green in the winter. We used those to decorate with. We didn't get much studying done but we had a lot of fun building it - the crèche.

Rob: Earlier you said people kept to themselves mostly. Do you remember much visiting between people? I guess what you meant was they minded their own business but they were friendly neighbors.

Alex: Yeah, almost everyone else went to churches and they got to see their

friends, business acquaintances and the other farmers. There were always uh – in the school there were - when I was there it was a depression on me. There were some kids there who were very poor and they struggled to keep a pair of decent shoes on and that kind of thing.

Rob: Were you aware of the Depression?

Alex: Yeah, what we did - talk about partying - what we did was we played a lot of cards. I learned to play Pinochle and this more complicated game called - I think it was called Michigan or something like that. I learned to play that at like 9 or 10. Talking about 1939 or '40. In fact, I played once or twice in the Kilmer House. They'd have people - Mrs. Kilmer had friends from New York including Bob Holiday. He was a writer of the time. Bob stayed there for (...) over the years. And they'd have reporters and stuff come in from New York and they'd play cards. And they'd go back to New York. Mrs. Kilmer got by with her fees what do you call it?

Rob: Royalties.

Alex: Royalties. Yeah, for a while she was on speaking engagements. She used to speak.

Rob: Was she a writer herself?

Alex: She was a better poet than Joyce was. I have some of her books actually. I would think that she didn't get the notoriety that he did. She was an excellent poet and if you have an anthology of poetry from the '30's she's in there. She was in Rogets Thesaurus for many years. Recently, she's been eased out. They kept cutting her. I have some of the older ones. They have 2 or 3 things in and the next couple of years they would have one and eventually she disappeared. Yeah, but she was an excellent poet. And she wrote 3 books which I have some hopefully. They were like children's books. Emmy, Nicky and Gregg. Children's books - books about children. I remember Mrs. Kilmer. She was a nice lady and I am still in touch with her grandson. He's a professor down in Northern Virginia Community College. We correspond by e-mail now.

Rob: Do you have anything you would like to add about Stillwater or your experiences there?

Alex: I don't know ask questions.

Rob: Did you ever go down to the Delaware River much or ever?

Alex: No, I mostly stuck to the Paulinskill which is where I learned to swim. My sister taught me to swim when I was 4 years old. I got to be fairly good without really being coached. I didn't really learn to swim 'til my children became swimmers here in Newton pool and by watching their coach and then I learned to swim - just to do it correctly.

Rob: You mentioned earlier about a canoe. Did you do much canoeing on the Kill?

Alex: Yes, I used to - parts of that if you go up the millrace there's headgates you have to go through. After that you get back and it's like being in the Everglades. I mean there's nothing.

Rob: You don't see houses?

Alex: The snakes and the birds and all that - there's nothing. That was fun. I would go up there and fish. Sometimes I had a rifle - put it in the canoe. Back in those days, they didn't really enforce the laws.

Rob: How many police were there in Stillwater?

Alex: As far as I know there weren't any.

Rob: Not even a sheriff?

Alex: They had a Justice of the Peace. I don't know who ever made an arrest. I suppose they had somebody. I don't know who it would have been. I knew Dr. Dalling, the Justice of the Peace because he was also my school teacher until Mrs. Dixon took over. I think the first year we went to the consolidated school Mrs. Dixon became the teacher. Her husband was retired from AT&T where he had patents. He was an engineer and he was also a congressman for the state of New Jersey.

Rob: When was the consolidated school built?

Alex: I don't know. Look at your records. '50 no '40 - '44 or '45 I guess. It would have been just at the end of the war. Don't quote me on that.

Rob: Ok. Tell me about uh.....

Alex: Interestingly enough by the way about 5 years ago they had a reunion for the one- room school - the Stillwater School. I wasn't invited. I don't know. They knew I was here. I knew some of the teachers out there because they had kids on the swim team which I was involved with. I don't know it didn't bother me - Roxanne didn't hear about it either. Of course, she was in Florida at the time.

Rob: Is that your sister?

Alex: No, Roxanne. Her father owned the inn - her step-father owned the inn.

Rob: What's your sister's name?

Alex: Lacy.

Rob: And how old is she?

Alex: She is 84 going on 5 I guess. She's not as young as she used to be.

Rob: Did she get learn anything about running the mill?

Alex: No, she was mostly uh - she was in school or she used to spend summers on Cape Cod with her aunt. Mostly that kind of thing or we were swimming. She didn't really get involved in the mill. Oh, you probably should know, my sister was married to Jack Thomas who lived just across the line in Warren County Jack was shot down in the Baltic Sea. Recently she got remarried 60 years later.

