

[Hopwood Reminiscences]

No Original Beliefs & Customs - Folk Stuff

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview Reminiscences of Hopwood

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Wayne Walden

ADDRESS 51 Bank St. New York, N. Y.

DATE August 16, 1938

SUBJECT HOPWOOD REMINSICENCES

1. Date and time of interview August 15, 1938
2. Place of interview 2140 Honeywell Ave.—Home
3. Name and address of informant Wm. F. Hopwood, 2140 Honewell Ave.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Article in Bronx News
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

None

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6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

An apartment house. informant occupying a number of rooms on 1st floor.

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FORM B Personal History of Informant

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Wayne Walden

ADDRESS 51 Bank St., New York N. Y.

DATE August 16, 1938

SUBJECT HOPWOOD REMINISCENCES

1. Ancestry American, of apparently English Descent.
2. Place and date of birth 1183 Forest Ave., Bronx, New York.
3. Family Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood—not certain whether others are of the family
4. Places lived in, with dates
5. Education, with dates Common School
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates “Used to do sign (and) wagon painting.
7. Special skills and interests

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8. Community and religious activities

9. Description of informant "Hale and hearty", and 81 years old

10. Other Points gained in interview

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FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Wayne Walden

ADDRESS 51 Bank St., New York N. Y.

DATE August 16, 1938

SUBJECT HOPWOOD REMINISCENCE THE OLD HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD AND SOME OF ITS EMPLOYEES . . . As I remember it Jim Murphy was supt. and many yarns were spun about him. Big stout stern looking man. well one night as he was walking over Harlem Bridge when another big man non none to steady on his feet ran into him and the two got in an argument some say Murphy downed the other man and was going to chuck him over the bridge rail but outsiders separated them both went on there way. Well a few night later well we wer were in Harry Hills place of course you all know his place just at the South end of the bridge Murphy comes in sees a big man at bar say Harry who is that man. why Why says Harry thats Joe Courbin the fighter Ho, Ho, says Murphy thats the guy I was going to trow in the river last night well I gess I will get along up to the car barns now one of them drivers on of them one horse cars hasent turned in aney money for 2 Days ll have to watch him he might sell the horse and leave the car out all night so long Harry. I

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road maney many times on the fordham cars but I never seen any [?] Huckelberys. I know it did good service to the residents of the old Morrisania so long remembrance Editor II be seeing you later. . . .

2

80 Years in what is now Known as Bronx County I crossed the old wooden bridge maney times Some times when it got out of order which was quite often we had to go to Mc Combs Dam bridge to got home. (one sock) up to old man Raynor the boat house man to row us across. Here is how Bronx was known to us in those days Moothaven, North NY, East Morrisania West Morrisania Melrose, Morrisania Tremont West Farms West chester Springhurst, Fairmount Belmont South Fordham Fordham Kings Bridge, Was Bridge. well when the first horse drawn car was run from the harlem bridge I was to the show and believe me us boys wer delighted to think now we could go dounto Tony Pastors or Harrigans (and) Harts and get Home with out walking from the bridge to sixth St. where I lived at present 168th St. the house I was born in is in the family yet, and is known as 1181-83 Forest Ave and on the old Map of Morrisania by Andrew Finley. well now lets see if we remember some of the old time residents of 70 or 75 years ago. Bill Cauldwell. Jim Wells, Silas D Gifford. John Henry. Leo Combs Jim Mooney. Marvin. the Clark boys and maney more who wer in Politecks old boys who loved to run to fires and some times when there was no fires Chef Chas Campman Peter Cecks Geo Van Horn. Billy McGill I will have to stop I remembe so maney it would take to long and to much room in your paper. I would like to ask if any of the boys on Dutch () or Jackson four ever knew how old Lady Washington used to get to them fires so quick Well I going to tell you. they used to have the engine waiting at the end of Franklin Ave and at the first tap of the D. 5 Bell they wer 1/2 way down theure. Well now I will take a look Kyles Park at high Bridge I remember when Frank Leslie walked acrost the river 3 on a tight rope what a sight them days when he got half way over he sat down on the rope coooke some pancakes on a stove he caried on his back he threw some down to the people in boats. I also stood on Dead Head Hill at the opening of Jeremone Race track one of the winers was Kentuckey Lets take a walk

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as Al says but we will start from harlem Bridge and walk up Fordham Road as it was them days First I. L. Moots foundry and Residence Knaps Lumber Yard Robiteck coal Denorests feed old stone church. Roggeys Hotell Central Hotell Ninpus Hoss shooer (and) Exp You might take a look down Rose St and see if all the boys from that target Excursion has gone home and if not walk on up past the old quarry to Hakes clothing store the only one in town stop in at the station house (and) see Hen Dellett and see if all the cops got in Frank Mc (Domas) Bull run Riley. Felix McKenner. (and) McCauly from Mike Rodneys Here is where you cross wonderful stream known as Mill Brook thats the place whare Pete Fogal used to Kill the cows when the got to old to give milk then you might stop at A. (and) J. Bowes Store if you wanted Groseries and look acrost the street at Malems stone yard but dont go in to Hamers Hotell. you might at that stop in Homans Hall, or Hubbels Brewry if you prefer Ale you had ought to have stoppd at Charlee Faserts. Well lets take alook Old Georges and at that time the court house you know right opsite Dograff Masion on the hill you might call on old Judge Hauptman you might heare him say Put him down stairs. How about stoping in Paddy Burgens, and now I must say a word of an old friend who I always thought was a tipical old Morrisania guy he 4 was in the Express Buis His Name was Harry Harris well I used to at one time do sign (and) wagon painting so Harry wanted his Express Wagon lettered I asks him how to spell it and here how Arry Arris well I finished lettering the Wagon and to my suprise when I looked I had left out one R in Morrisania on one side of the wagon. well of course I told Harry I wouldd change it the next but he said what the L thats all right they cant see both sides at once.