Rob: They weren't married very long were they?

Alex: No, she was living in - they were living in North Africa. He went out on a patrol - spy mission patrol and the Russians shot him down.

Rob: This was after World War II.

Alex: Oh, yeah there was no war on. It was the Cold War - supposedly cold.

Rob: Do you remember hearing the news? How did you hear about it?

Alex: I'm not sure. My mother got the call. Then my sister showed up a few months later with baggage and a '48 jeep. Not sure how she got the jeep, but it was an army jeep. It was hers. It might have been '46.

Rob: What year was this? I am looking at a picture - a wedding picture - your sister's in a white gown and uh Jack's in a navy uniform.

Alex: And I think the Roof house shows in the back somewhere.

Rob: Oh, this is right in Stillwater?

Alex: Oh, yeah. You can't really see it but it's back there. That's Gus' house back there.

Rob: And she uh...When did she leave Stillwater for good?

Alex: I don't think she ever really came back for any length of time. She came back - she lived there with us I guess a year maybe or so. She was hanging out with her aunts in Cape Cod. Met her present husband and then they got married. Then she was very rarely back. My mother went to Virginia and shortly after I was in Hawaii for a while so she would have no reason. He got shot down in one of the first incidents of the Cold War.

Rob: Tell me something about winters. How did they clear the roads of snow?

Alex: Sussex County had the best uh - had a reputation for having the best cleared roads in the state. You could drive anywhere in the county but if you left the county - you were on your own. It was plowed - I used to hear them because I lived right near the road. I used to hear them come by. It was kind of - it was kind of a fun kind of thing to hear the plows go by.

Rob: It was all motorized. Not the horse-drawn?

Alex: Oh, yeah. No, it was all motorized. One of the driver's - there's that little triangle almost across from the school where the roads come together - it used to be steeper. One of the men coming down that mountain with a snowplow.

Rob: Fairview Lake Road.

Alex: He hit the brakes there and hung there and went into the triangle instead and hung there on the wires that they used to have for the cables. They got him out of there but yeah, the plows come by and they would do a great job. The man who ran that I should know his name he was kind of famous. He kept the roads clear.

Rob: You mentioned earlier that you had some cows at one time.

Alex: Yeah, at one time or another. I raised a few calves but my heart wasn't really in it. We about broke even by the time you pay for the feed and what you get for the milk.

Rob: Did you keep a garden as well?

Alex: We had one of the best gardens - you can't believe it. That's bottom land plus there had been chicken coops on that property at one time and some of your waste from the mill would go in that garden and it would grow anything. You just get it started and maybe weed it once. We used to grow corn and I used to give away tomatoes by the basketful.

Rob: You didn't sell any of it? It was just for.....

Alex: I never - should have but used to just gave it away.

Rob: Did a lot of people have their own gardens?

Alex: Gus Roof used to plow that for me. And I think in later years Leon plowed it a few times. I kept that garden going off and on until the 1960's. That was great - you could grow anything.

Rob: The river would flood and deposit good soil.

Alex: Probably over centuries. Back in '55 (...) And the water table. If you put a crowbar in parts of the garden it would go 3 feet down into water so you didn't have to worry too much about rain. It was naturally watered.

Rob: Did you draw water - drinking water directly out of the Kill or did you have a well?

Alex: Well, the big house had a cistern and it was fed from the roof by drainpipes full of rain water. I tried to kind of revive that back in the 1960's and it leaked and rather than go through the expense of trying to put a liner in there or something I dug a shallow well which I used which was alright if you were living there by yourself or like the lady with her dogs. When I sold the house they put in a regular well which wasn't too bad because in that place you only have to go down to 85 feet. It's not too bad. Now the smaller house had a - had a well but it was just a hand driven well. I tried to kind of revive that I found that because there's a septic tank on that property it was always - it always seemed to be polluted. I finally had the local well driller - his name was Stayskin (?) put in a well and he only went down 85 feet. It was an artesian well and it came right on top of the pipe. You didn't even need any deep well pump - just a shallow well pump. The pump water was right there. I think when Gus and Klem bought the property I think they hooked it up. I didn't even bother. I just managed with rainwater. Ran a pipe above ground and used it. Yeah, that's ah - the Stillwater Inn at one time had a pump out front which was considered to be a public pump. Used to - particularly those people that had summer houses which had no running water would stop and fill up a milk can or something - pump it up. That was some of the greatest water you ever drank. For some reason they did away with it. The pumps no longer there in case you didn't notice it.

Rob: Other pumps are on the road. There's a Texaco pump right outside the general store - gas pump.

Alex: Yeah, that's a gas pump.

Rob: Yeah, when did they stop selling gas in town?

Alex: I don't know. Ed Buckley was one of the last one's that had a gravity fed pump and he was the only place you could get gas when the electricity was out. His had a glass cylinder with marks - with the gallon marks on it. He could pump that full by hand however many gallons you wanted. That was there for many years.

Rob: There's another pump in front of the Stillwater Garage. I like the way they look. You know the old-fashioned pumps and I'm glad they kept them there. I don't know when that stopped being a uh...

Alex: I don't know. Recently they've had the uh follow if you have a leak it's going to cost you like a million dollars to clean it up. That kind of thing so a lot of people just giving up with the tank in the ground is bad. Buckley's had that old pump there for years. It was hand-filled. It pumped right out of the tank. My classmate, well he was a class behind me I guess in school, Buckley became an aircraft mechanic last I knew. He was in Seattle somewhere. Liam was also - was married and living down in - down toward Green Township somewhere. She had about 9 kids. I haven't really been in touch with either of them since they left Stillwater in the 1940's.

Rob: How long have you lived here in Newton?

Alex: '71 I think. It was temporary.

Rob: A temporary 30 years.

Alex: 30 some years, yeah. We're still working on it.

Rob: How many children do you have?

Alex: Well, I have 4 from the Newton crop and two from the previous. My oldest son is an airline pilot. He comes by. He lives in Clearwater, Florida. He actually flies out of New York but he lives in Clearwater so he's always hopping back and forth. He comes by occasionally with his girlfriend. They have a - they took advantage of the new recession to buy a house in Clearwater.

Rob: What's the age difference between your oldest and your youngest?

Alex: Well, he is 48 and my youngest just turned 21. He's at Lehigh except he's home for the summer. He'll be going back in about 2 months. He gets - he got better grades at Lehigh than I did. He's pulling a 3.3 in his courses.

Rob: What did you major in?

Alex: I started out as a kind of as a chemist/biologist type and then changed to business. So I have a degree actually in business administration. I went from uh, the first real job I had was when I worked for the Bank of Hawaii. I went surfing and banked. My oldest, the airline pilot was born over there.

Rob: Of those kids that you went to school with in Stillwater were there many or any that went to college?

Alex: I don't really know. Roxanne did. She was a year behind me but I'm not sure where she went. She may have gone to American Institute of Technology. Eventually she ended up - uh 'course she married Dr. eventually was Dr. Corona. He was uh - took his medical training in Cornell so she was up there with a college grant. A couple of years before he finished his degree. Now they're divorced and lives with her step-father in North Carolina. I should call her probably this weekend and see how they're doing. She's one of these that's refused to get a computer so I can't e-mail her.

Rob: When did you get a computer?

Alex: Oh, it's been close to 10 years.

Rob: Do you use it much?

Alex: Yeah, we have three actually in the house. Sometimes we've had as many as 5. We have 3 right now. Yeah, I used to sell on Ebay plus I keep in touch with a lot of people. Some of the people I knew in the Navy, some I knew from Stillwater - the Kilmer grandson.

Rob: You went into the Navy after college or before?

Alex: After.

Rob: After.

Alex: Yeah, in my stupid way I was lucky because I hit that 5 years between Korea and Vietnam. One of the people I was in high school with was Kenny Benson. He lives here in town. He was in the thicker of Korea. (Indistinct comment) Big enough to get mentioned.

Rob: Where did the Navy take you?

Alex: The Pacific Ocean. North Pacific. I never got to Australia which was one of the great places to go but I never quite made it, but I went to Japan and Okinawa and Kodiak and Adak in Alaska Midway Hawaiian Island, Hawaii.

Rob: Was this all sea duty or were you at bases?

Alex: Always sea duty. The best was kind of in Hawaii I guess 'cause we'd be there for 3 - a little better than 3 weeks and I would be at sea. We ran what's called a - don't know if you ever heard of it -a DEW line which is a close (...). Most people never heard of it, but there's a DEW line extension which ran across from Alaska down to Midway.

Rob: What does DEW stand for?

Alex: Early - something Early Warning - Defense Early Warning was a DEW line (...)They had big antennae across Canada.¹

Rob: A radar system right?

Alex: Yeah, watching for the Russians. And so we'd go out and have stations between Alaska and Midway. You would go out there and circle. I used to navigate so I knew - you had to know where all the circles were because you had to stay in them. And the dual Lockheed converted Lockheed constellations would fly over us and they'd make a circle from Midway - they had big radar sets on them. They'd make

¹ DEW is short for 'Distant Early Warning.'

a big circle from Midway to Alaska and back. I figured it was all eventually a waste of money but who knows. They may have prevented - the only thing they ever found was Pan Am at 35,000 feet or whatever.

Rob: What type of ships were you on?

Alex: That one was a destroyer escort which was a terrible kind of ship. They're short and they're not as big as a destroyer. And they are short enough that when you go over a waves you plow into the next one especially in the Pacific with its long rollers. You would plow into the next one which would bounce the ship and it's a terrible ride, but we all survived. We'd go a little crazy. There's a man named Vonhider (?) who did go crazy on one of those. He was stationed in - I can't remember - there's a book about it - either Vietnam or Korea. He was supposed to stay 15 miles off shore and he said the heck with this. He'd go in and talk to the marines and the army and say do you need a few shells somewhere and he'd fire his guns. He got caught eventually because he was in false positioning because he wasn't supposed to be there. (indistinct comments) He was court-martialed. It's a terrific book which I read.

Rob: How long were you in the Navy?

Alex: Almost 5 years. We had 5 years in between wars. The best duty was in Hawaii because we would be there 3 weeks or so.

Rob: Did you take the job at the Bank of Hawaii right after you got out?

Alex: Well I came back to Stillwater on a route. In fact, I worked on Cape Cod for my brother-in-law in the summer. I tended bar then went back to Hawaii and got a real job.

Rob: A bar here?

Alex: No, Cape Cod.

Rob: Cape Cod.

Alex: It was a nice place. We had uh - it catered to a lot of movie stars

because they'd be there playing summer stock.

Rob: Who do you remember seeing?

Alex: Well let's see - Debbie Reynolds was there. The girl that - the lady that played on - the one with the dog - June Lockheart was always there. Farley Granger. Zsa Zsa Gabor – no Eva Gabor. Eva Gabor was there. Tallulah Bankhead. I went to - used to hang around some of their parties that they had. They had some pretty good parties sometimes. I lived - I worked up there during the '50s so when I went back I guess it was '60. I spent 5 years in the Navy in between. Sometimes some people I met in the '50s I am confusing them with people that were there in the '60s but a lot of it was movie stars that played summer stock at the Cape playhouse. That was interesting. Sir Cedric Hardwick was there. He married a hot hatcheck girl. Probably he knew but ignored that she was cheating on him with a local radio disc jockey. They had a show called piano playhouse. (indistinct comment) She always insisted on being called Lady Hardwick which I found amusing since she wasn't exactly a lady. When I worked in Hawaii, I learned to speak Pigeon English which I forgot most of.

Rob: Did you enjoy living in Hawaii?

Alex: Oh yeah, for recreation purposes. You got a surfboard and bathing suit - you don't need anything else with free beaches.

Rob: What brought you back to New Jersey?

Alex: That wife didn't like it over there.

Rob: Well, I want to thank you for sharing this time and your experiences. It was fascinating.

Alex: I am sure there is a lot more I could tell you if I could remember everything.

CAUGHT IN MACHINERY, MILL OWNER IS KILLED

***Former Columbia Instructor Is
Dragged by Belt Wheels and
Hurled Into Flame.***

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEWTON, N. J., Jan. 26.—Joseph Singleton McCord, grist mill owner at Stillwater and formerly an instructor of mineralogy at Columbia University, was fatally injured in his mill today when he was dragged into the flume by the machinery.

Mr. McCord was found unconscious below the machinery by Mrs. McCord, who was summoned to the mill when a farmer entered and found it apparently empty. Investigation disclosed that Mr. McCord had been adjusting a leather belt on the machinery when his clothing became entangled. He was drawn through the belted wheels and catapulted into the flume below.

He was found at 1:30 P. M. and pronounced dead four hours later,

after all attempts to revive him had failed. Dr. E. B. Landis, who attended him, summoned an emergency crew of the New Jersey Power and Light Company and a pulmotor was brought into play.

Mr. McCord settled in Stillwater eight years ago. He had been in ill health and was advised by physicians to live in the country. He purchased and operated the grist mill and was well known here. Besides his wife, Jane McCord, he is survived by two children, Lacy, 11 years old, and Alcott, 3. He was 57.

Mr. McCord was graduated from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in 1899 and served as an instructor at Columbia from 1901 to 1903. Later he entered the chemical business for a time.

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